

February 1997 Summit Journal

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From the President's Desk

Having just completed Harrison Clark's two volumes on the life of George Washington (Regnery), it isn't difficult to understand why our present liberal elites need to deep six just about everything he stood and fought for. The father of our country was indeed the father of our country, and it is doubtful that anyone but Washington could have pulled it off. He was a virtuous and good man with strong Christian principles and a firm grasp on the gospel of Jesus Christ. The ACLU would have fought him at every turn. The following is Washington's defense for a federal, constitutional republic. He saw clearly that 13 separate colonies were fair game for Britain, France and Spain. We are all his children and owe him more than any of us would wish to contemplate.

"The Citizens of America, placed in the most enviable condition, as the sole Lords and Proprietors of a vast Tract of Continent, comprehending all the various soils and climates of the World... are now acknowledged to be possessed of absolute freedom and Independence; They are, from this period, to be considered as the Actors on the most conspicuous Theatre, which seems to be peculiarly designed by Providence for the display of human greatness and felicity; Here, they are not only surrounded with every thing which can contribute to the completion of private and domestic enjoyment, but Heaven has crowned all its other blessings, by giving more opportunity for political happiness, than any other Nation has been favored with...

"...Notwithstanding the cup of blessing... thus reached out to us, notwithstanding happiness is ours... yet... there is an option still left to the United States of America... whether they will be respectable and prosperous, or contemptible and miserable as a Nation; This is the moment when the eyes of the whole world are turned upon them, this is the moment to establish or ruin their Character forever, this is the favorable moment to give such a tone to our Federal Government, as will enable it to answer the ends of its institution, or this may be the ill-fated moment for relaxing the powers of the Union... exposing us to become the sport of European politics... for, according to the system of policy the states shall adopt at this moment, they will stand or fall... It is yet to be decided whether the Revolution was a blessing or a curse, not to the present age alone for, with our fate, will the destiny of unborn Millions be involved.

"With this conviction of the importance of the present Crisis, silence in me would me a crime; there are

four things... essential to the well being, I may even venture to say, to the existence of the United States as an Independent Power:

"1st. An indissoluble Union of the States under one Federal Head

"2dly. A Sacred regard to Public Justice

"3dly. The adaption of a proper Peace Establishment, and

"4thly. The prevalence of that pacific and friendly Disposition, among the People of the United States, which will induce them to forget their local prejudices and policies, to make those mutual concessions which are requisite to the general prosperity...

"These are the pillars... Liberty is the Basis... It will be part of my duty, and that of every true Patriot to assert without reserve... that it is indispensable to the happiness of the individual States, that there should be lodged somewhere, A Supreme Power to regulate and govern the general concerns of the Confederated Republic without which the Union cannot be of long duration... Without an entire conformity to the Spirit of the Union, we cannot exist as an Independent Power... It is only in our united Character as an Empire, that our Independence is acknowledged, that our power can be regarded, or our Credit supported...

"...Honesty will be found on every experiment, to be the best and only true policy. Let us then as a Nation be just, let us fulfil the public Contracts, which Congress undoubtedly had a right to make... Let us strengthen the hands of Government and be happy under its protection; every one will reap the fruits of his labours, every one will enjoy his own acquisitions without molestation and without danger...

"I now make it my earnest prayer, that God... would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do Justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility and pacific temper of Minds, which were the Characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation."

Month in Review

q "Dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ told you, that in the last times there would come these scoffers whose whole purpose in life is to enjoy themselves in every evil way imaginable. They stir up arguments; they love the evil things of the world; they do not have the Holy Spirit living in them.

"But you, dear friends, must build up your lives ever more strongly upon the foundation of our holy faith, learning to pray in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit.

"Stay always within the boundaries where God's love can reach and bless you. Wait patiently for the eternal life that our Lord Jesus Christ in his mercy is going to give you. Try to help those who argue against you. Be merciful to those who doubt. Save some by snatching them as from the very flames of hell itself. And as for others, help them to find the Lord by being kind to them, but be careful that you yourselves aren't pulled along into their sins. Hate every trace of their sin while being merciful to them as sinners."

Jude 17-23

q "The professor stood before the class and said, 'The USA is bordered to the north by Canada; to the south by Mexico; to the east by the Atlantic Ocean; and to the west by the Pacific Ocean. How old am I?'

"After some minutes of silence one student raised his hand and replied, 'Forty-six years, sir.'

"'Exactly right,' said the professor. 'Now will you tell the class the logical steps by which you reached that conclusion?'

"'It was very simple,' said the student. 'I have a brother who is twenty-three, and he's a half-wit.'"

Quoted by Dr. Fred Schwartz, *Beating the Unbeatable Foe*

"Thank you for the impact you had on our daughter's life. Kaci attended a session at Summit this past summer. She then came home and left to attend a public university. Your program definitely prepared her for the challenges she has faced there. Her Biology class was just what you described it might be. She was able to share intellectually with her fellow students the fallacies that were being presented by the professors. It opened up many opportunities for discussions - leading to chances to witness of Christ. She is also challenging herself to write a letter to the editor - both of the school and city newspapers.

"Her two weeks at Summit were definitely life changing. She came home with such an enthusiasm for the Lord and so much more grounded in her faith and beliefs. She has become much more open about spiritual things and is more interested in current events. She also made many friends that she keeps in contact with by P.O., E-Mail and telephone.

"Dr. Noebel, she loved hearing you speak and was very challenged by your words. Thanks for your commitment to our college youth.

"God bless your ministry."

Joe and Barbara K., Placentia, CA

"Our son Kenny's experiences at Summit have given his life a whole new dimension.

"He is especially impassioned with the evolution-creation debate. He gets into conversations with any and everybody, including his history prof. at Auburn!

"We'll be sending [our daughter] this summer and probably a few others from Norcross, GA.

"We have become citizen activists in the last few years. I'll include some information about our battle with the libraries. It's not over but our persistence is paying off.

"As a suggestion, why not offer a class period on writing letters to the editor?"

"Thanks for all you've done for young people and families.

"May God bless you in 1997!"

Judy C., Norcross, GA

"While a few conservatives no doubt welcomed the revival of Christianity because it was useful, many more were convinced that it was *true*. It was the truths of Christianity that needed to be reasserted. 'I myself believe that the duel between Christianity and atheism is the most important in the world,' wrote William F. Buckley, Jr. in 1951. 'Christianity is the most complete and perfect revelation we know of the nature of God and of God's will for man,' wrote John Hallowell in 1950. Hallowell, in fact, was particularly bold in his affirmation of Christianity; it was the unifying thesis of his interpretation of modern political philosophy:

"...the basic insights of the Christian faith provide the best insights we have into the nature of man and of the crisis in which we find ourselves. That crisis is the culmination of modern man's progressive attempt to deny the existence of a transcendent or spiritual reality and of his progressive failure to find meaning and salvation in some wholly immanent conception of reality.... Only through a return to faith in God, as God revealed Himself to man in Jesus Christ, can modern man and his society find redemption from the tyranny of evil.'

"The Christianity which Hallowell, Buckley, and others defended was not the Christianity of the Social Gospel or liberal Protestantism. It was a Christianity grounded in what was for many neo-conservatives the deepest lesson of World War II: the lesson of evil, of original sin. 'We must restore to our vocabulary a word discarded long ago, namely, *sin*,' Hallowell asserted. To Richard Weaver, no concept gave 'deeper insight into the enigma that is man' than original sin. Evil was not just a 'bad dream,' an 'accident of history,' or 'the creation of a few antisocial men.' It was a 'subtle, pervasive, protean force,' and original sin was a 'parabola of expression' of this 'immemorial tendency of man to do the wrong thing when he knows the right thing.' Eliseo Vivas concurred; inside every man, he said, lay 'brutality' and a 'natural tendency' to 'define value in terms of his own interest.' Bernard Iddings Bell claimed that 'exaggerated optimism about man' was 'the chief cause of our decay.' The social implications of original

sin were obvious to the conservatives."

George H. Nash, *The Conservative Intellectual Movement in America*, p. 53

"On July 9, 1776, he [George Washington] issued general orders to his troops.

"The General hopes and trusts, that every officer and man, will endeavour so to live, and act, as becomes a Christian Soldier defending the dearest Rights and Liberties of his country."

Harrison Clark, *All Cloudless Glory*, p. 265

"The hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all this [survival of the troops] that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked that has not gratitude to acknowledge his obligations, but it will be time enough for me to turn preacher when my present appointment [Commander of the American Army] ceases."

George Washington in Harrison Clark's *All Cloudless Glory*, p. 410

"Brothers: I am glad you have brought three of the children of your principal [Delaware] Chiefs to be educated with us. I am sure Congress will open the Arms of love to them... This is a great mark of your confidence... You do well to wish to learn our arts and ways of life, and above all, the religion of Jesus Christ. This will make you a greater and happier people..."

George Washington in Harrison Clark's *All Cloudless Glory*, p. 432

The Media

"That loud whacking sound you're hearing is USA Today slapping itself on the back. In a huge year-end feature, the paper congratulated itself for its superb job in helping get out the truth - in a three-part series back in July - on the so-called 'black church-burning epidemic.'

"Others who have given the paper kudos over its church-burning coverage have included the Columbia Journalism Review, a Wall Street Journal features writer, and the New York Times, which declared that USA Today had at last become 'a real newspaper.'

"The truth that USA Today's three-part series revealed is that there was no epidemic. It was a myth. And the great irony is that prior to that series, no media outlet in the country had done more than USA Today to build the myth in the first place.

"No single reporter had played a greater role than the newspaper's Gary Fields, who has written more than 70 articles on the issue. Step-by-step, Mr. Fields and other reporters at the paper told their readers

first that there seemed to be an extraordinary number of black church burnings, then that there clearly was, then that racism was behind it.

"Despite Mr. Fields' Feb. 16 claim that 'All church burnings have occurred in the South,' the newspaper now estimated that since 1995, there had been 780 in the country as a whole, of which only 144 took place in 11 Southern states.

"Though the paper had virtually ignored white churches for five months, of these 144 fires, 80 were at white churches and 64 at black.

"Despite the repeated admonitions of Mr. Fields and other reporters that the fires were primarily racially driven, the paper now concluded: 'Analysis of the 64 [black church] fires since 1995 shows only four can be conclusively shown to be racially motivated.' Indeed, about a fourth of all arsonists arrested in the fires have been black.

"What USA Today did was the equivalent of an exterminator planting a cockroach nest in your house and later earning your undying gratitude for ridding your home of the horrid things. In the real world, that can get you thrown in jail. In the media world, it earns you praise and - who knows? - maybe a Pulitzer Prize."

Michael Fumento, *The Washington Times*, January 7, 1997, p. A17. Also see Dec. 1996 issue of *American Spectator*.

"Saying that the media use double standards is about as startling as noting that large spiders with hairy legs are ugly. But once in a while, along comes a spider that is particularly large, hairy and ugly.

"The media's reaction to stories that they don't like can be extremely prejudiced. Witness the furor over a study reported in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*.

"The study found that abortion appears to increase the chances of developing breast cancer by 30 percent. The researchers, led by Dr. Joel Brind of Baruch College in New York, estimated that 5,000 American women develop breast cancer each year as a result of having had an abortion.

"Usually, when the media hear something they don't like, they just ignore it, hoping that their readers and viewers will never learn about it.

"But this time the media attacked like piranhas on steroids. Among the headlines: 'Abortion Foe Accused of Igniting Cancer Scare,' 'Abortion-Cancer Link Called Into Question' and 'Abortion Link to Cancer Debated: Study's Validity Comes Under Fire.'

"Other Headlines fueled the fire: 'Disputed Study Links Abortion, Cancer,' 'Abortion-Breast Cancer Study Called Politically Biased' and 'Conflict of Interest Charged in Abortion.'

"There were exceptions, like the Washington Times' `Strong Abortion-Breast Cancer Link Revealed.' But most of the media attacks targeted Brind personally.

"They said that he is vehemently anti-abortion. Indeed, he has published in the National Right To Life News.

"*Res ipsa loquitur*, right? The thing speaks for itself. Toss Brind's peer-reviewed study, which appeared in a respected medical journal, right into the fire. Might as well toss Brind in after it.

"But not so fast. One of his co-authors, Vernon Chinchilli, supports abortion rights.

"Furthermore, the Brind study has been praised as valid by such pro-choicers as Dr. Janet Daling, a Seattle epidemiologist. She called the study `a fair job of compiling the data' that is `very objective and statistically beyond reproach.'

"Dismissing Brind as biased just won't wash."

Michael Fumento, *The Tampa Tribune*, December 30, 1996

"A POLL YOU WON'T SEE REPORTED ON TV: According to a study published in the 1994 fall edition of the *Post Abortion Review*, 36% of those surveyed described themselves as **self-destructive after having an abortion**. Fully 20% reported having a subsequent nervous breakdown, with 10% requiring hospitalization for psychiatric care. Sixty-one per cent of women surveyed said the **abortion made their lives worse**, and only 31% felt `reconciled' with their abortion. **Only 6%** of the women surveyed said the abortion improved their lives."

Human Events, December 13, 1996

Other

"Some of us get pretty discouraged when we see all the signs of social degeneration around us - the disintegration of the family, the spread of cheap vulgarity, racial polarization, crime rates several times what they were within living memory, bums who won't work harassing people who do and judges who destroy law by turning it into an instrument of arbitrary edicts.

"There are other signs, however, that people are starting to fight back against the smug elites whose trendy notions are behind much of the social disintegration. The California vote against group preferences and quotas was an important recent example. The fact that the leader of that battle, black businessman Ward Connerly, is now taking this issue nation-wide in another hopeful sign.

"Yet another small but important battle for the restoration of sanity was recently won in the most unlikely of places, the California state Assembly. Assemblyman Keith Ogberg has pushed through a new law, requiring all California high schools to make *The Federalist Papers* required reading.

"This was not something you might expect from the liberal Democrats who control the California Legislature. But few dared to vote against it for fear of public reaction - which is what democracy is all about.

"Few countries are fortunate enough to have a small, readable book describing how and why their particular form of government was put together the way that it was. Yet that is what these 200-year-old essays did at a time when the Constitution had just been written and people wanted to know whether or not to vote to adopt it.

"Today, when American students are being taught little useless snippets about every other society and culture around the world, the time is long overdue for them to understand what their own form of government and its basic document - the Constitution - are all about.

"Because *The Federalist Papers* were aimed at a general audience, they are written in straightforward English, without the runaway rhetoric or extravagant claims too often found in political writings today. Yet they are enormously impressive for what they say, rather than for how they say it.

"Those who wrote these essays - James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay - were clearly men who distrusted the power of government and who wanted a Constitution that would keep public officials from becoming tyrants. Their concerns are even more relevant in the 20th century than when they were written, for this century has seen unbelievable and unspeakable horrors in countries where political leaders have had unbridled power.

"We need only think of the millions slaughtered for political reasons by Stalin in the Soviet Union, Mao in China and Pol Pot in Cambodia. Even smaller tyrants have managed to create mass horrors in the Balkans and in parts of Africa.

"We should never imagine that we are in any fundamental way different from those people inflicting - or suffering - these horrors that we see almost daily on our television screens. What we have that these tragically afflicted countries do not have is a system of government and a set of cultural traditions that spare us the traumas they are going through.

"Much of that system of government and that set of cultural traditions is expressed in the Constitution of the United States and explained and defended in *The Federalist Papers*.

"The concerns of those who wrote these essays are also relevant to current trends in the United States for government to keep expanding its powers by promising us goodies or claiming to protect us from all sorts of exaggerated hazards in the environment, in the workplace or in the home. Whether freedom is

lost by degrees or by a coup d'etat, once it is gone, it is gone.

"Anything that reflects favorably on the United States is of course anathema to those on the counter-cultural left, who play a disproportionate role in American education at all levels. Already there are complaints that *The Federalist Papers* will be difficult reading.

"It is not - except for those who are used to books that have been deliberately `dumbed down.' A few words here and there may have to be looked up in a dictionary - but is learning a few new words beyond `wow' and `awesome' a huge burden for students?

"These signs of a determination to take back this country from the counter-culture may turn out to be historic in their own way."

Thomas Sowell, *Gazette Telegraph*, December 14, 1996, p. B11

"Did America's most famous atheist take the money and run? And is Madalyn Murray O'Hair, whose federal lawsuit in 1963 removed prayer and Bible reading from American public schools, now enjoying a South Pacific exile?

"According to tax statements of two atheist organizations she controlled, at least \$625,000 disappeared last year about the same time Murray O'Hair, her son Jon and adopted daughter, Robin, mysteriously vanished.

"The \$612,000 shown as a decrease in net assets or fund balance represents the value of the United Secularists of America's assets believed to be in the possession of Jon Murray, former secretary,' says the sworn 1995 tax statement of that organization.

"The whereabouts of Jon Murray and these assets have not been known since September 1995 and is not known to the organization at this time,' the group told the Internal Revenue Service.

"The loss of an additional \$15,500 from American Atheists Inc., also attributed to Jon Murray, was detailed in a separate IRS filing for 1995 by that organization.

"The same Form 990 reports, required by the IRS of certain tax-exempt organizations, also add tantalizing new hints to the theory that the Murray O'Hairs might be hiding in New Zealand."

The Washington Times, December 10, 1996, p. A6

"*The Unknown Lenin* is a misleading title for the latest entry in Yale University Press's estimable *Annals of Communism* series. *The Unpublished Lenin* would have been better, or at least more accurate: the man who emerges from these hitherto secret documents is the same murderous, dogmatic, nihilist we have gotten to know through the writings of Solzhenitsyn, Dmitri Volkogonov, Adam Ulam, Bertram

Wolfe, and Richard Pipes himself, editor of the present volume. For that matter, he is exactly the same Lenin who speaks to us through his *published* works - such monuments to tedium as *What is to Be Done?*, *One Step Forward, Two Steps Back*, *"Left Wing" Communism: An Infantile Disorder*, and *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*.

"There are several reasons why Soviet authorities would have kept the documents contained in *The Unknown Lenin* - 122 memos and letters by, to, and about the 'great leader' - under lock and key. For one thing, they demonstrate that Soviet foreign policy was aggressive and subversive from the very outset. As the director of the Central Party Archive, G.L. Smirnov, put it in a letter to the Deputy General Secretary of the Central Committee, back in the days when the Soviet Union was still a going concern, 'There are documents the contents of which can only be interpreted as encouraging violence against sovereign states - India, Korea, Afghanistan, England, Persia, Turkey, etc.' Soviet subjects for seventy years had been hearing that India, Korea, Afghanistan, England, Persia, Turkey, etc. had been conspiring against Moscow, and it was feared that exposure to the truth might prove too disillusioning."

The American Spectator, January 1997

Yale University Press' series of publications on Communism proves one thing conclusively: the politically incorrect Fred Schwarz, Robert Welch, Ronald Reagan, Joe McCarthy, *Human Events*, Bill Buckley, et. al. understood the nature and agenda of the communist movement much better than the liberal elites (e.g., *The New York Times*) of our society. Only the final judgement of God will reveal the amount of blood on the hands of those that allowed the great slaughters of the 20th Century. The anti-anti-Communists will have plenty of time to think of profound excuses before they experience some of the hottest spots in hell.

"If current trends continue, 'more than half of the nation's twenty-year-old gay men will contract HIV during their lifetime.' And in San Francisco alone, the rate 'even among the population of older white gay men... has nearly doubled in just the last six years... (30 percent of all twenty-year-old homosexual males will by HIV positive or dead of AIDS by the time they are thirty.)'...

"'Why' asks Green, contemplating this bewildering situation, 'are gay men, who appear to function normally and enjoy the pleasures of life—systematically killing themselves?'

"He comes up with no definite answer. But surely the answer lies in the very fact that so many homosexuals... are willing to court death rather than give up being promiscuous. Surely this fact powerfully suggests that promiscuity is an intrinsic and all but inescapable component of male homosexuality. And surely the same fact also gives the lie to the idea that homosexual promiscuity is the product of social and legal oppression, since the near-disappearance of such oppression seems only to have made matters worse.

"George Orwell said that we live in a time when the obvious needs constantly to be restated, and so, to restate what was once self-evident to everyone, including most homosexuals themselves: men using one

another as women constitutes a perversion. To my unreconstructed mind, this is as true as ever; and so far as I'm concerned, it would still be true even if gay sex no longer entailed the danger of infection and even if everything about it were legalized by all 50 states and ratified by all nine Justices of the Supreme Court.

“If that should ever happen, and if I am still around when it does, I hope I will still have the strength to hold on to my own sense of the fundamental realities of life against the terrible distortions that have been introduced into the general understanding of those realities by the gay-rights movement and its supporters. For it is this that is mainly at stake here, and it is this that explains why the issue of homosexuality is of such great moment not just to the proportionately small number of practicing homosexuals, but to all the rest of us as well.”

Norman Podhoretz, Commentary, November 1996

“Darwin conceived of evolution in terms of small variations among organisms, variations which by a process of accretion allow one species to change continuously into another. This suggests a view in which living creatures are spread out smoothly over the great manifold of biological possibilities, like colors merging imperceptibly in a color chart.

“Life, however, is absolutely nothing like this. Wherever one looks there is singularity, quirkiness, oddness, defiant individuality, and just plain weirdness. The male redback spider (*Latrodectus hasselti*), for example, is often consumed during copulation. Such is sexual cannibalism - the result, biologists have long assumed, of ‘predatory females overcoming the defenses of weaker males.’ But it now appears that among *Latrodectus hasselti*, the male is complicit in his own consumption. Having achieved intromission, this schnook performs a characteristic somersault, placing his abdomen directly over his partner's mouth. Such is sexual suicide - awfulness taken to a higher power.

“It might seem that sexual suicide confers no advantage on the spider, the male passing from ecstasy to extinction in the course of one and the same act. But spiders willing to pay for love are apparently favored by female spiders (no surprise, there); and female spiders with whom they mate, entomologists claim, are less likely to mate again. The male spider perishes; his preposterous line persists.

“This explanation resolves one question only at the cost of inviting another: why such bizarre behavior? In no other *Latrodectus* species does the male perform that obliging somersault, offering his partner the oblation of his life as well as his love. Are there general principles that specify sexual suicide among this species, but that forbid sexual suicide elsewhere? If so, what are they?”

David Berlinski, Commentary, June 1996, p. 21

“As I sat thinking about how all the commercial pressures nowadays seem to be on the side of coarseness, my eye caught a news article about a rare commercial pressure on the other side: Wal-Mart says its stores won't carry CDS with degrading, violent or obscene lyrics. It will, however, be happy to

sell cleaned-up versions of these discs.

“Since Wal-Mart’s announcement, the air has been thick with charges of censorship and violations of artistic freedom. But it seems to me that Wal-Mart is simply saying that it won’t take part in the continuing debasement of our popular culture. No store is morally or legally bound to sell products it considers harmful or degrading. The more stores take social responsibility for the things they sell, the healthier the society will be. The alternative - throwing up one’s hands and simply selling anything that yields a profit - makes stores part of the problem.

“Because Wal-Mart sells so many CDS - about 10 percent of the American market - most singers will adapt by putting out a second, cleaned-up version of each album. This is all to the good.”

John Leo, The Tampa Tribune, December 30, 1996

“For three decades, Americans have had a love affair with divorce. The affair has been ambivalent, but also torrid and quite public, arising from our disenchantment with marriage and more generally from our enshrinement of personal freedom as our reigning cultural ideal, our last illusion. Yes, marriage was a blessing, but so was divorce. Yes, divorce was painful, but divorce was also a story of rebirth and renewal, an American birthright, a second chance at happiness. There is partial but growing evidence that this entire way of thinking may be coming to an end.

“In many ways, of course, we remain a divorce-oriented people. Although divorce rates have slackened a bit since the late 1980s, the United States remains by far the most divorcing society in the world. Current rates of divorce and unwed childbearing - never-married mothers now account for one of every three childbirths - mean that only a minority of children today are likely to spend their entire childhood living with their two married parents.

“Surrounding these statistics of divorce is a continuing culture of divorce - a widely embraced set of ideas about the acceptability and even desirability of divorce. This culture is now ubiquitous enough to be taken for granted, like the air we breathe. The actress Sally Field, recently divorced from her second husband, appeared earlier this year on the cover of People magazine: ‘Free of the need to make a man happy, the newly confident single mom, 49, talks about her divorce, love life and hard-won joys of living solo.’ ...

“In many churches across the country, a ‘marriage savers’ movement is quietly being born. Frankly counter-cultural, and guided by the Biblical premise that ‘God hates divorce,’ this largely evangelical Christian movement strives for comprehensive pre-marital counseling, better church-based marital enrichment programs, and new community-wide church policies aimed at strengthening marriage and reducing divorce. Call it spiritually-based divorce-busting. Over the next several years, it will be interesting to compare the results obtained by this new movement to, say, the results obtained by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

“Both the Million Man March and the Promise Keepers, a rapidly growing Christian men’s movement, are new efforts that seek, in large part, to call men to higher standards of fatherhood and marital commitment. A number of recently formed fatherhood organizations, such as the National Fatherhood Initiative, are similarly concluding that re-creating a marriage culture is the key to reversing the trend of fatherlessness. Much of the best leadership is coming from African-Americans. Charles Ballard, whose National Institute for Responsible Fatherhood now serves young African-American fathers in six cities, says that the most important job of a father is to ‘love the mother of his child’ and the most important job of an institute employee is to ‘model excellence in marriage.’

“Last year, Judith Wallerstein, for years a leading scholar of divorce and divorce reform, published a book called *The Good Marriage*. Explaining her decision to shift her focus from divorce to marriage, Ms. Wallerstein describes a ‘society that is tired to death of the war on marriage, escalating divorce rates, and the search for new partners in middle age. All of us want a different world for our children. When we’re honest, we want it for ourselves.’

“That’s the truth. Americans today are increasingly convinced that our divorce revolution has failed. The question is no longer whether we like the current trend. The question now is whether we are prepared to do something about it.”

David Blankenhorn, *The Washington Times*, December 10, 1996

“The U.S. Postal Service’s law enforcement branch has issued a new code of conduct forbidding employees to discriminate against homosexuals even during off-duty hours.

“The new code, which requires the signature of each employee, has sparked private protests from some employees, who fear the rules will intrude on their private lives.

“‘Is this constitutional?’ asked one postal inspector in Washington. ‘I’m really surprised, to say the least. Personally, I’m opposed to anything that links homosexuality with age, gender and ethnic origin. Personally, I feel homosexuality is a sin, just like cheating on your wife. I’m not going to sign it.’

“Another worker said the code could prevent him from opposing a homosexual pastor at his local church or speaking out against same-sex ‘marriage.’

“The discrimination statement is part of a five-page code of conduct signed in November by Kenneth J. Hunter, chief of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The agency’s 4,600 inspectors, police officers and support personnel, who investigate any crime committed through the mail, were part of the task force that caught Theodore Kaczynski, the suspected *Una*-bomber.

“The discrimination clause states:

“‘Employees acting in an official capacity will not directly or indirectly authorize, permit or

participate in discrimination based on age, gender, ethnic origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation against anyone, whether or not they are employees. Because we are a law enforcement agency, off-duty conduct that demonstrates an inability to be fair, objective and unbiased in dealings with others will not be tolerated.'

"The statement does not include the word 'religion,' which is commonly protected in federal non-discrimination policies."

The Washington Times, December 31, 1996

Origins Debate

"Let us begin by supposing that Nature is all that exists. Let us suppose that nothing ever has existed or ever will exist except this meaningless play of atoms in space and time: that by a series of hundredth chances it has (regrettably) produced things like ourselves - conscious beings who now know that their own consciousness is an accidental result of the whole meaningless process and is therefore itself meaningless. . . .

"In this situation there are, I think, three things one might do:

"(1) You might commit suicide. . . .

"(2) You might decide simply to have as good a time as possible. The universe is a universe of nonsense, but since you are here, grab what you can. Unfortunately, however, there is, on these terms, so very little left to grab - only the coarsest sensual pleasures. . . .

"(3) You may defy the universe. You may say, 'Let it be irrational, I am not. Let it be merciless, I will have mercy. By whatever curious chance it has produced me, now that I am here I will live according to human values. I know the universe will win in the end, but what is that to me? I will go down fighting...'

"I suppose that most of us, in fact, while we remain materialists, adopt a more or less uneasy alternation between the second and the third attitude . . . All Naturalism leads us to this in the end - to a quite final and hopeless discord between what our minds claim to be and what they really must be if Naturalism is true. . . . It is when one has faced this preposterous conclusion that one is at last ready to listen to the voice that whispers: 'But suppose we really are spirits? Suppose we are not the offspring of Nature?'"

C.S. Lewis, *On Living in an Atomic Age*

"The media stereotype of the evolution controversy is that it pits 'science' against fundamentalist 'religion.' It would be more accurate to say that Darwinism is the most important of the materialist ideologies - Marxism, Freudianism, and behaviorism are others - which have had done so much damage

to science and society in the 20th century. The theory persists in spite of the evidence because Darwinism cannot survive without it. *Commentary* deserves great credit for helping to break the stereotype by publishing David Berlinski's fine essay.

"Public understanding of the defects of Darwinism is limited because the educators think it their duty to indoctrinate, and prestigious propagandists like Richard Dawkins protect the theory effectively with ridicule and bullying. (This method of dealing with criticism is itself a hallmark of bad science.) Readers who are not intimidated should be sure to read Michael J. Behe's *Darwin's Black Box*, which shows why the mutation/selection mechanism has been all but abandoned as an explanation for the irreducible complexity found in the biochemistry of organisms. There is also a new journal called *Origins and Design* (website <http://www.arn.org/arn>).

"The fall of Darwinism will be the big story of the early 21st century - learn about it now, and be ahead of the curve!"

Phillip E. Johnson, *Commentary* magazine, September 1996

Editor's Note: We have a correction concerning our article about the pope's recent statement concerning evolution. It has been brought to our attention that our use of papal infallibility in a December headline was improper. The Roman Catholic doctrine of papal infallibility was codified at the First Vatican Council of 1869-1870. It says that the Pope is infallible only when he is acting as the authority of the Roman Catholic church and is speaking on matters of faith and morals. The second correction concerns the mistranslation of his speech. The popular media made his statement to be an endorsement of evolution, which was not the pope's intention. The following article by Cal Thomas explains:

"Last fall, Pope John Paul II delivered a speech in French on evolution to the Pontifical Academy of Science. The Catholic News Service and Vatican Information Service wrote stories quoting the Pope as saying that evolution is 'more than a hypothesis.' The implication was that the church's historic teaching that man was uniquely created by God is itself evolving toward a scientific, non-creation model. That was the spin put on the Pope's remarks by The New York Times, which carried a front-page story on this 'new' teaching, and by other newspapers, the wire services and this column.

"I was critical of the Pope's 'remarks' and suggested he was moving in the direction of a materialistic world view that is at the heart of communism, a system this Pope has consistently opposed and worked to ensure its collapse in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

"The problem was that the initial English translation of the Pope's remarks was incorrect.

"L'Osservatore Romano, the official publication of the Holy See, provided this translation of the key phrase in the Pope's address: 'Today, almost half a century after the publication of the encyclical (Humani Generis), new knowledge has led to the recognition of more than one hypothesis in the theory of evolution'

"Acting independently of L'Osservatore Romano, the Catholic World News service posted its own translation from the Pope's original French text. The critical passage read: `Today, more than a half-century after the appearance of that encyclical, some new findings lead us toward the recognition of more than one hypothesis within the theory of evolution.'

"In both of these translations, it is clear that the Pope was not watering down or liberalizing the church's view that the origin of man remained open to debate. He said that there are several theories of origin within the scientific community. Many Catholics who wrote me to complain about the mistranslation said that the Catholic catechism teaches the possibility of dual origins—possible evolution of the body, but divine creation of the soul, a view that could weaken claims to the authenticity of other miraculous events later in Scripture.

"The correct translation is a long way, indeed, from U.S. News & World Report's statement that `the Pope declared that evolution is "more than just a theory,'" and Time magazine's twist, claiming the Pope said, `new knowledge leads us to recognize that the theory of evolution is more than a hypothesis.'

"Not only the secular press was confused. Writing in The Catholic World Report, Rick DeLano of West Covina, Calif., said, "My own diocesan newspaper, the Tidings of Los Angeles, in the Catholic News Service article entitled `Blessing Evolution' ran the statement: `The Pontiff said it was time to recognize evolution as more than a hypothesis. Pope John Paul went a step further (than Pius XII).'"

"While secularists may have been initially thrilled by the Pope's apparent move toward the thinking of the `kingdom of this world,' they and the Pope are back to where they started. John Paul II seemed to be saying that science can explain only what exists, and it frequently must revise its conclusions. Occasionally, science can explain how some things came to be, again, sometimes having to correct itself. But science cannot explain who made what is and, in most cases, cannot explain how it came to be. As God said to Job, `Where were you when I laid the foundations of the universe?'

"It is the ultimate question, and the Pope did not budge from the source of the ultimate answer. It was the translator, not the Pope, who proved fallible on this one. It is said that truth rarely catches up to error. Maybe, but the effort must be made."

Cal Thomas, Gazette Telegraph, January 20, 1997, p. B11

Editor's Note II: Unfortunately, most Roman Catholic students in Roman Catholic educational institutions are taught Darwinism.

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