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“God, You have taught me from my youth, and I still proclaim Your wonderful works. Even when I am old and gray, God, do not abandon me. Then I will proclaim Your power to another generation.”

Psalm 71: 17, 18

MONTH IN REVIEW

❑ “LORD, I seek refuge in You; never let me be disgraced. In Your justice, rescue and deliver me; listen closely to me and save me. Be a rock of refuge for me, where I can always go. Give the command to save me, for You are my rock and fortress. Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and oppressive. For You are my hope, Lord God, my confidence from my youth.

“I have leaned on You from birth; You took me from my mother’s womb. My praise is always about You. I have become an ominous sign to many, but You are my strong refuge. My mouth is full of praise and honor to You all day long.

“Don’t discard me in my old age: as my strength fails, do not abandon me. For my enemies talk about me, and those who spy on me plot together, saying, ‘God has abandoned him; chase him and catch him, for there is no one to rescue [him].’ God, do not be far from me; my God, hurry to help me. May my adversaries be disgraced and confounded; may those who seek my harm be covered with disgrace and humiliation. But I will hope continually and will praise You more and more. My mouth will tell about Your righteousness and Your salvation all day long, though I cannot sum them up. I come because of the mighty acts of the Lord God; I will proclaim Your righteousness, Yours alone.

“God, You have taught me from my youth, and I still proclaim Your wonderful works. Even when I am old and gray, God, do not abandon me. Then I will proclaim Your power to [another] generation, Your strength to all who are to come. Your righteousness reaches heaven, God, You who have done great things; God, who is like You? You caused me to experience many troubles and misfortunes, but You will revive me again. You will bring me up again, even from the depths of the earth. You will increase my honor and comfort me once again. Therefore, with a lute I will praise You for Your faithfulness, my God; I will sing to You with a harp, Holy One of Israel. My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to You, because You have redeemed me. Therefore, my tongue will proclaim Your righteousness all day long, for those who seek my harm will be disgraced and confounded.”

—Psalm 71

❑ “Laugh and fear not, creatures. Now that you are no longer dumb and witless you need not always be grave. For jokes as well as justice come in with speech.”

—C.S. Lewis, *The Magician’s Nephew*

❑ “There are only two places where socialism will work: Heaven, where it’s not needed, and Hell, where they already have it.”

—Winston Churchill

❑ “The pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”

—Winston Churchill

❑ “The span of mortals is short, the end universal. Noble spirits yield themselves willingly to the successively failing shades which carry them to a better world or oblivion.”

—Winston Churchill

❑ “On the morning of August 9, 1941, Winston Churchill went aboard the USS *Augusta* to meet Franklin Roosevelt. The next morning, the President went aboard the HMS *Prince of Wales* to meet the Prime Minister. On a bright Sunday morning, as the two ships sat stationary on a peaceful and glittering sea, several hundred naval and military personnel from both Great Britain and the United States gathered on the top deck of the British destroyer. Churchill chose the hymns that were ‘familiar to all and fervently sung.’ Film footage recounts the very moving event and shows an emotional Churchill taking the lead of all those gathered on the decks in the singing of his selections ‘Onward Christian Soldiers’ and ‘O, God Our Help in Ages Past.’ President Roosevelt was ‘visibly moved’ as Churchill later noted:

“The symbolism was inspiring—the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes draped side by side on the pulpit. The service was felt by all of us to be a deeply moving expression of the unity of faith of our two peoples.”

“Perhaps when all those gathered sang the fourth verse of the final hymn, they knew this stalwart anthem would become more than just words:

‘Time, like an ever rolling stream, Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten as a dream, Dies at the op’ning day.
O, God our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last, And our eternal home.’

“Across a world away was the life and death struggle of the soon-to-be global war. In just sixteen weeks, the United States would be attacked by the Empire of Japan at Pearl Harbor, and America would be forever changed. Winston Churchill wrote poignantly of this unforgettable day:

“Every word seemed to stir the heart. It was a great hour to live. Nearly half those who sang were soon to die.”

—Deborah Davis Brezina, *The Spirit of Churchill*, p. 129

❑ Journal readers interested in the life and times of Winston Churchill need go no further than Debbie Brezina’s *The Spirit of Churchill* (2006). (Mrs. Brezina is a Summit Speaker!) Order at www.summit.org or call 719-685-9103 (\$20.00+ shipping and handling).

— UPCOMING EVENTS —

DR. NOEBEL’S SPEAKING SCHEDULE

Plan to attend a Worldview Weekend this fall. Dr. Noebel will be at the following conferences. For a complete listing and registration information, please go to www.worldviewweekend.com.

St. Paul, MN	October 27-28
Rockford, IL	November 17-18

SPRING CONFERENCE

Mark your calendar for the 2007 Spring Adult Conference to be held at Glen Eyrie in Colorado Springs, April 1-6. We would love to see you, your pastor, or your school administrator attend this conference.

□ “Not only among intellectuals but among a much wider circle, anti-Americanism has a tone of outraged morality which strikes me as peculiarly perverse. It is notable among those, particularly in France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia, who profess concern for the well-being of the world (as opposed to the national interest of their countries). These ‘lovers of humanity’ are peculiarly anti-American. Yet what is the United States? It is, so far, the world’s only unqualified success in building on the largest possible scale a multiracial society. Every culture in the world is represented in the U.S., usually in considerable numbers. To take in the peoples of the world is not only a U.S. tradition but a current and future reality. Some of the most successful U.S. communities—the Koreans, the Lebanese, the Vietnamese, and the Cubans—are quite recent creations. Immigration from all over our planet is a major factor in pushing America’s population over the 300 million mark and, according to the latest projection, will raise U.S. population to 420 million by mid-century. America comes much closer to the realization of world brother-and-sisterhood than that corrupt and soulless abstraction, the United Nations. Indeed the United States is a practical and on the whole prosperous and contented celebration of the essential unity of the planet. To hate America is thus not to hate a particular nation as such, but to hate humanity. And of course it is a melancholy fact that many intellectuals do hate the human race. My definition of an intellectual is someone who thinks ideas matter more than people.”

—Paul Johnson, *National Review*, September 12, 2005, p.18

□ “In this confused spasm of irrationality which is anti-Americanism, there is a process of personification which has currently settled on the necessarily lonely figure of George W. Bush. He is much hated among the European intelligentsia, and there are frequent calls for his prosecution as a war criminal, especially among those who took the mass atrocities of a Saddam Hussein or a Pol Pot with equanimity, not to say indifference. And the reason for this is simple, and much to Mr. Bush’s credit: To an anti-American, he is the archetype, the quintessential American. He is Mr. America, America personified, even caricatured. He brings out all the envy, fear, and emotional anxiety which lie at the root of the anti-American disease. He is good-looking, upright, a Texan, a man of wealth and self-assurance. He is not by nature talkative, does not articulate abstract thoughts or concern himself with fine distinctions. He sees the world in black-and-white terms, with clear and absolute differences between good and evil, right and wrong. He worships God. He is a Ten Commandments man. He does not meet trouble halfway and is slow to anger, but when roused his anger is terrible and enduring. His personal life centers around the family, an institution European intellectuals view with unease and marked qualifications, not to say distaste. He does not dance effortlessly on the sacramental turf of the campus, or fit into the smoke-filled culture of the basement café, or find books axiomatically preferable to the saddle. Does he read poetry to relax, or study philosophy as a hobby, or worship Picasso? No. All this adds up to a terrible indictment.

“Mr. Bush enables the more bigoted and inveterate anti-Americans—those for whom anti-Americanism is a culture, almost a way of life—to concentrate their feelings on a real-life actual hate

figure. Bush is exactly what the clinical-case anti-American believes the average American is, must be, and, in the weird logic of demonology, ought to be. The Americans elected him. Well, they would, wouldn’t they? He *is* America. Anti-Americanism and Bush hatred are part of the same paranoid emotion. But the obverse is also true. In a difficult time, Bush is America’s natural leader.”

—Paul Johnson, *The National Review*, September 12, 2005, p. 19

□ “I first became conscious that something was awry in Darwinian science some 40 years ago as I was writing my early critique of sexual liberation, *Sexual Suicide* (revised and republished as *Men and Marriage*). At the time, the publishing world was awash with such titles as Desmond Morris’s *The Naked Ape* and *The Human Zoo* and Robert Ardrey’s *African Genesis*, which touted or pruriently probed the animality of human beings. Particularly impressive to me was *The Imperial Animal*, a Darwinian scholarly work by two anthropologists aptly named Lionel Tiger and Robin Fox that gave my theory of sex roles a panoply of primatological support, largely based on the behavior of patriarchal hamadryas baboons.

“Darwinism seemed to offer me and its other male devotees a long-sought tool—resembling the x-ray glasses lamentably found elsewhere only in cartoons—for stripping away the distracting décor of clothing and the political underwear of ideology worn by feminists and other young women of the day. Using this swashbuckling scheme of fitness and survival, nature ‘red in tooth and claw,’ we could reveal our ideological nemeses as naked mammals on the savannah to be ruled and protected by hunting parties of macho males, rather like us.

“In actually writing and researching *Sexual Suicide*, however, I was alarmed to discover that both sides could play the game of telling just-so stories. In *The Descent of Woman*, Elaine Morgan showed humans undulating from the tides as amphibious apes mostly led by females. Jane Goodall croodled about the friendliness of ‘our closest relatives,’ the chimpanzees, and movement feminists flogged research citing the bonobo and other apes as chiefly matriarchal and frequently homosexual.

“These evolutionary sex wars were mostly unresolvable because, at its root, Darwinian theory is tautological. What survives is fit; what is fit survives. While such tautologies ensure the consistency of any arguments based on them, they could con-

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From the President's Desk

Dr. David A. Noebel

There are many heroes who walk among us and I would like to honor one of them here in this edition of the *Journal*. His name is Jody McLoud. He is the principal of the Roane County High School in Kingston, Tennessee. Speaking over the PA system at a football game, he made the following remarks:

"It has always been the custom at Roane County High School football games to say a prayer and play the National Anthem, to honor God and Country. Due to a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, I am told that saying a prayer is a violation of Federal Case Law. As I understand the law at this time, I can use this public facility to approve of sexual perversion and call it 'an alternate lifestyle,' and if someone is offended, that's okay.

"I can use it to condone sexual promiscuity by dispensing condoms and calling it 'safe sex.' If someone is offended, that is okay.

"I can even use this public facility to present the merits of killing an unborn baby as a viable means of birth control. If someone is offended, no problem.

"I can designate a school day as 'Earth Day' and involve students in activities to worship religiously and praise the goddess 'Mother Earth' and call it 'ecology.'

"I can use literature, videos, and presentations in the classroom that depict people with strong traditional Christian convictions as 'simple minded' and 'ignorant' and call it 'enlightenment.'

"However, if anyone uses this facility to honor God and to ask Him to bless this event with safety and good sportsmanship,

then Federal Case Law is violated.

"This appears to be inconsistent at best, and at worst, diabolical. Apparently, we are to be tolerant of everything and anyone, except God and his commandments.

"Nevertheless, as a school principal, I frequently ask staff and students to abide by rules with which they don't necessarily agree. For me to do otherwise would be inconsistent at best, and at worst, hypocritical. I suffer from that affliction enough unintentionally. I certainly do not need to add an intentional transgression.

"For this reason, I shall 'Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's' and refrain from praying at this time.

"However, if you feel inspired to honor, praise and thank God, and ask Him, in the name of Jesus, to bless this event, please feel free to do so. As far as I know, that's not against the law—yet."

One by one, the people in the stands bowed their heads, held hands with one another and began to pray. They prayed in the stands. They prayed in the team huddles. They prayed at the concession stand, and they prayed in the announcer's box!

The only place they didn't pray was in the Supreme Court of the United States of America—the Seat of 'Justice' in the 'one nation, under God.'

Somehow, Kingston, Tennessee, remembered what so may have forgotten. We are given the freedom of religion, not the freedom FROM religion. Praise God that such a remnant remains! God Bless America.

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tribute little to an analysis of what patterns of behavior and what ideals and aspirations were conducive to a good and productive society. Almost by definition, Darwinism is a materialist theory that banishes aspirations and ideals from the picture. As an all-purpose tool of reductionism that said that whatever survives is, in some way, normative, Darwinism could inspire almost any modern movement, from the eugenic furies of Nazism to the feminist crusades of Margaret Sanger and Planned Parenthood.

"So in the end, for better or for worse, my book dealt chiefly with sociological and anthropological arguments and left out Darwin."

—George Gilder, *National Review*, July 17, 2006, p. 29

❑ "Based as it is on ideas, a computer is intrinsically an object of intelligent design. Every silicon chip holds as many as 700 layers of implanted chemicals in patterns defined with nanometer precision and then is integrated with scores of other chips by an elaborately patterned architecture of wires and switches all gov-

erned by layers of software programming written by human beings. Equally planned and programmed are all the computers running the models of evolution and 'artificial life' that are central to neo-Darwinian research. Everywhere on the apparatus and in the 'genetic algorithms' appear the scientist's fingerprints: the 'fitness functions' and 'target sequences.' These algorithms prove what they aim to refute: the need for intelligence and teleology (targets) in any creative process.

"I came to see that the computer offers an insuperable obstacle to Darwinian materialism. In a computer, as information theory shows, the content is manifestly independent of its material substrate. No possible knowledge of the computer's materials can yield any information whatsoever about the actual content of its computations. In the usual hierarchy of causation, they reflect the software or 'source code' used to program the device; and, like the design of the computer itself, the software is contrived by human intelligence.

"The failure of purely physical theories to describe or explain
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plain information reflects Shannon's concept of entropy and his measure of 'news.' Information is defined by its *independence* from physical determination: If it is determined, it is predictable and thus by definition not information. Yet Darwinian science seemed to be reducing all nature to material causes.

"As I pondered this materialist superstition, it became increasingly clear to me that in all the sciences I studied, information comes first, and regulates the flesh and the world, not the other way around. The pattern seemed to echo some familiar wisdom. Could it be, I asked myself one day in astonishment, that the opening of St. John's Gospel, *In the beginning was the Word*, is a central dogma of modern science?

"In raising this question I was not affirming a religious stance. At the time it first occurred to me, I was still a mostly secular intellectual. But after some 35 years of writing and study in science and technology, I can now affirm the principle empirically. Salient in virtually every technical field—from quantum theory and molecular biology to computer science and economics—is an increasing concern with the *word*. It passes by many names: logos, logic, bits, bytes, mathematics, software, knowledge, syntax, semantics, code, plan, program, design, algorithm, as well as the ubiquitous 'information.' In every case, the information is independent of its physical embodiment or carrier."

—George Gilder, *The National Review*, July 17, 2006, p. 30, 31

□ "Embryonic stem cells (ESCs) receive tremendous media attention, with oft-repeated claims they have the potential to cure virtually every disease known. Yet there are spoilsports, myself included, who point out ESCs have yet to even make it into a human clinical trial. This is even as alternatives—adult stem cells (ASCs) from numerous places in the body as well as umbilical cord blood and placenta—are curing diseases here and now and have been doing so for decades. And that makes ESC advocates very, very angry.

"How many diseases ASCs can treat or cure is debatable, with one Web site claiming almost 80 for umbilical cord blood alone. Dr. David Prentice of the Family Research Council, using stricter standards of evidence, has compiled a list of 72 for all types of ASCs. But now three ESC advocates have directly challenged Dr. Prentice's list. They published a letter in *Science* magazine, released ahead of publication obviously to influence President Bush's promise to veto legislation that would open wide the federal funding spigot for ESC research.

"The letter claims ASC 'treatments fully tested in all required phases of clinical trials and approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are available to treat only nine of the conditions' on his list.

"Well. One answer is it's nine more than can be claimed for ESCs. Further, there are 1,175 clinical trials for ASCs, including those no longer recruiting patients, with zero for ESCs. But a better response is that the letter authors come from the Kenneth Lay School for honesty, as do the editors at *Science*.

"In the detailed attachment to their letter, the *Science* magazine writers aren't just at odds with Dr. Prentice but the medical community as a whole. For example, on sickle cell anemia, they claim 'adult stem cell transplants from bone marrow or umbilical

cord blood can provide some benefit to sickle cell patients' and 'hold the potential to treat sickle cell anemia.' 'Some benefit' and 'potential'?

"An article from the May 2006 issue of *Current Opinion in Hematology* notes 'there is presently no curative therapy' for sickle cell anemia other than allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. 'Hematopoietic' means from marrow or blood; 'allogeneic' means the cells are from another person. *Seminars in Hematology* (2004) state, 'curative allogeneic stem cell transplantation therapy' has been developed for sickle cell anemia.' Meanwhile, 'curative allogeneic stem cell transplantation therapy [has] been developed for' sickle cell anemia, according to *Current Opinions in Molecular Therapy* (2003), while 'hematopoietic stem cells for allogeneic transplantation' are 'currently the only curative approach for sickle cell anemia,' observes the journal *Blood* (2002). What does everybody seem to know that the *Science* writers and *Science* editors don't?

"Words like 'could' and 'potential' are trick phraseology used throughout the letter attachment for ASC curative therapies used routinely for years. This appears to give them no advantage over ESC therapy, which boasts nothing but potential.

"The writers are correct about Food and Drug Administration approval, but that's a trick. Some ASC therapies are approved in other countries but not yet here. More important, stem cell therapy is not a drug and therefore the FDA doesn't regulate it the same way. Some have been used successfully for decades with no one seeking or receiving federal approval.

"For that matter, aspirin is a drug but by their standards it only has potential use for aches and pains, since it never went through the clinical trial process and the FDA has never given it formal approval.

"How can *Science* not know all this? Simple; it does. I've written repeatedly of how *Science* has made itself a propaganda sheet for ESC research, as well as other political causes. At least, it should change its name to *Pseudoscience*.

"Sometimes it prints easily falsifiable studies, such as this, attacking the usefulness of ASCs. Other times it falsely promotes ESCs. That culminated in January when the journal had to retract two groundbreaking ESC studies that proved frauds.

"The journal wants to flood unpromising ESC research with taxpayer dollars because private investors know how unpromising it is. Yet again *Science* has showcased the scientific and moral bankruptcy of the entire ESC advocacy movement."

—Michael Fumento, *The Washington Times*, July 22, 2006, p. A9

□ "Sheeple thought of the day: 'Hezbollah is not my problem.' 'You think Hezbollah is only Israel's headache? Wake up. Iranian Hezbollah's spokesman Mojtaba Bigdeli's threat on Tuesday to dispatch 2,000 operatives 'to every corner of the world to jeopardize Israel and America's interests' is more than just idle Islamic heavy breathing.

"The Jew-hating terrorists of Hezbollah who call themselves the 'party of God' are already in America, plotting attacks, raising money, slipping through the cracks.

"In May, the *New York Post* reported on Hezbollah's plans to activate sleeper cells in New York, Los Angeles, Boston and De-

troit as the nuclear show-down with Iran heats up. One focal point: ‘the Iranian Mission to the United Nations, where there have already been three episodes in the last four year in which diplomats and security guards have been expelled for casing and photographing New York City subways and other potential targets.’ Heightened alert follows reports Iran’s crackpot President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad met with Hezbollah leaders in Syria earlier this year.

“Four years ago, I reported on how information-sharing walls between federal immigration and law enforcement agencies created a path to citizenship for at least one known Hezbollah member. He walked through our figurative front door. The then-assistant district director for INS investigations in New York City and two FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) officials were placed on administrative leave when the bungle was discovered.

“Sources informed me the unidentified Middle Eastern male—now a fellow American—appeared on terrorist watch lists and is a member of the Hezbollah terrorist organization. Despite numerous calls from adjudicators in Newark, N.J., handling the alleged terrorist’s naturalization case, the FBI and Immigration and Naturalization Service reportedly did not respond to requests to turn over the individual’s ‘alien file.’ The A-file includes biographical and status information and investigative data. It is unclear why INS and the JTTF did not turn over the file, or why the New York office neglected to order the adjudications branch in Newark to put the naturalization process on hold.

“Why did INS adjudicators in Newark proceed without viewing the alleged terrorist’s file? Adjudicators remain under intense pressure to meet naturalization ‘quotas.’ Job-performance ratings and cash bonuses are based on the number of naturalization approvals processed. It’s standard operating procedure.

“Hezbollah has also enlisted the aid of gullible American women to ease their way into the country.

“Jessica Yolanda Fortune hooked up with Lebanon-born Chawki Youssef Hammoud in 1994. The marriage enabled him to obtain a green card—and the cover to operate a Charlotte, N.C., cell that smuggled cigarettes to raise cash for Hezbollah. The terror cell reportedly answered to a senior Hezbollah leadership in Lebanon and was part of a broader North American network responsible for also obtaining dual-use technologies for Hezbollah—including goggles, global positioning systems, stun guns, naval equipment, nitrogen cutters and laser range finders.

“Fortune was convicted of marriage fraud in October 2001. Hammoud was convicted of smuggling, credit-card fraud, money laundering and racketeering in June 2002. Fortune’s brother-in-law, Mohammed Hammoud, married three different American women. After arriving in the U.S. on a counterfeit visa, being ordered deported and filing an appeal, he wed Sabina Edwards to gain a green card. INS officials refused him legal status after this first marriage was deemed bogus in 1994.

“He then married Jessica Wedel in May 1997, and while still wed to her, paid Angela Tsioumas to marry him in Detroit. Tsioumas entered a plea agreement in March 2002 on charges of conspiracy. Her ‘husband’ was convicted on 16 counts that included providing material support to Hezbollah. A total of 25 people connected to the ring were nabbed.

“Does the name ‘Hammoud’ sound familiar? Earlier this month, the FBI announced the capture of Assem Hammoud—

also a Lebanese-born Muslim like the members of the cigarette-smuggling Hammoud gang. He is suspected of working for al Qaeda on a plot to blow up PATH train tunnels between New Jersey and Lower Manhattan with a team of suicide bombers. The 1998 terrorism indictment of Osama bin Laden notes al Qaeda’s forged alliances ‘with the government of Iran and its associated terrorist group Hezbollah.’ Together, they’ve killed American servicemen and civilians around the world.

“Not in your backyard? Think again.”

—Michelle Malkin, *The Washington Times*, July 22, 2006, p. A11

□ “Muslim Canadians, as Muslims elsewhere in Western societies, have felt increasingly besieged for some time now, both from outside their community and from within.

“This sense of isolation, of being misrepresented and misunderstood, will inevitably deepen as the full story unfolds of the arrests of 17 Toronto-area Muslims on terrorism charges.

“But whose fault is this? Let us, Muslims, be brutally honest.

“We have inherited a culture of denial, of too often refusing to acknowledge our own responsibility for the widespread malaise that has left most of the Arab-Muslim countries in economic, political and social disrepair.

“Statistics and intergovernmental reports over the past several decades have documented a gap, perhaps now unbridgeable, between Muslim countries and the advanced industrial democracies in the West.

“In a recent ‘failed states index’ published in the journal *Foreign Policy* (May/June 2006), Pakistan, for instance, is ranked among the top 10 failed states in the world—ahead of Afghanistan. Pakistan is a Muslim country, a nuclear military power, but it can barely feed, clothe, educate and shelter its population.

“The reports on the Arab countries are a dismal catalogue of entrenched tyrannies, failing economies, squandered wealth, gender oppression, persecution of minorities and endemic violence. The cleric-led regime in Iran seeks nuclear weapons and threatens to obliterate Israel, repress domestic opposition, and seek confrontation with the West.

“Instead of acknowledging the reality of the Arab-Muslim world as a broken civilization, we Muslims tend to indulge instead in blaming others for our ills; deflecting our responsibilities for failures that have become breeding grounds of violence and terrorism.

“Many of our intellectuals in public life and our religious leaders in mosques remain adept in double-speak, saying contrary things in English or French and then in Arabic or Farsi or Urdu.

“We have made hypocrisy an art, and have spun for ourselves a web of lies that blinds us to the real world around us.

“We seethe with grievances and resentment against the West, even as we have prospered in the freedom and security of Western democracies.

“We have inculcated into our children false pride, and given them a sense of history that crumbles under critical scrutiny. We have burdened them with conflicting loyalties—and now some of them have become our nightmare.

“We preach tolerance yet we are intolerant. We demand

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inclusion, yet we practice exclusion of gender, of minorities, of those with whom we disagree.

“We repeat endlessly that Islam is a religion of peace, yet too many of us display conduct contrary to what we profess.

“We keep assuring ourselves and others that Muslims who violate Islam are a minuscule minority, yet we fail to hold this minority accountable in public.

“A bowl of milk turns into curd with a single drop of lemon. The minuscule minority we blame is this drop of lemon that has curdled and made a shambles of our Islam, yet too many of us insist against all evidence our belief somehow sets us apart as better from others.

“In Islam, we insist, religion and politics are inseparable. As a result, politics dominates our religion—and our religion has become a cover for tribalism and nationalism.

“We regularly quote from the Koran, but do not make repentance for our failings as the Koran instructs, by seeking forgiveness of those who we have harmed.

“We Muslims are the source of our own misery, and we are not misunderstood by others who see in our conduct a threat to their peace.”

—Salim Mansur, *Toronto Sun*, June 10, 2006

□ “In the period October 1980-May 1981, 5 young men, all active homosexuals, were treated for biopsy-confirmed *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia at 3 different hospitals in Los Angeles, California. Two of the patients died.”—Centers for Disease Control, June 5, 1981

“WASHINGTON—Those words 25 years ago announced the arrival of something most Americans thought anachronistic—an infectious disease epidemic. At first it was called GRID—gay-related immune deficiency. In September 1982, CDC renamed it acquired immune deficiency syndrome—AIDS.

“Its worldwide toll has already exceeded the 20 million killed by the 14th-century bubonic plague. By 2020, it probably will have killed more than has any epidemic in history, with most fatalities in sub-Saharan Africa, where it probably began about 75 years ago after some people who ate wild chimpanzees in Cameroon became infected with a low-virulence progenitor of the virus that causes AIDS.

“An epidemic requires both a microbe and an enabling social context. In Africa, aspects of modernity in a primitive setting became a deadly combination: HIV was spread by roadside prostitutes serving truckers and soldiers traveling on modern roads. Africa’s wars caused population dislocations; economic development caused migrations of workers across porous borders. Both weakened families and dissolved traditional sexual norms. Jet aircraft integrated Africa into the world flow of commerce and tourism. In 1980s America, the enabling context included a gay community feeling more assertive and emancipated, and IV drug users sharing needles.

“AIDS arrived in America in the wake of the Salk vaccine which, by swiftly defeating polio, gave Americans a misleading paradigm of how progress is made in public health. Pharmacology often is a small contributor. By the time the first anti-tuberculosis drugs became available in the 1950s, the annual death rate from TB had plummeted to 20 per 100,000 Americans, from 200

per 100,000 in 1900. Drugs may have accounted for just 3 percent of the reduction. The other 97 percent was the result of better nutrition and less urban crowding. Thanks to chlorination of water and better sanitation and personal hygiene, typhoid, too, became rare before effective drugs were available.

“Which suggests that the most powerful public health program is economic growth. And the second-most powerful is information.

“The 14th-century Black Death killed one-third of Europe’s population, but it was in the air, food and water, so breathing, eating and drinking were risky behaviors. AIDS is much more difficult to acquire. Like other large components of America’s health care costs (e.g., violence, vehicular accidents, coronary artery disease, lung cancer), AIDS is mostly the result of behavior that is by now widely known to be risky.

“The U.S. epidemic, which so far has killed 530,000, could have been greatly contained by intense campaigns to modify sexual and drug-use behavior in 25 to 30 neighborhoods from New York and Miami to San Francisco. But early in the American epidemic, political values impeded public health requirements. Unhelpful messages were sent by slogans designed to democratize the disease—‘AIDS does not discriminate’ and ‘AIDS is an equal opportunity disease.’

“By 1987, when President Reagan gave his first speech on the subject, 20,798 Americans had died, and his speech, not surprisingly, did not mention any connection to the gay community. No president considers it part of his job description to tell the country that the human rectum, with its delicate and absorptive lining, makes anal-receptive sexual intercourse dangerous when HIV is prevalent.

“Twenty years ago a San Francisco public health official explained death’s teaching power: Watching a friend die, like seeing a wreck along a highway, is sobering. But after driving more slowly for a few miles, we again speed up. AIDS has a more lasting deterrent effect.

“There has, however, been an increase in unsafe sex because pharmacological progress has complicated the campaign against this behavior-driven epidemic. Life-extending cocktails of antiviral drugs now lead some at-risk people to regard HIV infection as a manageable chronic disease, and hence to engage in risky behavior. Furthermore, the decline of AIDS mortality means that more persons are surviving with HIV infection — persons who can spread the virus. And drugs like Viagra mean that more older men are sexually active.

“Still, even with no pharmacological silver bullet, AIDS deaths in America have been declining for a decade. In Africa, where heterosexual sex is the primary means of transmission, the death rate is steady relative to population growth, and the age of beginning sexual activity is rising, as is the use of condoms. Human beings do learn. But they often do at a lethally slow pace.”

—George Will, *Townhall.com*, June 5, 2006

□ “It seems like the Australians are made of the right stuff!
“I wish the leaders of our country would take a stand like Australia.

“Muslims who want to live under Islamic Sharia law were told on Wednesday to get out of Australia, as the government



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targeted radicals in a bid to head off potential terror attacks.

“A day after a group of mainstream Muslim leaders pledged loyalty to Australia at a special meeting with Prime Minister John Howard, he and his ministers made it clear that extremists would face a crackdown.

“Treasurer Peter Costello, seen as heir apparent to Howard, hinted that some radical clerics could be asked to leave the country if they did not accept that Australia was a secular state and its laws were made by parliament.

“If those are not your values, if you want a country which has Sharia law or a theocratic state, then Australia is not for you,” he said on national television.

“I’d be saying to clerics who are teaching that there are two laws governing people in Australia, one the Australian law and another the Islamic law, that is false. If you can’t agree with parliamentary law, independent courts, democracy, and would prefer Sharia law and have the opportunity to go to another country, which practices it, perhaps, then, that’s a better option,” Costello said.

“Asked whether he meant radical clerics would be forced to leave, he said those with dual citizenship could possibly be asked to move to the other country.

“Education Minister Brendan Nelson later told reporters that Muslims who did not want to accept local values should ‘clear off.’

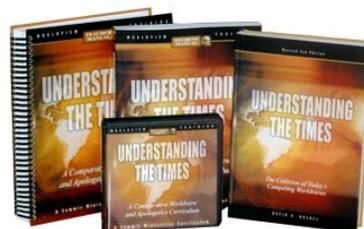
“Basically, people who don’t want to be Australians, and they don’t want to live by Australian values and understand them, well then they can basically clear off,” he said. Separately, Howard angered some Australian Muslims on Wednesday by saying he supported spy agencies monitoring the nation’s mosques.”

—Brian Bowen, brianbowen@shaw.ca, June 6, 2006

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“For a reason I will explain toward the end of this article, I will