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A Final Tribute

Brent David Noebel
May 20, 1961 - July 18, 2002



Brent (left) pictured here with Peter Hammond and his father, Dr. David Noebel

From The President's Desk

My son Brent went home to be with his Savior Jesus Christ on Thursday, July 18, 2002. His life and Christian testimony have influenced thousands of young men and women across this country for many years. Since he hurt physically for much of his life (diabetes at three years of age, lost eye sight at 21, lost his kidneys at 28, lost his transplanted kidney at 38 and 5 years of dialysis etc.) he needed to identify with a cause where people suffered as much as he did. He found that cause with the suffering Christians in Sudan. He worked night and day to bring that cause to the attention of Christians in America. And bring it he did. Brent and his fellow Summit students raised awareness and cash for the saints in Sudan. Bibles, lapel crosses, Christian flags, the "Jesus" video, medical supplies, etc., are in Southern Sudan today because of his undertaking. He used to say "if an old blind guy and a bunch of teenagers can do something significant in Sudan so can everybody else."

His mother and I dearly miss him already but know his place in heaven is a far better place for the saints of God.

For those wishing more information see our Summit website at www.summit.org.

And to all those faithful Summit friends who sent cards and gifts for Summit and Sudan—
Thank you!

The following tribute from Peter Hammond (Frontline Fellowship in South Africa) will also help put Brent's life in perspective.

"Dear Mr. & Mrs. Noebel, Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"It was with shock that we learned of Brent's death on Thursday. We grieve with you for the loss of a beloved son, but by God's grace, we do not grieve as those who have no hope. In fact, at about the very time that Brent was passing into eternity, at 10:00 pm our time here in Cape Town, on Thursday, July 18th at the Great Commission Camp, we all stood to sing Amazing Grace. Of course, one can never sing Amazing Grace without thinking of Brent and his love for that great Hymn. The staff, who were left at our office, sang it the next morning—Friday morning—without knowing that Brent would be singing that himself in the presence of the Lord at that time.

"Brent was a good friend and a great inspiration. I frequently commented to him that he was probably one of the most important aspects of the Summit curriculum, a living testimony of perseverance and endurance, under terribly adverse circumstances. A great challenge to the many youngsters who came from mostly comfortable, healthy and privileged backgrounds. Who can estimate how many thousands of lives were deeply impacted for Christ and His Kingdom by Brent's steadfast witness and work.

"Although blind, Brent's vision for the suffering Christians in Sudan managed to mobilize the Summit students to become the greatest single sponsor of Bibles for Sudan and film evangelism in Sudan.

"When Brent began his Sudan Project, I was staggered by the generosity and sacrificial giving of so many of the students and staff. Frontline Fellowship is a small, indigenous African mission. In all our 20 years of seeking to serve the suffering and to work for Reformation and Revival in Africa, we have never experienced such overwhelming support from any one area before. The Summit students and staff have become the largest supporters of Frontline Fellowship, and the main supporters of Bibles and film evangelism equipment for Sudan. It has been my great privilege to be able to be your representative, delivering and distributing tens of thousands of Bibles and New Testaments throughout Southern Sudan and the Nuba Mountains, screening the Jesus film in the local languages, sometimes to thousands of people at a time, training and entrusting God's Story VCD audio-visual evangelism kits to pastors and chaplains, and entrusting pastors, teachers and chaplains with Christian flags and lapel crosses, that Brent had personally sponsored.

By God's grace, there are today many tens of thousands of South Sudanese, who have seen and heard the Gospel graphically portrayed through the Jesus film and/or through the God's Story VCD presentations, and many tens of thousands who have received copies of the

Scriptures because of the vision of Brent Noebel and the sacrificial love and generosity of students and staff of Summit Ministries.

"Christian flags from Summit Ministries are flying from one side of Southern Sudan to the other, and also in the Nuba Mountains. This is the kind of tribute and legacy which Brent deserves. By God's grace, I am sure by now he has already met some of the Sudanese Christians in Heaven, who are there now because of God's gracious workings through his humble prayers and efforts.

"The last time I saw Brent in May, when we parted, he said: 'See you in Heaven, Peter Hammond.' There have been many times in the last few years when I thought that I would have got there before him, but while we are grieving the loss of a dear friend and Christian brother, we can rejoice that Brent is celebrating with full health and sight in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"May the Lord comfort and strengthen you at this most difficult time.

"Yours in Christ's love and service, Peter Hammond"

Month In Review

Q "Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare his generation? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked—but with the rich at His death, because he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

"Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief."

—Isaiah 53:1-10

Q "Jesus...told people that their sins were forgiven. ...This makes sense only if He really was the God whose laws are broken and whose love is wounded in every sin.

"...I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Q "Most people are bothered by those passages in Scripture which they cannot understand, but as for me, I always noticed that the passages in Scripture which trouble me most are those which I do understand."

—Mark Twain

Q "In what could be its most liberating education-related decision since the segregation-condemning *Brown vs. Board of Education* ruling in 1954, the Supreme Court ruled on June 27 that a Cleveland, Ohio, voucher program does not violate the separation of church and state.

" 'The Ohio program is entirely neutral with respect to religion,' wrote Chief Justice William Rehnquist. 'It provides benefits directly to a wide spectrum of individuals...It permits such individuals to exercise genuine choice among options public and private, secular and religious. The program is...true private choice.'

"The 5-4 ruling sent shockwaves through the public-education establishment. National Education Association president Bob Chase in a press release called school-choice proposals 'divisive' and insisted: 'Just because vouchers may be legal in some circumstances doesn't make them a good idea.'

"Tell that to Cleveland parents waiting nervously for the high court's decision. When the Ohio legislature voted in 1996 to offer vouchers to poor parents in Cleveland, as many as 4,000 families jumped at the chance. But school-choice opponents sued almost immediately, leaving parents to wonder for years whether their children would be forced back into the city's failing public-school system.

"The Supreme Court's landmark ruling not only provided relief to parents in Cleveland, but offered hope to others across the country, as well. Last year alone, eight state legislatures killed voucher bills, largely out of fear that the programs would result in lengthy, expensive court fights. With the constitutional question now settled, backers expect many states to revisit voucher proposals they had shelved earlier.

" 'We moved a big roadblock in the way of the extension of parental choice,' said Milton Friedman, the Nobel Prize-winning economist known as the 'father of vouchers.' In an interview with *WORLD* moments after the court handed down its decision, Mr. Friedman predicted quick movement in 'other states around the country that have been contemplating parental choice but have been blocked by the prospect of endless litigation and the possibility that the whole thing would be declared unconstitutional.'

"Mr. Friedman and others had argued that the Cleveland voucher program in no way promoted the 'establishment' of religion because children could use their vouchers to attend the school of their choice—public, private, or religious. But the NEA and its allies point out that almost 97 percent of the Cleveland students ended up in the latter category.

"The reason, according to Mr. Friedman, is simple: Ohio provides a maximum voucher of \$2,250, and only religious schools can keep their tuition that low. 'Catholic schools dominate because they are the only ones who do it at this cost. I hope very much that as the voucher movement extends around country, the amount is made at least a reasonable ratio of the \$8,000 to \$9,000 that the government spends per child in public schools.'

"Without the constitutional club to beat up on their opponents, the teachers unions will have to rely solely on the argument that school choice is a threat to public education. But Mr. Friedman says logic and experience teach otherwise. 'It's very hard to see how you destroy public schools by providing an alternative which costs the government less. Nobody seems to emphasize that every child who accepts a voucher is saving the state money it would otherwise spend on that child—so universal vouchers would actually reduce the burden on government.'"

—*World* magazine, July/August 2002, p. 11

Q "President Bush said he was 'deeply concerned' about some of the accounting practices in corporate America and called 'outrageous' the disclosure that WorldCom, which is \$32 billion in debt, had hidden \$3.8 billion in expenses.

"The Securities and Exchange Commission filed fraud charges against the nation's No. 2 long-distance telephone company, as the company slid toward bankruptcy. WorldCom is being called the biggest case of crooked accounting in U.S. history, where it hid nearly \$4 billion worth of expenses from investors in order to make its bottom line look good. But is WorldCom really America's biggest case of accounting gimmickery and deception?

"Ask the president or any congressman: How much debt does the federal government owe? Nine will get you 10 that they'll tell you that it's \$3.5 trillion. If they had just a tad of sophistication or honesty, they might add intragovernmental debt that'd bring the 'total debt' to slightly more than \$6 trillion. Even that figure represents a level of creative accounting, deception and lies that make the actions of Enron and WorldCom seem like child's play.

"Washington's deception about federal debt can be found in a report by Andrew J. Rettenmaier, a senior fellow at the Dallas-based National Center for Policy Analysis, titled, 'How Big Is the Government's Debt?' Rettenmaier says that, as of 2001, the accumulated federal obligations to all people who've earned Social Security and Medicare benefits are \$12.9 trillion for Social Security and \$16.9 trillion for Medicare. Combined with the public and intragovernmental debt, the total federal debt burden is an unimaginable \$35 trillion.

"It will be impossible for the government to pay that kind of debt. Washington will do what all governments do when it cannot make good on its debt. Congress will repudiate agreements with creditors by refusing to pay on agreed-upon terms or choose government's traditional method of repudiation—inflating the currency.

Without the SEC, the supposed guarantor against corporate hanky-panky, lifting one finger, the market has exacted high penalties. Enron and WorldCom shares of stock and their reputations are virtually worthless. Heads have rolled.

"By contrast, what happens when Congress cooks the books and deceives Americans into believing that government debt is \$3.5 trillion or \$6 trillion, when it's really \$35 trillion? Absolutely nothing.

"I bet that if you brought this up to one of our Washington politicians, he'd say: 'That Williams guy doesn't know what he's talking about. What we owe to Social Security and Medicare recipients is not debt.'

"Of course, Enron and WorldCom might get out of their troubles by redefining what debt is as well—but the economic arena, unlike the political arena, doesn't play that."

—Walter E. Williams, *Colorado Springs Gazette*, July 4, 2002, p. M7

Q "Some more murderers may escape the death penalty as a result of the recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, declaring it unconstitutional to execute those who are 'mentally retarded.' The larger question, however, is whether a death sentence is being pronounced on the Constitution of the United States. Are the justices killing it by inches with their ever more clever twisting of its words and evasions of its substance?"

"The Constitution's prohibition against 'cruel and unusual punishment' is the ostensible basis for the 6-to-3 majority's overturning a death sentence on Daryl Atkins for his participation in a brutal robbery-murder—the latest in a string of brutal crimes by Atkins.

"After being captured, he was given an IQ test on which he scored 59, which is considered to be in the 'mentally retarded' range. Therefore, the Supreme Court declared, it would be a violation of the Constitution to execute him.

"There is nothing in the Constitution to suggest that it was the particular people to whom a punishment was applied that made it cruel or unusual. This is the kind of stretching and twisting of words that turns the Constitution into a blanket grant of power to judges to impose their personal beliefs as the law of the land.

"Most of the Court's decision, delivered by Justice John Paul Stevens, is about all sorts of things other than the Constitution. Rather than relying on what was meant 'when the Bill of Rights was adopted,' he relies on 'the evolving standards' of today. In other words, judges can re-write the Constitution to their own taste.

"Even as policy, the High Court's decision is arbitrary and unsubstantiated. Just because Atkins scored 59 on an IQ test after being arrested does not mean that he could not have scored higher if he had any incentive to do so.

"Even if he were genuinely below average in intelligence, you don't need to know that E equals MC squared to know what firing eight bullets into someone is likely to do.

"Nobody wants to execute a man who doesn't know what he is doing or who can't tell right from wrong. These standards have existed for centuries in Anglo-American law. What is new within the past half-century are attempts to go beyond these factors and treat the speculations of shrinks as if they were science.

"The great problem with both insanity defenses and defenses based on below-average mental

capacity is that this is not science but subjective judgments, dressed up in the language of science. It is one thing for trial courts to make such judgments. It is something else for appellate courts to set in concrete the notions of shrinks.

"Stevens admits that mentally retarded persons 'frequently know the difference between right and wrong and are competent to stand trial.' At one time, that would have been the end of that discussion. But now, he brings in 'consensus' among various groups, including foreign governments as if the Supreme Court were the Gallup Poll.

"Too many people judge Supreme Court decisions by whether or not they like the policy. Thus those who oppose the death penalty are pleased with this decision and those who support the death penalty are displeased. But if that is all there is to it, why do we have a Constitution or a Supreme Court? Elected officials can carry out what the public wants. We don't need a third House of Congress, made up of nine people.

"Behind much of the opposition to the death penalty is the widespread assumption that executions do not deter murderers. This notion became liberal dogma long ago, based on an unbelievably crude study which measured capital punishment by words in the statute books, rather than by actual executions. A later and more sophisticated statistical study, by Isaac Ehrlich of the University of Chicago, found several murders deterred per execution.

"The whole liberal establishment in academia came down on Ehrlich's study, applying standards that they never applied to the previous study which told them what they wanted to hear. Just recently, in the June 21 issue of *The Wall Street Journal*, William Tucker presents new data showing a dramatic correlation between executions and the deterrence of murder.

"But neither facts nor the Constitution are likely to carry much weight among those wedded to fashionable dogmas. Unfortunately, that includes members of the Supreme Court."

—Thomas Sowell, *Colorado Springs Gazette*, June 28, 2002, p. M6

Q "Judging from the number of published books and articles on the subject, there is a lot going on in the field of evolutionary cosmology as astronomers and cosmological physicists are trying to learn how the universe originated and its various components evolved, including all the millions of galaxies, stars, planets, and other objects in the vast cosmos. I try to scan two dozen or more scientific journals each month, and it seems to me there is no end to the speculative writings and researches on these topics. Like 'the Lord's mercies' they are 'new every morning' (Lamentations 3:22,23), though hardly as beneficial. As one scientist noted rather wistfully while eulogizing science as a whole: 'Still, even today certain major sciences offer scant prospect of practical application. Astronomy and cosmology are of little earthly

use.'

"That's a valid point, though not completely true, of course. The visible stars have for centuries been of great use in navigation, surveying, and chronometry.

"But the distant stars and galaxies, observable only through giant telescopes, have been of use only in fueling speculation of the universe. That also is the primary motivation for the scientists of NASA and their space program, as they are trying to determine how the earth and the solar system evolved, and even how life began.

"The noted columnist, George Will, quotes the physicist, Steven Weinberg, as saying that our 'effort to understand the universe is one of the very few things that lifts human life a little above the level of farce, and gives it some of the grace of tragedy.'

"That is a darkly pessimistic outlook, obviously, but is the logical conclusion of any consistent evolutionary worldview.

Yet with all the billions of dollars spent on such studies and all the brainpower of such large numbers of brilliant scientists devoted to it and thus sidetracked from useful research, they still don't know the answers to any of the key questions about the universe.

"As far as the origin of the universe itself is concerned, the predominant belief has been the theory of the Big Bang. Actually, no one knows.

"The Big Bang concept at least postulates a beginning, but that beginning consists of an infinitesimal particle of space/time which explodes and evolves over billions of years into our present cosmos. One science writer, trying to help us understand it says: 'Don't imagine outer space without matter in it. Imagine no space at all and no matter at all. Good luck. To the average person it might seem obvious that nothing can happen in nothing. But to a quantum physicist, nothing is, in fact, something.'

"The author of the above article calls this notion a 'Grand Guess.' It is certainly not anything that anyone *knows*!

"The so-called 'Grand Guess' was put forth by M.I.T. astrophysicist Alan Guth. According to this concept the infinitesimal particle of space/time which exploded into the Big Bang had to first go through a period of cosmic inflation, which presumably would solve the various difficulties present in the unmodified Big Bang theory. The latter is said to be a 'singularity,' where the equations describing the phenomena of the expansion cease to apply. 'At such places, physics dissolves into metaphysics. These mathematical points admit to no explanation; they just are.'

"Scientists can't explain singularities. That means they don't know how to explain the Big Bang, although Guth's theory is said to handle most of the difficulties, and most astronomers now accept inflation. However, that doesn't help much, so many modifications of inflation have been proposed. 'Roughly 50 forms of inflation have been proposed, named, and studied, including double, triple, and hybrid inflation, tilted hybrid inflation, hyperextended inflation that is 'warm,' 'soft,' 'tepid,' and 'natural.' "

"Even if astronomers really understood all about inflation—that is the extremely rapid inflation of the universe to about the size of a grapefruit in a tiny fraction of a second prior to the explosive Bang—that would not answer the question of how the universe began. That 'singularity' is still there. 'For instance, cosmic inflation...does not eliminate the primeval singularity but simply isolates it from today's universe.'

"So one thing astronomers don't know is how the universe began. They take refuge in quantum physics, saying it somehow evolved from the primeval nothingness. And, of course, they don't know that either. 'Quantum theory also holds that a vacuum, like atoms, is subject to quantum uncertainties. This means that things can materialize out of the vacuum, although they tend to vanish back into it quickly...this phenomenon has never been observed directly...'

"In spite of not being able to observe it, Guth and others hope that it happens. Of course, they don't know. Guth believes, nevertheless, that all of this is consistent with the known laws of physics. But that raises another question. 'Where do the laws of physics come from?' (Guth) pauses: 'We are a long way from being able to answer that one.'

"Yes, that would be a very big gap in scientific knowledge!"

—Henry Morris, *Back to Genesis*, July 2002

Q "Two public school employees from Ohio who are at the center of a national religious-discrimination case involving the National Education Association testified before a congressional hearing yesterday in favor of ending forced unionism.

"Dennis Robey and Kathleen Klamut told the House Education Workforce workforce protection subcommittee that the nation's largest teachers' union systematically discriminates against those members who have religious objections to supporting the union's political causes, including abortion and homosexual rights.

"Both employees testified yesterday that they were subjected to an extensive interrogation by union officials when they asked that their annual dues be redirected to a charity of their

choice.

" 'The union threatens to take my job away unless I violate my religious beliefs.' Mrs. Klamut told subcommittee members. 'The union claims it has the power to do this. Maybe it does, maybe it doesn't. I do not know which is correct.'

"In the case of Mrs. Klamut, a school psychologist from Ravenna, union officials rejected her request for a charitable donation and are now threatening to take legal action against her after they found out she filed charges against them with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

"At the hearing, NEA General Counsel Robert Chanin told the subcommittee that the union only uses contributions from its political-action committee—and not union dues—to support political candidates and parties.

" 'We engage in political activity. We lobby. We do issue work. We have to do that to represent our people,' Mr. Chanin told subcommittee members. 'Other than to educate and work with our own members in regards to education-favorable candidates, the NEA does not use its general treasury money to support candidates for a federal election. It only uses its PAC money.'

"Mr. Chanin also testified that the union accommodates religious objectors, who under the law have the right to ask the union to have their annual dues redirected to a charity of their choice.

" 'There is no union in the country that has devoted more effort than has the NEA and its affiliates to the development and implementation of a legally sound procedure for accommodating the objections of agency fee payers,' Mr. Chanin testified, 'whether those objections are based on political or religious grounds.'

"But Mr. Robey, a high school teacher from Dayton, testified that he filed charges against the NEA and its local affiliates after they refused to honor his religious objection to supporting the union's stance on abortion and homosexuality. The EEOC ruled on Robey's case last month.

" 'All these years, I have faithfully objected, jumped through all the union's hoops and paid the money, which ultimately went to charity,' he told the panel. 'It has not been easy, and it has been a distraction for my work, which is to teach students, and my family life.'

"Mr. Chanin's comments came in response to accusations brought up in lawsuits filed by the Virginia-based Landmark Legal Foundation and the National Right to Work Committee and Evergreen Freedom Foundation (EFF), both based in Washington state.

" 'We are not disputing legitimate lobbying activities,' EFF President Bob Williams said yesterday. 'But straightforward politicking should be paid through voluntary contributions.'

"The subcommittee's hearing's come nearly a month after the EEOC found that the NEA discriminates against religious objectors.

"The EEOC concluded that the union requires objectors to annually undergo extensive interrogation before honoring their right to divert dues away from union officials."

—*The Washington Times*, June 21, 2002, p. A13

Q "School's out. What did your children learn this year? Across the country, one poisonous lesson was pumped into the systems of self-esteem-inflated students: There is no such thing as failure.

"Christine Pelton, a now-famous former biology teacher at Piper High School in Piper, Kan., resigned last month when her school board—pressured by angry parents—refused to support her flunking of nearly 30 students who plagiarized. Two lesser known teachers also refused to play along with the education establishment's dumbing-down games. They tried to give out F's, too. Their reward for showing children that slacking off has consequences? Humiliation, intimidation and litigation.

"Erich Martel, a history teacher at Wilson Senior High School in D.C., issued an F last year to a girl who took his Advanced Placement U.S. history course. It was enough to prevent her from graduating. But when the school held its commencement ceremony, there was the student—strolling across the stage in her cap and gown.

"Mr. Martel checked the school's computer system. The student's grade had been boosted to a D. 'It was a feeling of being sabotaged, a feeling of being undermined, that for reasons that have nothing to do with the student's performance, there are shortcuts around a teacher's legitimate grade,' Mr. Martel told *The Washington Post* last week. And he wasn't alone. Mr. Martel discovered at least 11 cases in which students' grades were raised without the knowledge of his fellow teachers.

"One student earned a D, which her father protested because his daughter 'needed a high grade-point average' to go to college. The teacher relented and gave the student a chance to retake the final exam. Her score was even lower. The teacher kept the original grade. But Mr. Martel later discovered that it had been changed to a 'P' (for "Pass"). 'I could not believe it,' the overruled teacher, Anexora Skvirsky said. 'I am absolutely alarmed. It is uncalled for. It

is intolerable. It's like cheating. It's like lying. It's like fraud.' Like?

"As for those responsible for altering the grades, the D.C. schools are sending a consistent message: Mess up, move up. The assistant high school principal who changed the grade of Mr. Martel's student is now a principal at an elementary school in the district. And Wilson High's former principal, who also altered grades, is now an assistant superintendent overseeing the city's high schools. She justifies the grade changes because they were 'unfair.'

" 'Unfair' is the same gripe that came from the parents of a high school senior at Sunrise Mountain High School in Glendale, Ariz. When their daughter flunked a required English class, which she needed to pass in order to graduate, Mom and Dad did the natural thing in a no-consequences world: They hired a lawyer.

"In a missive that would make the parody writers at the satirical newspaper the Onion blush, attorney Stan F. Massad demanded that teacher Elizabeth Joice 'take whatever action is necessary to correct this situation so that it can be settled amicably. Failing that, you will force us to institute litigation.' Mr. Massad claimed his client 'has been very sick, unable to sleep or eat and she has been forced to seek medical attention. To say that she has experienced Severe Emotional and Physical Distress over this matter is an understatement.'

Turning up the sob-story volume, Mr. Massad, bemoaned: 'The student was all ready to graduate and, now, at the eleventh hour she is told that she will not. As you know, the student is on the Student Council and she was looking forward to speaking at the Graduation Ceremonies. It is certainly a shame that this young lady's life has now been ruined forever.'

"The *Arizona Republic* reported that just hours before her graduation last month, the student was allowed to take a retest—over Miss Joice's objections. The student passed the retest and got her diploma. Life, earned from her litigious parents and obsequious school officials, is one big do-over.

"Whiny parents wonder why public schools have abandoned standards, forsaken accountability and adopted appeasement as their primary educational mission. Oh, who could be to blame for such an abysmal abdication of responsibility? Who?"

—Michelle Malkin, *The Washington Times*, June 21, 2002, p. A18

Q "Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle tried last week to quash debate on Sen. Ted Kennedy's proposed federal 'hate crimes' bill. The gambit perfectly illustrated what these men are trying to do to the whole country—shut down discussion about homosexuality.

"The brilliantly misnamed Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act would vastly increase federal police power—not that of the local cops. The feds could rush in anywhere they decided something is a 'hate crime.'

"And what exactly constitutes a hate crime?

"Gary Glenn, president of the American Family Association of Michigan, gives this summary: 'A criminal who physically assaults a pregnant mom, a small child, or a senior citizen will be punished less severely than someone who attacks a grown man, if that grown man engages in homosexual behavior.'

"No wonder Messers. Daschle and Kennedy wanted to close the curtain and instruct the nation to 'pay no attention' to the giant red-faced man pulling all the levers. Even a cursory look reveals stark absurdities.

"Do you think rape is a hate crime? Well, gird your loins for this one: At a Senate committee hearing, Mr. Kennedy said that most rapes are not hate crimes, only the ones motivated by gender bias.' That must be comforting to women whose attacker has been a politically correct rapist.

"The Local Law Enforcement Act is being sold as a crime-fighting tool and civil rights measure, but it is really an old-fashioned federal power grab. Chief Justice William Rehnquist has warned of a trend toward federalizing crime and the growing specter of a national police force. The Kennedy measure would put it all on a fast track.

"The bill is above all a sop to an increasingly pampered special-interest group: homosexual activists.

"Among other things, it would create a new federal civil right based on sexual behavior. This is no small change in the law. It would have the effect of recasting traditional morality as a form of bigotry, and providing legal tools to criminalize thought and speech that the government deems 'hateful.' Liberals are already blaming Christian conservatives for everything from Matthew Shepard's murder to any mugging of a homosexual anywhere.

"You don't have to connect too many dots to arrive where Canada has landed after passing lots of hate crime laws. Canadian TV and radio broadcasters are forbidden to discuss homosexuality in any but a positive way, lest they trigger 'hate-motivated violence.' A man who took out an ad in a Saskatchewan newspaper featuring Bible verses about homosexuality was hauled before a human rights commission and fined \$4,500. So was the publisher. Both were warned not to publish any more hate speech.

"It's already happening in America. In San Francisco, the city council passed a resolution in

1998 urging local media not to accept ads that featured people coming out of the 'gay' lifestyle through the grace of God. They said the ads would lead to 'hate violence.' In Staten Island, New York, city officials invoked New York's hate crimes law to force a billboard company to take down a pastor's ad that featured a Bible verse about homosexuality.

"Proponents of the federal hate crimes law say it won't have any effect on freedom of speech or religion. If you believe that, you might even believe that some rapes are not really hate crimes."

—Robert H. Knight, *The Washington Times*, June 21, 2002, p. A21

Q "A 5-year-old kindergartner in upstate New York who was prohibited from saying grace aloud before snack time at school can pray again under a proposed settlement reached this week.

"Under the settlement, officials with the Saratoga Springs School District acknowledge Kayla Broadus' right to pray out loud before snack time without disturbing others or inviting others to pray with her. Kayla attends Dorothy Nolan Elementary School.

" 'While we're thankful that the anti-religious discrimination Kayla suffered has finally been corrected, it should not have taken a federal lawsuit to vindicate her basic civil rights,' said John W. Whitehead, president of the Virginia-based Rutherford Institute, whose attorneys represented Kayla.

" 'Any censorship of personal religious speech in a public school—even though it is couched in terms of separation of church and state—teaches children that religious persons are second-class citizens and this is fundamentally wrong,' Mr. Whitehead said.

"The district's board of education was expected to approve the settlement late last night.

"As part of the settlement, school officials have asked Kayla's attorney to drop her family request for \$50,000 in punitive damages and any payment of attorney fees, according to school attorney Gregg T. Johnson.

"Also, school officials will not admit any wrongdoing in the case and ask to be released from any future litigation in this case, Mr. Johnson said.

" 'This is a positive resolution to a case that has run its course,' Mr. Johnson said in a telephone interview yesterday. 'This will not change school policy that restricted student prayer. Kayla has and will have the same rights she had in the beginning of last year. Nothing

has changed.'

"The controversy began Jan. 15 when teacher Lori Maragno hushed Kayla for saying, 'God is good. God is great. Thank you, God, for my food.' Kayla had invited three of her 19 classmates who shared a table with her to join hands as she said grace before they ate their snacks of cupcakes and milk.

"Citing separation of church and state, Miss Maragno stopped the girls from praying and told Kayla that she was not allowed to pray in class. The school principal agreed with the teacher's actions.

"After being contacted by Kayla's mother, the institute attorneys wrote a letter to the school principal, asking that school officials apologize to Kayla and allow her to pray. The letter, Mr. Whitehead said, also corrected Miss Maragno's and the principal's assumptions that this case was a matter of separation of church and state. But school officials didn't change their minds.

"As a result, Kayla's mother, Cheryl Broadus, filed a lawsuit in federal court. A judge in April temporarily ordered school officials to allow Kayla to continue to pray out loud until a formal hearing was heard in the case."

—*The Washington Times*, June 12, 2002, p. A 16