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# U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

FEBRUARY 12, 2007

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**COVER STORY**

**Why Ethanol Is Not the Whole Solution 30**

There's a lot of political and investor excitement about putting corn-based alcohol in our gas tanks. But from crop prices to new sources of pollution, the ethanol boom is creating some unexpected consequences. By Marianne Lavelle and Bret Schulte



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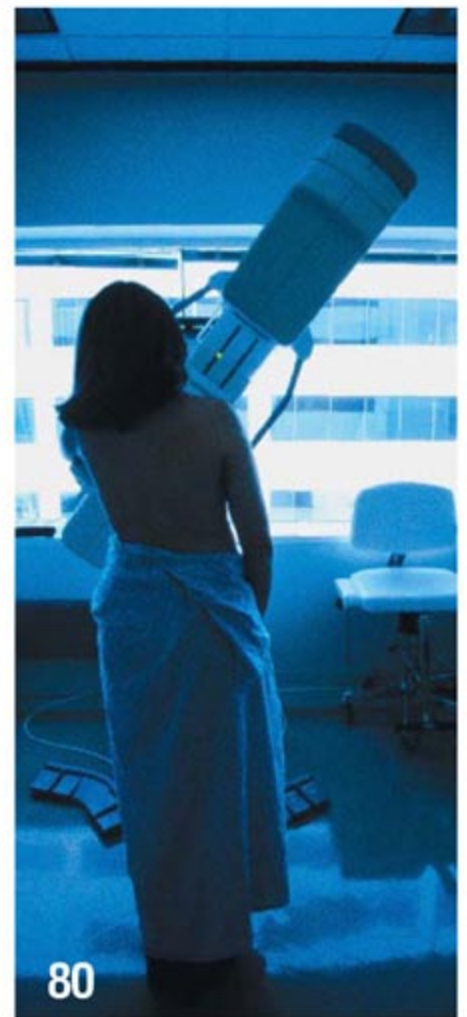
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IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: LUNESTA works quickly, and should be taken right before bed. Be sure you have at least eight hours to devote to sleep before becoming active. Until you know how you'll react to prescription LUNESTA, you should not drive or operate machinery. Do not use alcohol while taking LUNESTA. Most sleep medicines carry some risk of dependency. Side effects may include unpleasant taste, headache, drowsiness and dizziness. See important patient information on the next page. ©2006 Sepracor Inc.



Please read this summary of information about LUNESTA before you talk to your doctor or start using LUNESTA. It is not meant to take the place of your doctor's instructions. If you have any questions about LUNESTA tablets, be sure to ask your doctor or pharmacist.

LUNESTA is used to treat different types of sleep problems, such as difficulty in falling asleep, difficulty in maintaining sleep during the night, and waking up too early in the morning. Most people with insomnia have more than one of these problems. You should take LUNESTA immediately before going to bed because of the risk of falling.

LUNESTA belongs to a group of medicines known as "hypnotics" or, simply, sleep medicines. There are many different sleep medicines available to help people sleep better. Insomnia is often transient and intermittent. It usually requires treatment for only a short time, usually 7 to 10 days up to 2 weeks. If your insomnia does not improve after 7 to 10 days of treatment, see your doctor, because it may be a sign of an underlying condition. Some people have chronic sleep problems that may require more prolonged use of sleep medicine. However, you should not use these medicines for long periods without talking with your doctor about the risks and benefits of prolonged use.

#### Side Effects

All medicines have side effects. The most common side effects of sleep medicines are:

- Drowsiness
- Dizziness
- Lightheadedness
- Difficulty with coordination

Sleep medicines can make you sleepy during the day. How drowsy you feel depends upon how your body reacts to the medicine, which sleep medicine you are taking, and how large a dose your doctor has prescribed. Daytime drowsiness is best avoided by taking the lowest dose possible that will still help you sleep at night. Your doctor will work with you to find the dose of LUNESTA that is best for you. Some people taking LUNESTA have reported next-day sleepiness.

To manage these side effects while you are taking this medicine:

- When you first start taking LUNESTA or any other sleep medicine, until you know whether the medicine will still have some effect on you the next day, use extreme care while doing anything that requires complete alertness, such as driving a car, operating machinery, or piloting an aircraft.
- Do not drink alcohol when you are taking LUNESTA or any sleep medicine. Alcohol can increase the side effects of LUNESTA or any other sleep medicine.
- Do not take any other medicines without asking your doctor first. This includes medicines you can buy without a prescription. Some medicines can cause drowsiness and are best avoided while taking LUNESTA.
- Always take the exact dose of LUNESTA prescribed by your doctor. Never change your dose without talking to your doctor first.

#### Special Concerns

There are some special problems that may occur while taking sleep medicines.

#### Memory Problems

Sleep medicines may cause a special type of memory loss or "amnesia." When this occurs, a person may not remember what has happened for several hours after taking the medicine. This is usually not a problem since most people fall asleep after taking the medicine. Memory loss can be a problem, however, when sleep medicines are taken while traveling, such as during an airplane flight and the person wakes up before the effect of the medicine is gone. This has been called "traveler's amnesia." Memory problems have been reported rarely by patients taking LUNESTA in clinical studies. In most cases, memory problems can be avoided if

you take LUNESTA only when you are able to get a full night of sleep before you need to be active again. Be sure to talk to your doctor if you think you are having memory problems.

#### Tolerance

When sleep medicines are used every night for more than a few weeks, they may lose their effectiveness in helping you sleep. This is known as "tolerance." Development of tolerance to LUNESTA was not observed in a clinical study of 6 months' duration. Insomnia is often transient and intermittent, and prolonged use of sleep medicines is generally not necessary. Some people, though, have chronic sleep problems that may require more prolonged use of sleep medicine. If your sleep problems continue, consult your doctor, who will determine whether other measures are needed to overcome your sleep problems.

#### Dependence

Sleep medicines can cause dependence in some people, especially when these medicines are used regularly for longer than a few weeks or at high doses. Dependence is the need to continue taking a medicine because stopping it is unpleasant.

When people develop dependence, stopping the medicine suddenly may cause unpleasant symptoms (see *Withdrawal* below). They may find they have to keep taking the medicine either at the prescribed dose or at increasing doses just to avoid withdrawal symptoms.

All people taking sleep medicines have some risk of becoming dependent on the medicine. However, people who have been dependent on alcohol or other drugs in the past may have a higher chance of becoming addicted to sleep medicines. This possibility must be considered before using these medicines for more than a few weeks. If you have been addicted to alcohol or drugs in the past, it is important to tell your doctor before starting LUNESTA or any sleep medicine.

#### Withdrawal

Withdrawal symptoms may occur when sleep medicines are stopped suddenly after being used daily for a long time. In some cases, these symptoms can occur even if the medicine has been used for only a week or two. In mild cases, withdrawal symptoms may include unpleasant feelings. In more severe cases, abdominal and muscle cramps, vomiting, sweating, shakiness, and, rarely, seizures may occur. These more severe withdrawal symptoms are very uncommon. Although withdrawal symptoms have not been observed in the relatively limited controlled trials experience with LUNESTA, there is, nevertheless, the risk of such events in association with the use of any sleep medicine.

Another problem that may occur when sleep medicines are stopped is known as "rebound insomnia." This means that a person may have more trouble sleeping the first few nights after the medicine is stopped than before starting the medicine. If you should experience rebound insomnia, do not get discouraged. This problem usually goes away on its own after 1 or 2 nights.

If you have been taking LUNESTA or any other sleep medicine for more than 1 or 2 weeks, do not stop taking it on your own. Always follow your doctor's directions.

#### Changes In Behavior And Thinking

Some people using sleep medicines have experienced unusual changes in their thinking and/or behavior. These effects are not common. However, they have included:

- More outgoing or aggressive behavior than normal
- Confusion
- Strange behavior
- Agitation
- Hallucinations
- Worsening of depression
- Suicidal thoughts

How often these effects occur depends on several factors, such as a person's general health, the use of other medicines, and which sleep medicine is being used. Clinical experience with LUNESTA suggests that it is rarely associated with these behavior changes.

It is also important to realize it is rarely clear whether these behavior changes are caused by the medicine, are caused by an illness, or have occurred on their own. In fact, sleep problems that do not improve may be due to illnesses that were present before the medicine was used. If you or your family notice

any changes in your behavior, or if you have any unusual or disturbing thoughts, call your doctor immediately.

#### Pregnancy And Breastfeeding

Sleep medicines may cause sedation or other potential effects in the unborn baby when used during the last weeks of pregnancy. Be sure to tell your doctor if you are pregnant, if you are planning to become pregnant, or if you become pregnant while taking LUNESTA.

In addition, a very small amount of LUNESTA may be present in breast milk after use of the medication. The effects of very small amounts of LUNESTA on an infant are not known; therefore, as with all other prescription sleep medicines, it is recommended that you not take LUNESTA if you are breastfeeding a baby.

#### Safe Use Of Sleep Medicines

To ensure the safe and effective use of LUNESTA or any other sleep medicine, you should observe the following cautions:

1. LUNESTA is a prescription medicine and should be used ONLY as directed by your doctor. Follow your doctor's instructions about how to take, when to take, and how long to take LUNESTA.
2. Never use LUNESTA or any other sleep medicine for longer than directed by your doctor.
3. If you notice any unusual and/or disturbing thoughts or behavior during treatment with LUNESTA or any other sleep medicine, contact your doctor.
4. Tell your doctor about any medicines you may be taking, including medicines you may buy without a prescription and herbal preparations. You should also tell your doctor if you drink alcohol. DO NOT use alcohol while taking LUNESTA or any other sleep medicine.
5. Do not take LUNESTA unless you are able to get 8 or more hours of sleep before you must be active again.
6. Do not increase the prescribed dose of LUNESTA or any other sleep medicine unless instructed by your doctor.
7. When you first start taking LUNESTA or any other sleep medicine, until you know whether the medicine will still have some effect on you the next day, use extreme care while doing anything that requires complete alertness, such as driving a car, operating machinery, or piloting an aircraft.
8. Be aware that you may have more sleeping problems the first night or two after stopping any sleep medicine.
9. Be sure to tell your doctor if you are pregnant, if you are planning to become pregnant, if you become pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding a baby while taking LUNESTA.
10. As with all prescription medicines, never share LUNESTA or any other sleep medicine with anyone else. Always store LUNESTA or any other sleep medicine in the original container and out of reach of children.
11. Be sure to tell your doctor if you suffer from depression.
12. LUNESTA works very quickly. You should only take LUNESTA immediately before going to bed.
13. For LUNESTA to work best, you should not take it with or immediately after a high-fat, heavy meal.
14. Some people, such as older adults (i.e., ages 65 and over) and people with liver disease, should start with the lower dose (1 mg) of LUNESTA. Your doctor may choose to start therapy at 2 mg. In general, adults under age 65 should be treated with 2 or 3 mg.
15. Each tablet is a single dose; do not crush or break the tablet.

**Note:** This summary provides important information about LUNESTA. If you would like more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist to let you read the Prescribing Information and then discuss it with him or her.

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## The Benefits of Botox

U.S. NEWS HAS DONE WONDERS ENLIGHTENING readers by describing the drug Botox ["Beyond Wrinkles," January 22]. It is a revelation to know that doctors are using it to treat everything from Parkinson's to writer's cramp. Perhaps the toxic properties of Botox will be shown to help kill cancer cells also.

WILSON A. SOLANKI  
*Niagara Falls, N.Y.*

THE GREATEST CHALLENGE OFTEN posed to physicians is not a lack of new treatment options but frustrations with insurance companies' refusing to cover these treatments. Obviously, without insurance coverage, treatments of medical problems with Botox are out of reach for the majority of working Americans. Despite scientific evidence, insurance companies' decisions to cover treatments like Botox seem arbitrary and variable. Medical decisions should be made by the patient and doctor, not by an intermediary.

PRAMIT S. MALHOTRA, M.D.  
*Jackson, Mich.*

COSMETIC BOTOX IS RELATIVELY NEW to all physicians and has revolutionized cosmetic medicine ["Smoothing the Fault Lines"]. Plastic surgeons received no Botox training in residency until recently, and many others took a "weekend" course. The doctor who injects Botox or filler should be experienced at the procedure no matter his field.

EVERETT MARC LAUTIN, M.D.  
*New York*

I HAVE WANTED TO TELL SOME OF our most famous actors and actresses that by erasing lines and wrinkles, having cheek and chin implants, or whatever else, they are no longer recognizable. They may think Botox is OK, but who wants a 50-year-old actor or actress with no character lines trying to look 20?

BLANCHE GIBBS  
*Beaumont, Texas*

## Iraq History Lesson

"4TH AND LONG" [JANUARY 22] DESCRIBED President Bush's latest maneuver in the Iraq counterinsurgency as a "last-ditch gamble." Opponents cry too

little, too late. Oh, really? Just how long should it take to quell an insurgency in a hostile land thousands of miles away? History tells us that small wars usually take several years to figure out. Resolution requires a minimum of 10 to 15 years and then, only with persistence, perseverance, adapting tactics, and iron will. With all due respect to our elected leaders and even many generals, they are either ignorant of this history or have chosen to ignore it for political purposes. I recommend they study the Philippine Insurrection, Huk Rebellion, and Malayan Emergency. If we abandon Iraq, the price will be paid in innocent blood.

GEOFFREY F. WEISS  
*South Riding, Va.*



THE BUILDUP AND EXECUTION of the unnecessary pre-emptive war in Iraq has been going on for four years. Not once during this time has President Bush or his expert neocon advisers taken a proposal for troop force to the nation for approval. Why now? The only thing I can think

of is that Bush finally has decided that this is a failed venture, that the history of secular turmoil in Iraq is repeating itself, and he is looking for a scapegoat. And it looks as if the Democrats are foolish enough to play into his hands instead of letting enlightened Republicans put an end to it.

ED SANDERS  
*Nashville*

## Weighing Organic Costs

AFTER READING YOUR INTERVIEW, "A Plateful of Myths" [January 22], I believe Barry Glassner is quite wrong about organic food costing more. It costs millions of taxpayer dollars to clean up the toxic chemicals that poison our drinking water. It costs millions to build extra schools and hire special teachers for our growing number of autistic and other health-handicapped children. It costs more in healthcare for everybody, including the obese. On a worldwide list of nations' health, the World Health Organization lists the United States as No. 37 out of 191 countries. I suggest reading *It's a Long Road to a Tomato: Tales of an Organic Farmer Who Quit the Big City for the (Not So) Simple Life* by Keith Stewart and *Empty Harvest* by Bernard Jensen

and Mark Anderson, written many years ago but sadly ignored.

HELENE K. WRIGHT  
*Newburgh, N.Y.*

## Mean Street Blues

"THE NEW MATH ON CRIME" [JANUARY 15] fails to list Washington, D.C. The only mention was that murders in D.C. decreased by 27 in 2006 from 2005. Austin was listed as having only a total of 20 murders in 2006. The 20 cities listed had a total of 4,152 in 2006. This number is about 35 percent more than the 3,084 combat deaths in Iraq in four years. Why aren't the 16,000 to 17,000 murders a year in the United States mentioned?

JOSEPH P. CARRIGAN  
*Fairfax, Va.*

THE OLD MATH IS SIMPLE. THE FUNDING for former President Clinton's plan to hire 100,000 street police officers has been cut by President Bush. New math, old math, or any way you count it, the 100,00 additional police officers would help cut crime in our country.

NANCY DELLE FEMINE  
*Cape Elizabeth, Maine*

## Doubting Danforth

FORMER SEN. JOHN DANFORTH THEORIZED that "Christian right" voters and others "decided that they didn't like Republicans, because we appear to be mean-spirited and angry and hard-edged" [The Values Divide, January 15]. I am an independent voter and frustrated with the Republican Party for abandoning its core values: smaller government, reduced spending, and strong moral character and integrity. If standing up for moral principles, expecting personal responsibility from all Americans, and respecting a culture of life is "mean-spirited and angry and hard-edged," then I'm guilty. By the way, I believe Danforth should review the number of parishes/dioceses that are considering a break with the Episcopal Church. He appears to be oblivious to reality.

COL. PHILIP E. GLENN, USAF (RET.)  
*Fulton, Mo.*

INTRIGUED AS I WAS BY THE INTERVIEW with Senator Danforth, I was troubled by his notion that the Republican Party need only make an inclusive correction and be back in the good graces of the people. An elected state representative from Maine, I could not make that correction and opted out of the Repub-



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## Safety Information Medtronic ICDs

### Description and Indications for Implantable Defibrillators

An implantable cardioverter defibrillator system includes a cardioverter defibrillator which is placed inside the body; a programmer, which is a specialized computer, used to program the implantable cardioverter defibrillator; and leads which connect the implantable cardioverter defibrillator to your heart tissue. An implantable cardioverter defibrillator delivers therapies to treat heart rhythm disorders. ICD is intended for patients with heart rhythm disorders or for patients who are at significant risk of developing heart rhythm disorders.

### Contraindications

This system is not intended for patients with temporary tachyarrhythmia. Some leads contain a steroid (dexamethasone sodium phosphate or dexamethasone sodium acetate). If you are allergic to these medications, talk with your doctor.

### Warnings/Precautions

Changes in your medical condition and the medications prescribed by your doctor may affect how the implantable cardioverter defibrillator works. Always tell medical personnel that you have an implantable defibrillator system. Some medical and dental procedures may require safety measures to avoid damaging the system and to ensure that your system works properly. Avoid maintenance, repair, or use of electrical or gasoline-powered appliances or tools. External defibrillation paddles should not be placed directly over the defibrillator to avoid damage to the system. You should stay away from strong sources of magnetic and electromagnetic interference to avoid receiving too many therapies or too few therapies.

### Potential Complications

Potential complications include, but are not limited to, possible infection at the surgical site and/or sensitivity to the device material, failure to deliver therapy when it is needed, and receiving extra therapy when it is not needed.

### Caution

Treatment with an implantable cardioverter defibrillator is prescribed by your physician. This treatment is not for everyone. Please talk to your doctor to see if it is right for you. Your physician should discuss the potential benefits and risks with you. Although many patients benefit from the use of these products, results may vary. Not everyone responds to the treatment in the same way. Please call the Medtronic toll-free number at 1-866-950-5550 or visit [www.whatsinside.com](http://www.whatsinside.com) for more information.

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lican Party in the middle of my first term. There were two issues. One was my vote on a nonbinding referendum in 2003, asking the president to exhaust all avenues of diplomacy before going into Iraq. I was the sole Republican to vote in favor of the referendum. The second issue was failure of fiscal integrity—tax cuts for the wealthy at the expense of the great middle class and record deficits. These are violations of core Republican principles. I ran again as a Democrat and won handily in the 2004 presidential election year. I also am a theologian and Baptist minister. The conflict of conscience I experienced over the merger of the Republican Party with the Christian right prompted me to write *Mc-Churched: 300 Million Served and Still Hungry*, on the doctrinal and theological implications of this phenomenon.

STAN MOODY  
*Manchester, Maine*

IN MY VIEW, DANFORTH WAS OUT OF touch on almost every comment. He missed the point on Terri Schiavo. Nobody threw anything “overboard . . . at the bidding of religious activists.” I don’t believe “wedge issues” caused people to

vote against anything. To the contrary. This country is looking for strong leadership on diverse issues. I do agree, however, with Danforth’s statement that politicians “want to be elected.” He should have added: irrespective of morals, integrity, or conscience. Danforth’s comments on the Episcopal Church made me wonder if he belongs to a church or a social club.

JACK BRADY  
*West Covina, Calif.*

## Patriots, Pride, Pain

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ARTICLE “Vermont’s War” [January 22]. As a seventh-generation Vermonter, I know that when our country has called, Vermonters have responded since the days of Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys. Although I don’t personally know the families involved, I feel that I do because Vermont is such a small state and our local media have done a great job of highlighting them. My thoughts and prayers are with the families in their time of loss.

BILL EDDY  
*South Burlington, Vt.*

CHARLIE ARCHAMBAULT FOR US&W



YES, THE WAR WE INSTIGATED WITH Iraq has taken a toll on Vermonters, as well as thousands of others in our country and countless Iraqis. While I feel the pain of the families and friends of our slain soldiers, I don’t believe the best way to honor their memories is to continue having a military presence in Iraq. The war was a mistaken venture in the first place, and the American people were lied to regarding our government’s reasons for entering Iraq. While leav-

# essential<sub>2</sub>sa





Vermont's Army National Guard paid a heavy price during deployment in Iraq.

ing will certainly not produce results that we wish to see and very well may engender more violence in the region, staying is not an option either. I recognize that watching Iraq descend further into civil war and the destabilization of the gulf region is painful for the families of the soldiers who gave their lives. But I cannot believe families of the dead would want more soldiers to participate in some misguided effort to ensure lives were not sacrificed for naught. There is no good reason to prolong the suffering and destroy the lives of more families.

ANITA KELMAN  
*West Brookfield, Vt.*

THANK YOU FOR THIS WELL-WRITTEN article. It showed the good state of Vermont's people today remain as loyal to the armed services of the United States as they have been since the first months of the American Revolutionary War. What I do have a concern about

was your description of Vermont being a liberal state, seemingly because of the influence of its Democratic Party. Vermonters are not just Democratic or liberal in political persuasion. Vermonters are some of the most ardent, true patriots this country could ever hope to have.

DANIEL KENNEDY  
*Seattle*

## Military Medal Awards

U.S. MILITARY MEDALS ARE NOT WON by service members as mentioned in "Third Time's the Charm, Unless You're Being Sent to Iraq" [White House Week, January 22]. There is no competition between soldiers or sailors to win medals. Military medals and ribbons are awards. They are bestowed upon the deserving soldier or sailor.

PAUL M. WILLIAMS  
*Rochester, N.Y.*

## Promise or Payback?

SOME OF FORMER PRESIDENT Gerald Ford's "shared" purpose with his Congress might help the current Democrats and Republicans produce a solution in

Iraq ["One Last Chance," January 15]. It seems particularly ironic, however, that Editor Brian Duffy's words should also describe what is needed in Iraq: "But wouldn't it be so much finer if, at this time of critical change and challenge, our elected leaders could somehow ignore the long-ingrained penchant for payback and partisanship and find a way to set us on a more promising and responsible course." Perhaps the two countries are not so different.

RICHARD S. BLAKE  
*East Falmouth, Mass.*

LET ME SEE IF I UNDERSTAND "ONE Last Chance." For more than a decade, the Republicans ran the show. And like a herd of wild elephants, they trampled over everything that got in their way, never once thinking about reaching out to the other side, let alone listening to opposing views. And now that the Democrats are in office, the first thing they should do is to throw a lifeline to the downtrodden Republicans? I'm for making amends with Republicans after impeachment and war crime trials.

LESLIE N. HERSCHLER  
*Garden Grove, Calif.*

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## Young Cancer Spouses

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ARTICLE about young adult cancer ["Cancer's Orphan Generation," January 15]. It is an important subject that so many people know little about. I would like to draw attention to the devastation of the young spouses and children of the young adults with cancer. I was only 27 years old when my husband, Mark, was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma. Since he was otherwise young and fit, he was given a punishing chemotherapy regimen that was expected to get him into remission. During his treatment, I desperately searched for support groups. Like Heidi Adams in the story, either I found nothing, or I was surrounded by people my parents' and grandparents' ages. They could not identify with my fear that I would never have my husband's children, my struggles as the primary caregiver, or my fear that my 28-year-old husband would die. Mark died less than a year after diagnosis, leaving me devastated and exhausted. As a result of the dearth of appropriate support groups, I founded an online group for young cancer spouses: *YoungCancerSpouses* ([www.youngcancerspouses.org](http://www.youngcancerspouses.org)), a nonprofit group dedicated to helping young cancer spouses feel less alone. Young spouses and children of cancer patients and victims are also devastated by the disease and must not be forgotten.

KAREN SCHLOWSKY-FISCHER  
Hoboken, N.J.

### Corrections:

- Norwich University is located in Northfield, Vt., not Norwich as reported in "Vermont's War" [January 22].
- "Making It Stick" [Executive Edition, January 29–February 5] should have reported that Robert Atkins died from complications of a head injury resulting from a fall, not from a heart attack.
- The photo caption accompanying "The Birth of America" [January 29–February 5] on Page 48 should have identified the Jamestown Settlement as a living-history museum offering year-round historical interpretation of life in early 17th-century Virginia. This year's 400th anniversary will be commemorated with special events and programs at Jamestown Settlement and at Historic Jamestowne, the site of America's first permanent English settlement. James Fort, pictured on Page 52, is part of Historic Jamestowne. Photos on Pages 50, 54, and 55, used to illustrate themes, were taken at the Jamestown Settlement.

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**See important patient information on the next page.**

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**Also Known as Ekbom Syndrome**

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**What is REQUIP?**

REQUIP is a prescription medicine to treat moderate-to-severe primary Restless Legs Syndrome. It is sometimes used to treat Parkinson's disease. Having one of these conditions does not mean you have or will develop the other.

**What is the most important information I should know about REQUIP?**

- Patients with RLS should take REQUIP differently than patients with Parkinson's disease (see **How should I take REQUIP for RLS?** for the recommended dosing for RLS). A lower dose of REQUIP is generally needed for patients with RLS, and is taken once daily before bedtime.
- There are known side effects of REQUIP. If you fall asleep or feel very sleepy while doing normal activities such as driving, faint, feel dizzy, nauseated, or sweaty when you stand up from sitting or lying down, you should talk with your doctor (see **What are the possible side effects of REQUIP?**).
- Before starting REQUIP, be sure to tell your doctor if you are taking any medicines that make you drowsy.

**Who should not take REQUIP?**

You should not take REQUIP if you are allergic to the active ingredient ropinirole or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

**What should I tell my doctor?**

Be sure to tell your doctor if:

- you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- you are breast-feeding.
- you have daytime sleepiness from a sleep disorder other than RLS or have unexpected sleepiness or periods of sleep while taking REQUIP.
- you are taking any other prescription or over-the-counter medicines. Some of these medicines may increase your chances of getting side effects while taking REQUIP.
- you start or stop taking other medicines while you are taking REQUIP. This may increase your chances of getting side effects.
- you start or stop smoking while you are taking REQUIP. Smoking may decrease the treatment effect of REQUIP.
- you feel dizzy, nauseated, sweaty, or faint when you stand up from sitting or lying down.
- you drink alcoholic beverages. This may increase your chances of becoming drowsy or sleepy while taking REQUIP.

**How should I take REQUIP for RLS?**

- Be sure to take REQUIP exactly as directed by your doctor or healthcare provider.
- The usual way to take REQUIP is once in the evening, 1 to 3 hours before bedtime.
- Your doctor will start you on a low dose of REQUIP. Your doctor may change the dose until you are taking the amount of medicine that is right for you to control your symptoms.
- You may receive a starting kit with doses marked by day. The pills in this kit slowly increase your daily dose over time so that you and your doctor may determine what the best dose is for you. Different people respond differently to this medicine. You may not need the highest dose pill in this kit or you may need an even higher dose to relieve your symptoms. You should carefully follow your doctor's advice on the use of this kit.
- **If you miss your dose, do not double your next dose.** Take only your usual dose 1 to 3 hours before your next bedtime.

- Contact your doctor, if you stop taking REQUIP for any reason. Do not restart without consulting your doctor.
- You can take REQUIP with or without food. Taking REQUIP with food may decrease the chances of feeling nauseated.

**What are the possible side effects of REQUIP?**

- Most people who take REQUIP tolerate it well. The most commonly reported side effects in people taking REQUIP for RLS are nausea, vomiting, dizziness, and drowsiness or sleepiness. You should be careful until you know if REQUIP affects your ability to remain alert while doing normal daily activities, and you should watch for the development of significant daytime sleepiness or episodes of falling asleep. It is possible that you could fall asleep while doing normal activities such as driving a car, doing physical tasks, or using hazardous machinery while taking REQUIP. Your chances of falling asleep while doing normal activities while taking REQUIP are greater if you are taking other medicines that cause drowsiness.
- When you start taking REQUIP or when you increase your dose, you may feel dizzy, nauseated, sweaty or faint, when first standing up from sitting or lying down. Therefore, do not stand up quickly after sitting or lying down, particularly if you have been sitting or lying down for a long period of time. Take a minute sitting on the edge of the bed or chair before you get up.
- Some patients taking ropinirole have shown urges to behave in a way unusual for them. Examples of this are an unusual urge to gamble or increased sexual urges and/or behaviors. If you or your family notices that you are developing any unusual behaviors, talk to your doctor.
- Hallucinations (unreal sounds, visions, or sensations) have been reported in patients taking REQUIP. These were uncommon in patients taking REQUIP for RLS. The risk is greater in patients with Parkinson's disease who are elderly, taking REQUIP with L-dopa, or taking higher doses of REQUIP than recommended for RLS.

This is not a complete list of side effects and should not take the place of discussions with your healthcare providers. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you a more complete list of possible side effects. Talk to your doctor about any side effects or problems you may have.

**Other Information about REQUIP**

- Studies of people with Parkinson's disease show that they may be at an increased risk of developing melanoma, a form of skin cancer, when compared to people without Parkinson's disease. It is not known if this problem is associated with Parkinson's disease or the medicines used to treat Parkinson's disease. REQUIP is one of the medicines used to treat Parkinson's disease, therefore, patients being treated with REQUIP should have periodic skin examinations.
- Take REQUIP exactly as your doctor prescribes it.
- Do not share REQUIP with other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have.
- Keep REQUIP out of the reach of children.
- Store REQUIP at room temperature out of direct sunlight.
- Keep REQUIP in a tightly closed container.

This leaflet summarizes important information about REQUIP. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in this leaflet. Do not take REQUIP for a condition for which it was not prescribed. For more information, talk with your doctor or pharmacist. They can give you information about REQUIP that is written for healthcare professionals.



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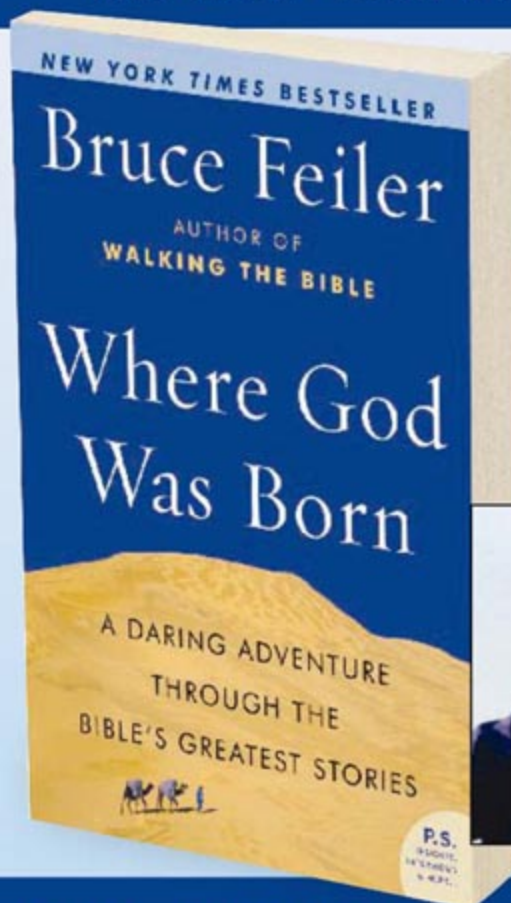
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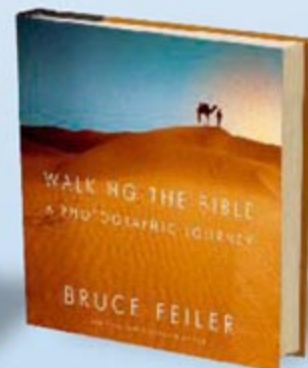
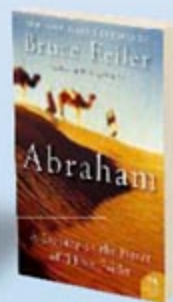
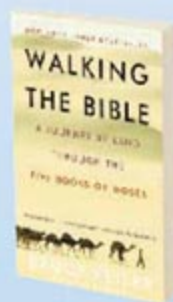
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Nicole Waugh, 6, with her father, Chief Warrant Officer Joel Waugh, departing from Fort Benning, Ga.

## ONE WEEK

By Brian Duffy

# Sharing a Hug, Saying Goodbye, and Praying

**M**ost Americans today know whatever they know about the Korean War from the history books. Many associate it dimly with Harry Truman, a man the current inhabitant of the White House likes to think of whenever he pauses to ponder his own legacy in the long lens of history. For now, however, history must wait, as the vast majority of Americans are somewhere between feelings of dismay and anger about the terrible events reported daily from the hell that has become Iraq. As the first of our soldiers ship out, in accordance with President Bush's decision to "surge" more than 20,000 more brave young soldiers into Baghdad, the opinion meter now swings more dispositively toward the anger end of the scale than to that of dismay, and the words of a storied American general echo with grim portent. The general's name was Omar Bradley.

It may be this week, as Congress wrestles with the Iraq question and the competing resolutions that have been advanced to challenge President Bush's latest tack there, that Bradley's words will be summoned from the history books. For the record, here is what he said and the context in which he said it. Dwight Eisenhower's most trusted general in World War II, Bradley had been called to Capitol Hill to answer lawmakers' questions about a proposal by the obstreperous Douglas MacArthur to extend Truman's "police action" on the Korean peninsula across the border into China. What, the solons in the capitol asked, did Bradley think of that? The general, as was his wont, minced few words: "The wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy."

The toll the war has taken in Iraq has been grievous, and one can only tremble and pray for the soldiers now preparing to deploy. Politics and war seldom make for congenial bedfellows. But so much has gone so wrong in Iraq that the public review of the Iraq policy set for this week is both timely and proper. Acrimonious as the debate may get, however, it should in no way be construed as a diminution of support for the troops now so much in harm's way. ●



# Washington Whispers

By Paul Bedard

## Now Warming Up, Hillary the Comic

**W**hen Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton last month popped off a funny seemingly aimed at her hubby—"What in my background equips me to deal with evil and bad men?"—many didn't believe her aides who claimed it proved she's a jokester. "People just don't want to believe that she's funny, has a sense of humor, or is three dimensional," says one. Well, as they say in Missouri, show me.

Let's start with her laugh. "People think that big belly laugh of hers is not real, but it is," pleads a friend. "She has a deep laugh that just makes you cackle." And apparently, it's heard often by staff. That's because she regularly plays pranks on them. Her fave: throwing surprise birthday parties. Sometimes Bill Clinton's the butt of a joke, like the time the former president was waxing on about signs of life on Mars to the press and she whispered to staff: "OK, Bill, why don't we go upstairs and watch the Sci-Fi Channel." A private humorous moment took place in the Rose Garden when the two played catch, warming up for tossing out the first pitch at different baseball games. "She laughed that she had the better arm," says a Hillary pal, who adds that she used to be addicted to baseball on Game Boy. So why can't she show she's a lovable yuckster? "She's not comfortable on TV, so it doesn't come across," says an ally, "but she'll get it."

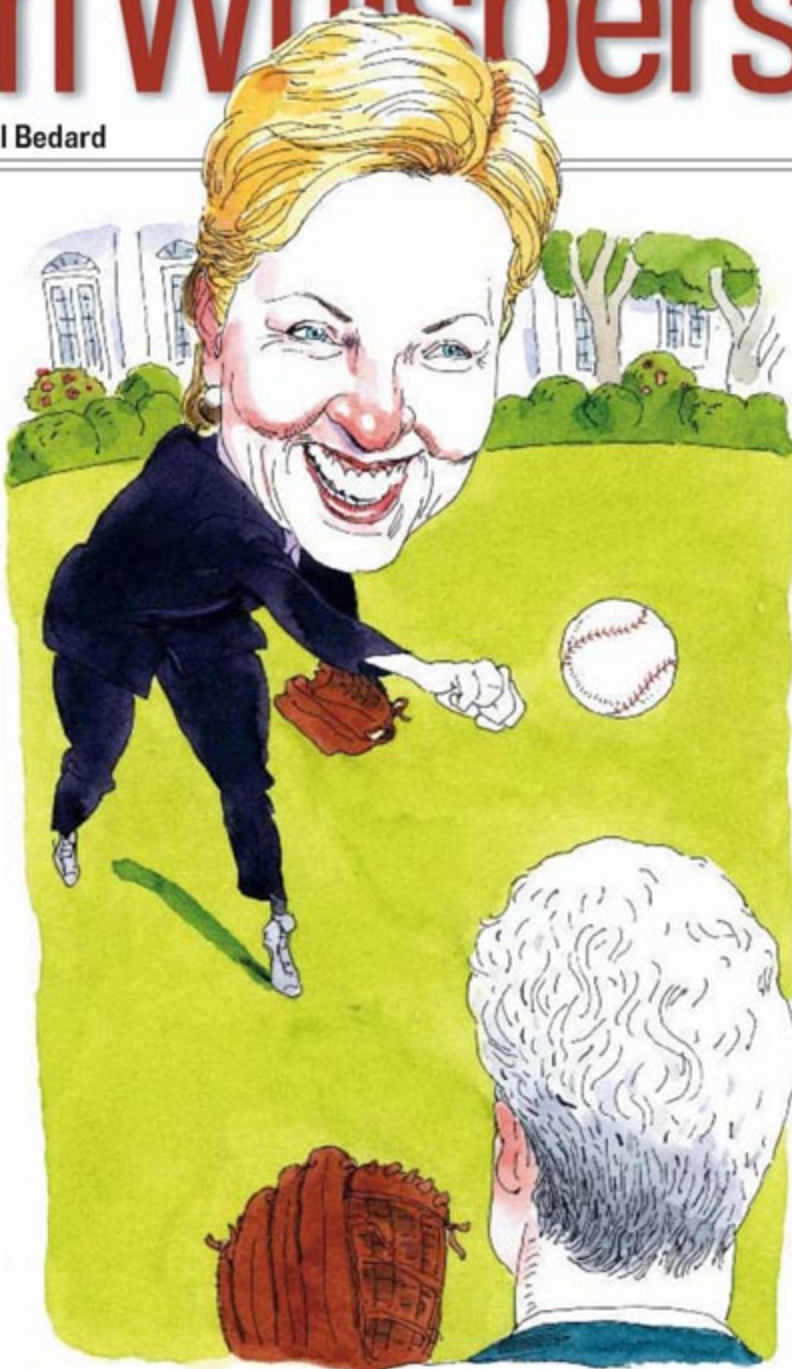
### And if Elected, He Won't Serve

There's been a lot of buzz lately that smooth communicator Tony Snow ought to run for office once he leaves President Bush's employ. It started when the press secretary began campaigning for Republicans and has heated up with his rounds in GOP circles to suggest better ways to communicate—and win. But, alas, the grip-and-grin life isn't for the former newsman. "I am absolutely Shermansque," he tells us. "After this job—the best I am likely ever to have—I'm going to do something that will enable me to

spend much more time with the family."

### Grave Sale: Personal Effects

Auctions commonly follow death, but it's rare—we hope—that parts of the deceased are bid away along with their personal effects. That will be the case at the next online auction from our friends at Alexander Autographs, the big trafficker in political and celeb mementos. The February 24 and 25 [alexautographs.com](http://alexautographs.com) sale will offer some especially grim



relics: seven gold-filled molars from Greek shipping tycoon and Jackie O husband Aristotle Onassis and two swatches, one bloodstained, from the limo JFK was riding in when he was shot. "Weird and chilling," says Alexander's Bill Panagopoulos.

### Almost as Good as Being in Baghdad

When Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus got the Iraq assignment, it meant another star, and his wife had a very special plan. The daughter of a four-star herself, she'd pin

her dad's fourth star on her hubby. One prob: The change-of-command ceremony happens in Baghdad. Well, thanks to a suggestion from the previous Iraq team of Gens. John Abizaid and George Casey, Petraeus has crafted a pretty good backup plan: a video link of the promotion ceremony, the morning of the change of command, with his family back home. "They can share the occasion," Petraeus tells us, "and that will be nice."

### A Win No Matter What the Outcome

Here's an "only in Washington" tidbit: Former

Paul Bedard's blog is at [www.usnews.com/whispers](http://www.usnews.com/whispers)



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Cheney aide and CIA leak case target Lewis "Scooter" Libby and former suspect Karl Rove use the same PR firm. But it didn't start out that way. Rove, accused by Libby's lawyers of hanging the former veep deputy out to dry, uses Mark Corollo, a former Justice spokesman, for his press. Libby is linked with Barbara Comstock, also a former Justice aide. Well, the two friends have teamed up to form Corollo Comstock Inc. And what a start: Whatever happens in the Libby trial, they can claim a victory.

## Laura Loses to Family, Fishing

What's better than working for first lady Laura Bush? Well, in the case of spokeswoman Susan Whitson, it's starting a family and fishing. "I will miss working at the White House and with Mrs. Bush very much," she says. But time's up after handling questions for nearly two years. Her goal after leaving in March is starting a family in the picturesque Virginia town of Little Washington. And look for the weekend angler casting one of famed tier Harry Murray's "Mr. Rapidan" flies for trout and smallmouth bass.

## An Act of God-or Good Connections?

It's about the time when colleges and universities send out feelers to potential graduation ceremony speakers, and it's no different at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa. Well, almost. Its new president, Jim Towey, has connections—the kind that could get President Bush to come. He's the former Bush faith-based initiative director. Naturally, the invitation for the White House has caused a little stink in Latrobe. But Towey's not fretting since he can call on an even higher authority for help: the spirit of Mother Teresa. The former lawyer to the



## OUT LOUD

"I'm not that good at pronouncing words anyway."

**President Bush**, on criticism he left off the "ic" in his State of the Union address when referring to the "Democrat" majority

"Wait till Oscar night...if Al Gore has slimmed down 25 or 30 pounds, Lord knows."

**Donna Brazile**, Gore's 2000 campaign manager, suggesting an Oscar win would push him to announce a presidential campaign

"This is a baby. This is a blessing from God. It is not a political statement."

**Mary Cheney**, the vice president's lesbian daughter, defending her decision to have a child

"I want to make it clear that everything you've heard and read is true."

**Gavin Newsom**, San Francisco mayor, on reports he had an affair with his campaign manager's wife

Sources: NPR, Morning Call, New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle



You can get **Whispers** on your mobile device or cellphone at [usnews.com/mobile](http://usnews.com/mobile)

"Saint of the Gutters" plans a volunteer trip with 12 students to Calcutta right before the graduation.

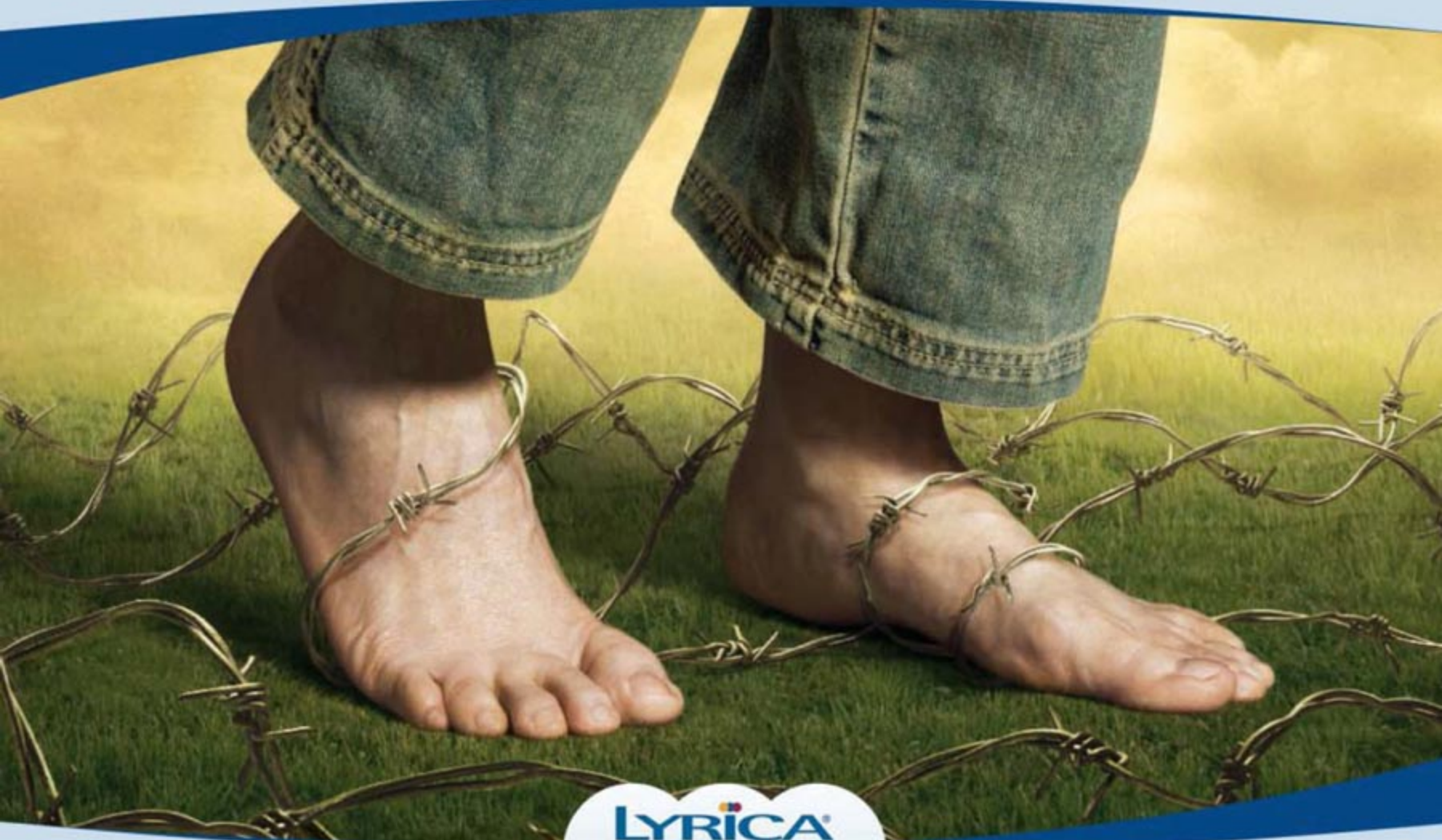
## The Colbert Gift Bag Challenge

Papa Bear, there's a problem with your *Factor*: Your faux rival gives better guest goodie bags. And we hear this from one of the regulars on Fox's *O'Reilly Factor* hosted by Bill O'Reilly. Jed Babbin, the new editor of *Human Events*, did a bit on Stephen Colbert's farcical *Colbert Report* last week and tells us he was rewarded with a huge cache of freebies. Inside a canvas bag were a bottle of Irish whiskey, a collection of Altoids, gift certificates for a pair of Rockports and a tattoo, and even snacks from Muhammad Ali's new G.O.A.T. ("Greatest of All Time") venture. "O'Reilly," Babbin kids, "has some catching up to do." That sounds like a challenge to us. But Fox wasn't biting. "This is O'Reilly!" says a cable exec. "Just coming on is the goodie bag." ●

With Anna Mulrine



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If so, you may have painful neuropathy, also known as nerve pain. This type of pain is different from musculoskeletal (muscle or joint) pain, and may need a different type of treatment. Only LYRICA is FDA-approved to treat two of the most common types of nerve pain, Diabetic Nerve Pain and Pain after Shingles. LYRICA is specially designed to provide the relief you need. It works on the nerves that cause this pain. So you can start to think about other things besides your pain. Ask your doctor if LYRICA can help. LYRICA is one of several treatments for you and your doctor to consider.

**Prescription LYRICA is not for everyone.** Some of the most common side effects of LYRICA are dizziness and sleepiness. Others are dry mouth, swelling of hands and feet, blurry vision, weight gain, and trouble concentrating. You may have a higher chance of swelling or gaining weight if you are also taking certain diabetes medicines. And, if you drink alcohol or take medicines that make you sleepy, you may feel more sleepy when you start LYRICA. You should not drive a car or work with machines until you know how LYRICA affects you. Tell your doctor about any changes in your eyesight, muscle pain along with a fever or tired feeling, or skin sores due to diabetes. Also tell your doctor if you are planning to father a child. If you have had a drug or alcohol problem, you may be more likely to misuse LYRICA. You should talk with your doctor before you stop taking LYRICA or any other prescription medication. *Please see important product information on adjacent page.*

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# IMPORTANT FACTS

**LYRICA**  
PREGABALIN  
capsules

(LEER-i-kah)

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT LYRICA

LYRICA may make you feel dizzy or sleepy.

- Do not drive a car, work with machines, or do other dangerous things until you are sure you will be alert. Ask your doctor when it is okay to do these things.

LYRICA may cause problems with your eyesight, including blurry vision. Call your doctor if you have any changes in your eyesight.

## ABOUT LYRICA

LYRICA is a prescription medicine used to treat:

- Nerve pain from diabetes
- Nerve pain that continues after the rash from shingles heals

This pain can be sharp or burning. It can feel like tingling, shooting, or numbness. Some people taking LYRICA had less pain by the end of the first week. LYRICA may not work for everyone.

## WHO IS LYRICA FOR?

Who can take LYRICA:

- Adults 18 years or older with nerve pain from diabetes or after shingles

Who should NOT take LYRICA:

- Anyone who is allergic to anything in LYRICA

LYRICA has not been studied for nerve pain in children under 18 years of age.

## BEFORE STARTING LYRICA

Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions.

Tell your doctor if you:

- Have or had kidney problems or dialysis
- Have heart problems, including heart failure
- Have a bleeding problem or a low blood platelet count
- Have abused drugs or alcohol. LYRICA may cause some people to feel "high."
- Are either a man or woman planning to have children or a woman who is breast-feeding, pregnant, or may become pregnant. It is not known if LYRICA may decrease male fertility, cause birth defects, or pass into breast milk.

Tell your doctor about all your medicines. Include over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Tell your doctor if you take:

- Rosiglitazone (Avandia<sup>®</sup>) or pioglitazone (Actos<sup>®</sup>)\*\* for diabetes
- Narcotic pain medicines such as oxycodone, tranquilizers, or medicines for anxiety such as lorazepam
- Any medicines that make you sleepy

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF LYRICA

LYRICA may cause serious side effects, including:

- Dizziness and sleepiness
- Eyesight problems
- Weight gain and swelling of hands and feet. Weight gain may affect control of diabetes. Weight gain and swelling can be serious for people with heart problems.
- Unexplained muscle pain, soreness, or weakness along with a fever or tired feeling. If you have these symptoms, tell your doctor right away.
- Skin sores. In LYRICA studies, skin sores were seen in animals but not in humans. If you have diabetes, pay extra attention to your skin. Tell your doctor about any skin problems.

The most common side effects of LYRICA are:

- Dizziness
- Sleepiness
- Swelling of hands and feet
- Blurry vision
- Weight gain
- Trouble concentrating
- Dry mouth

You may have a higher chance of swelling or gaining weight if you are taking certain diabetes medicines with LYRICA. Medicines that already make you sleepy or dizzy may make you feel more sleepy or dizzy with LYRICA.

## HOW TO TAKE LYRICA

Do:

- Take LYRICA exactly as your doctor tells you. Your doctor may tell you to take it 2 or 3 times a day.
- Take LYRICA with or without food.

Don't:

- Do not drive a car or use machines if you feel sleepy while taking LYRICA.
- Do not drink alcohol or use other medicines that make you sleepy while taking LYRICA.
- Do not change the dose or stop LYRICA suddenly. You may have headaches, nausea, diarrhea, or trouble sleeping if you stop taking LYRICA suddenly.
- Do not start any new medicines without first talking to your doctor.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

- Ask your doctor or pharmacist. This is only a brief summary of important information.
- Go to [www.lyrica.com](http://www.lyrica.com) or call 1-888-9-LYRICA (1-888-959-7422).



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## New Year's Resolutions Very Likely to Be Ignored

**A**fter weeks of jockeying and backroom deals and strong-arming, Congress hopes to finally get down this week to debating President Bush's contentious Iraq plan on the floor of the Senate. Virginia Republican Sen. John Warner's language for a nonbinding resolution on the plan has the broadest support. But the Senate is still very much split. Warner's plan would oppose the increase of 21,500 troops and urge Bush to consider alternatives. Democratic Sens. Russell Feingold and Chris Dodd say that doesn't have enough bite; Sens. John McCain, Joe Lieberman, and Lindsey Graham, meanwhile, support Bush's plan but want specific benchmarks. As for the House, it's holding off to see what happens in the Senate first: At week's end, Republicans were threatening a filibuster.

## Rediscovering the Power of the Purse

**L**ooking past the nonbinding resolutions, antiwar Democrats are planning their next steps toward stopping the Iraq war. The plan is to use the budget process that begins this week to make the administration pay for the war through regular appropriations and not through supplemental spending requests—later add-ons that the Democrats view as a blank check. One Democratic strategist says this will force the administration to “come up with real numbers on what the war is going to cost and allow for real debate” on whether it's worth the expense.

## Never Too Soon to Turn Up the Heat

**A** decision by the Democratic National Committee to have its research team focus on potential GOP presidential candidates way back in 2005 is already showing results. The opposition team gets credit, for example, for raising doubts about Sen. John McCain's ties to conservatives and the abortion and gay marriage positions of former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. The team now wants to remind voters about Rudy Giuliani's problems in New York prior to 9/11, and it has begun to focus on former Arkansas Gov.



### PHOTO OP 11:00 a.m., February 1, Capitol Hill

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin (left) huddles with Sen. John Warner during the confirmation hearing for Gen. George Casey as Army chief of staff. Casey, who has been U.S. commander in Iraq, was forced to defend himself from some members' sharp criticism of his running of the Iraq war, but he is likely to get the new job.

Mike Huckabee and his “messy exit from office.” It has also started to dub the candidates: McCain is the “Double-Talk Express,” and Romney is the “Smooth-Talking Mitt.”

## Spooks Weigh In With Doom and Gloom

**F**or the past several weeks, the U.S. military has moved against Iranian targets in Iraq, while Washington has condemned Tehran's provision of training and weapons to Shiite militias. But a new National Intelligence Estimate, which represents the consensus judgment of the nation's 16 intelligence agencies, says that the involvement of Iran (and to a lesser degree Syria) “is not likely to be a major driver of violence or the prospects for stability because of the self-sustaining character of Iraq's internal sectarian dynamics.” In other words, stopping Iran's support to the militias will have little effect on the sectarian violence. So why the push against Tehran? Iran's support does help the militias target U.S. soldiers in Iraq using explosive devices designed to penetrate armored vehicles. Overall, the gloomy NIE warns that while a rapid withdrawal of U.S. forces would “almost certainly” lead to much higher levels of violence, prospects for political reconciliation in Iraq remain low, and Iraqi security forces would be “hard pressed” to take on significantly more security responsibilities. ●

*With Silla Brush, Kenneth T. Walsh, Paul Bedard, and Kevin Whitelaw*



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# Cross Country

Edited by Gordon Witkin

● Seattle



**BOSTON.** Sean Stevens (left) and Peter Berdovsky, after pleading not guilty to the charges in court. Above, a device similar to the ones that caused last week's terrorism scare

## A Terror Scare Hits Beantown

Are Bostonians more paranoid or just more vigilant than people in other cities? Authorities set off a minor panic when they closed highways, subways, and bridges during rush hour and called in the bomb squad when they discovered 38 electronic devices throughout the city. Cable news shows postulated possible terrorism, but the items, which looked like circuit boards with exposed wires, were advertisements for a show on the Cartoon Network.

Artists Peter Berdovsky, 27, and Sean Stevens, 28, were charged with placing a hoax device and disorderly conduct; they laughed and waved in court. Mayor Thomas Menino, who called the ads "outrageous in a post-9/11 world," said he'd seek at least \$750,000 from Turner Broadcasting Services, the parent company of the Cartoon Network, for police expenses. The firm apologized in newspaper ads and was talking with city officials about how to make amends. The devices

had been up for two or more weeks in 10 cities before the Boston incident.

## The Hunters and the Hunted

Gray wolves will soon be back in the cross hairs, thanks to an Interior Department plan to remove 5,200 wolves from the federal endangered species list by early next year. Wolves were almost obliterated in the United States by 1950 and were put on the endangered list shortly after it was created in 1974. Once the wolves lose federal protection, state and tribal officials in the northern

Great Lake states, as well as Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana, will be in charge of maintaining populations.

Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin plan to ban trophy hunting of the animals for five years. In Wyoming, however, officials have suggested all wolves outside **Yellowstone** and **Grand Teton** national parks be classified as "predators" that can be shot without a permit. "It's simple persecution," said Suzanne Stone of the Defenders of Wildlife. Wolves are hunting targets because they eat livestock.

## Court Ruling on WTO Protests

The mass arrest of about 200 protesters in **Seattle** during the World Trade Organization meeting in 1999 violated the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure, and the city should be held liable, a federal jury ruled last week. The verdict could lead to millions in damages. "You cannot arrest peaceful protesters here in Seattle or anywhere else in the country," said Kenneth Hankin, a Boeing worker and lead plaintiff in the class action lawsuit.



Jurors also determined, however, that the free speech rights of protesters weren't violated because the arrests were not made to squelch their views. Lawyers for the city argued that the arrests were made to help gain control of 50,000 demonstrators; the lawyers will ask the court this week to reverse the jury's finding.



**MICHIGAN.** A gray wolf stands in the snow near Ishpeming. The Interior Department says 5,200 of the wolves may no longer need protection.

## Planning for Castro's Demise

There are few world leaders whose deaths have been anticipated like that of Fidel Castro. But the city of **Miami** may have put the cart before *el caballo* when a municipal committee discussed plans to host a party in the Orange Bowl upon the Cuban leader's demise.



- Yellowstone National Park
- Grand Teton National Park



**LADY LAKE.** Church members search through what's left of the Lady Lake Church of God. Thunderstorms and at least one tornado destroyed mobile homes and left at least 19 dead.



- Boston
- East Rutherford

● Lady Lake

● Miami



**SEATTLE.** Police in riot gear preparing to confront demonstrators who gathered downtown for boisterous protests against the World Trade Organization meeting in 1999

After the 80-year-old Cuban dictator fell ill last summer, the city's discussions took on a new urgency, according to the *Miami Herald*. The committee talked about T-shirt themes, musical acts, and venues. But when word of the planned stadium fete hit the front pages, the city backed off, downgrading it to a "public event." That means tax money would be used only for public safety, not to fund musical acts or speakers. The Orange Bowl, meanwhile, is simply in the government's plan to accommodate crowds in the event of Castro's passing. "The same way we plan for a hurricane, we have to plan for an event such as this," said Peter Hernandez, Miami's city manager.

## The NBA Has a Senior Moment

The day Jeri Kadison first saw an ad for the New Jersey Nets senior dance squad, her horoscope was pushing her to get out of her shell. Last week, she

and the rest of the squad—13 women and one man—did just that, receiving a standing ovation from fans at Continental Airlines Arena in **East Rutherford, N.J.**, for their debut. The Nets are the latest of at least a half-dozen teams to

form a senior squad. At 59, Kadison is the group's baby. Two members in their 80s have granddaughters on the Nets' regular dance team. The senior group's routine ranged from the '50s classic "At the Hop" to rapper Lil Jon's "Snap Yo Fingers." They are scheduled to perform at six games this season, and Nets officials say the squad will definitely be back next year. "I just felt this electric feeling," Kadison says of the performance. If only that energy had rubbed off on the Nets, who were trounced by the Detroit Pistons. ●



**EAST RUTHERFORD.** Last week marked the debut of the New Jersey Nets senior dance squad. Members' ages are on their jerseys.

*With Angie C. Marek, Danielle Knight, Alex Kingsbury, Will Sullivan, and the Associated Press*

# The World

Edited by Terry Atlas

## A Doomsday Cult Adds to Iraqi Tumult

**A**s U.S. and Iraqi security forces prepare to intensify a security crackdown in Baghdad, the violence continued to escalate throughout Iraq last week. The bloodiest attack was a double suicide bombing in the central market in the southern Shiite town of Hillah, which killed some 73 people and wounded about 163. Baghdad itself was rocked by a series of smaller bombings, while insurgents appeared to be getting more proficient at shooting down helicopters. The U.S. military has lost four helicopters in the past two weeks.

But perhaps the most confusing incident occurred near the Shiite holy city of Najaf, where U.S. and Iraqi troops fought a pitched battle with a mysterious doomsday cult that might have been planning to attack Shiites during the important religious holiday of Ashura.

Most of the violence plaguing Iraq today is believed to be conducted by Iraqis against other Iraqis. But the Bush administration continued its deliberate strategy of saber rattling directed at Iran, blaming Tehran for supplying weapons and training to Shiite militias. The Iraqi government, meanwhile, is increasingly uneasy about being caught in the middle. Iraqi officials last week announced plans to invite neighbors, including Iran and Syria, to Baghdad in March for a regional meeting to discuss security issues.

## Time to Worry About the Weather

**R**ising sea levels. Widespread droughts. Vanishing polar ice. Last week's report from the United Nations-backed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was the most worrying installment yet in the avalanche of warnings from scientists about global



**VENEZUELA.** Supporters of President Hugo Chávez cheer as lawmakers give him power to rule by presidential decree.

warming. But the report, released in Paris on Friday, was less ominous in its apocalyptic scenarios than its certainty. The 2,500 scientists who wrote and edited the dense review of scientific knowledge to date concluded that there was a 90 percent chance that greenhouse gases are cooking the planet and that the trend will accelerate this century, most likely raising global temperatures 3.2 to

MEXICO

VENEZUELA



**MEXICO.** In a challenge to President Felipe Calderón's market-oriented policies, some 75,000 Mexicans protested the rising cost for basic foodstuffs like tortillas, which have doubled in price in the past year.

7.1 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100.

Since its first report in 1990, the IPCC has released a consensus-driven, some say conservative, review of climate data approximately every six years, each one reaching stronger conclusions than the last. This year's Fourth Assessment is no different. But U.S. action now may be at hand because of record warm years and 2005's violent hurricane season. Sen. Barbara Boxer, chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, calls climate-change legislation her top



**FRANCE.** How galling. Across the land of Gaulois cigarettes, a ban on smoking in public spaces took effect last week. Next year: Restaurants and cafes go smoke free.

**ISRAEL.** A Palestinian suicide bomber killed three Israelis in the Red Sea resort city of Eilat. At right, the mother of one victim collapses in grief during his funeral.

priority, and she met with United Nations officials on the day of the report's release. Even the otherwise skeptical Bush administration concurred with the report's main elements, though it continues to oppose mandatory reductions in greenhouse gases.

The certainty of the results is likely to force policymakers worldwide to layer another difficult debate onto the contentious task of cutting greenhouse gases: adapting to the inevitable environmental change. It could mean storm surge walls for New York, Miami, and more. "You will see serious attention given to the potential damage [of climate change]," says Philip Clapp of the National Environmen-

tal Trust. But it's costly, which is why "politicians have been loath to go there."

### Look, Hu's Trawling for Influence

**L**ook who's trawling for influence in Africa: President Hu Jintao of **China**. Last week, Hu embarked on a 12-day, eight-nation African tour, an ambitious itinerary reflecting China's growing interest in the continent for both its natural resources and its growing markets. Trade between China and Africa has more than quadrupled in the past decade to more than \$50 billion and is projected to grow by 2010 to \$100 billion, the 2006 level of U.S.-Africa trade. And Beijing has also

become a major aid supplier—notably absent Western-style human rights and anti-corruption conditions—as it courts friends on a continent offering oil and other raw materials needed by China's growing industrial economy. China reportedly now gets one third of its crude oil from Africa. Hu's stops: **Sudan, Cameroon, Liberia, Zambia, Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique, and Seychelles.**

### Just a Stone's Throw Away

**A**n addendum to the mysteries-of-history file: the 4,600-year-old remains of a small village in **Britain**, about 2 miles from the mysterious Stonehenge that dates back to the same prehistoric peri-

od. Archaeologists suspect that the Stone Age settlement housed the monolith's builders and say it may have hosted ceremonial events by sun worshipers. Excavations at a site known as Durrington Walls revealed the clay foundations and other remains of eight wooden buildings—and experts said there may be dozens more in the area. Six are clustered together, but two larger structures that are set off from the others may have housed chiefs or priests or may have been used only for rituals, given that hardly any trace of household waste was found inside them. ●

*With Kevin Whitelaw, Bret Schulte, and the Associated Press*

Nation & World

# Is Ethanol the Answer?

POLITICALLY IT'S A WINNER. BUT EXPERTS AREN'T SURE ETHANOL CAN DELIVER ON ITS PROMISE

By Marianne Lavelle and Bret Schulte

**G**ALVA, IOWA—This farming town of fewer than 400 people might be most memorable for what it doesn't have: a Wal-Mart, a high school, even a stoplight. But humble Galva and its environs have two things in abundance: corn and, by extension, hope.

"We feel we're on the cusp here as far as things happening," says Rita Frahm, an 18-year resident and president of the county's economic development corporation. That's because Galva is the lucky home of an ethanol plant.

Since opening in 2002, the plant has produced ever increasing dividends, to date putting more than \$13 million into the hands of the 420 local farmers and investors who own it. That cash is slowly but markedly changing Galva's landscape. For the first time in 30 years, the town witnessed construction of three new





Corn being emptied from a truck into a chute at one of Iowa's 26 ethanol plants

Photography by Jeffrey MacMillan for *USN&WR*



The Quad County  
Corn Processors  
plant in Galva

homes at once, and a whole new street, Sixth Street, on which to place the houses. Those dwellings are now occupied by families “who saw an opportunity to stay rather than the community dying,” Frahm says.

Heartwarming stories like Galva’s—in a state that hosts the first presidential contest—help explain why Washington is so fired up over ethanol. In 2006, production skyrocketed, and Washington is poised to push it still higher. What’s not to like? Every gallon theoretically means more money for the iconic American farmer and less cash lining the pockets of foreign sheiks. “There’s almost a sense,” says Iowa State University political scientist Steffen Schmidt, “that ethanol is morally better than oil.”

Washington loves a “win-win,” but there are plenty of doubts as to whether the love affair with ethanol qualifies. Even though the ethanol industry profited handsomely last year, it continued to benefit from billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies. And as ethanol becomes



a larger part of the energy mix, it is not clear that Washington is prepared for the fallout. Ethanol already consumes so much corn that signs of strain on the food supply and prices are rippling across the marketplace. Environmental impacts will multiply as more land and water are devoted to the prized yellow grain. And, even if these problems were overcome, ethanol’s potential growth could be stunted by an energy system currently tailored to gasoline. Ethanol undoubtedly plays a role in the quest for

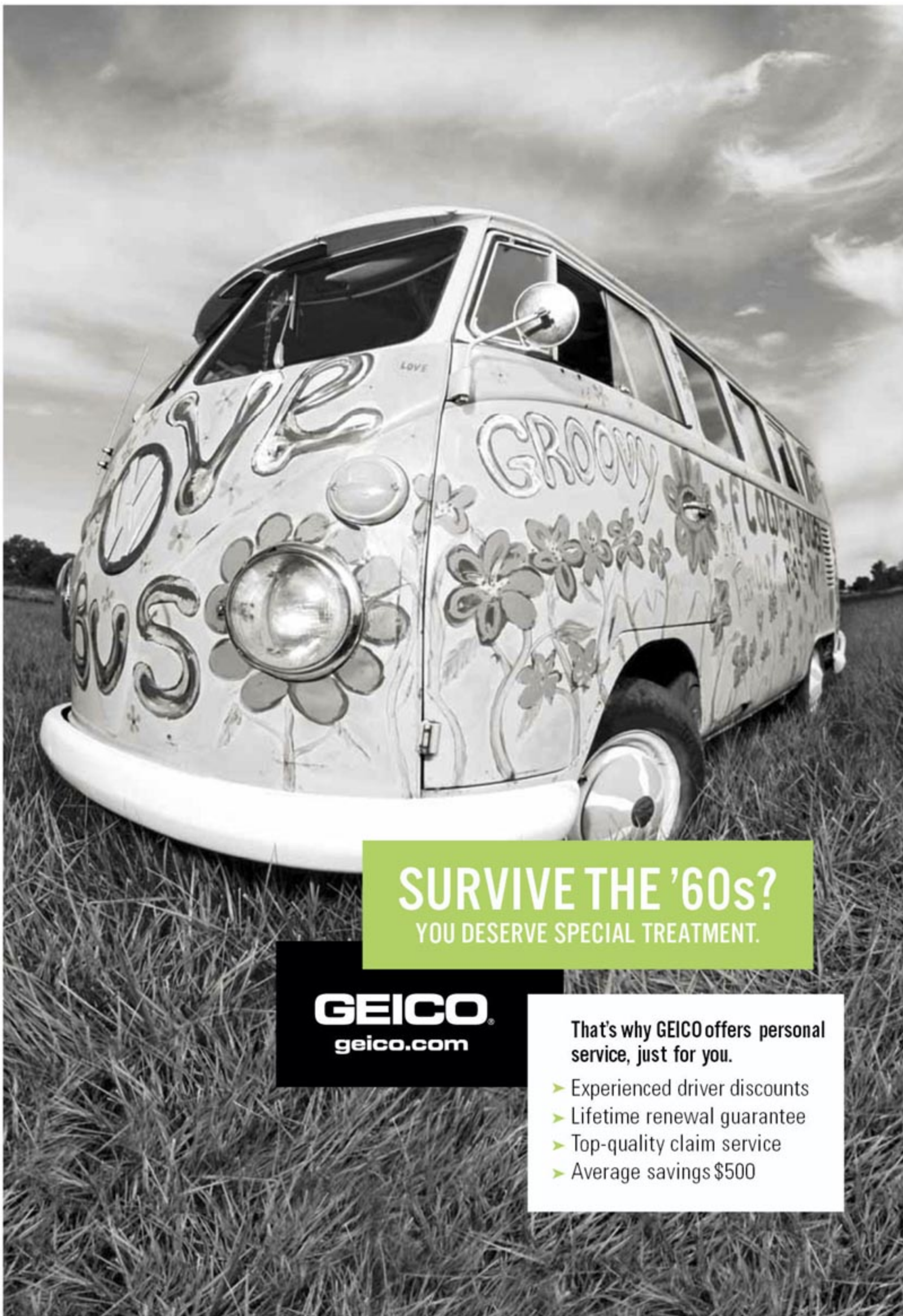
energy independence and the desire to curb global warming. But some observers worry that ethanol development may take the place of more effective initiatives: forcing automakers to increase gas mileage, for instance, or mandating cuts in carbon dioxide emissions. “Some members of Congress are looking for quick fixes,” says one economist who has studied the issue. “It’s an easy bandwagon to jump on. But there’s a lot of exaggeration about what ethanol is capable of doing.”

## Beginnings

Ethanol is alcohol distilled from fermented, mashed grain. It took a century for it to make a big splash on the U.S. energy scene, even though Henry Ford built his first Model T in 1908 to run on either gasoline or ethanol. Over the decades, petroleum proved cheaper, and grain alcohol was relegated to college fraternity parties rather than gas tanks. No one looked seriously at ethanol as fuel until the oil price shocks of the 1970s,



**ETHANOL COULD MEAN MORE MONEY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER AND LESS IN THE POCKETS OF FOREIGN SHEIKS.**



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Workers at an ethanol plant in Marcus, Iowa



when Congress decided to subsidize a homegrown alternative—most significantly through a tax credit to oil companies for every gallon of the costly alternative they blended into gasoline. But when oil prices fell again in the late 1980s through the 1990s, the nation's dependence on petroleum imports mushroomed to 60 percent, and ethanol was reduced to a performance-boosting additive for some midwestern gasoline—a nice, subsidized side business for the dominant producer, Archer Daniels Midland.

Around 2000, ethanol started gaining traction when it emerged as the substitute to methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), an oxygenate that reduced air pollution but leaked into drinking water at potentially dangerous levels. At the same time, upstart businesses like VeraSun of Brookings, S.D., were learning to produce ethanol more efficiently. Then came the Iraq war and high oil prices. Suddenly, the price ethanol refiners could fetch for their product from the big oil companies was far higher than the production cost. In places like Galva,



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL—AP

**BACKER.** Harkin chairs the Ag Committee.

where farmers had pooled their money to put up plants earlier, returns rolled in. It was a modern-day gold rush for grain farmers and investors. Today, 60 percent of ethanol production is in the hands of small companies.

## Politics

The rush of new players strengthened the industry's clout. One of the largest stakes in the No. 2 producer, VeraSun, for instance, is owned by a midwestern venture

capital firm, Bluestem, founded by Steve Kirby, former lieutenant governor of South Dakota and a big Republican donor. Among other big investors in small ethanol companies: Microsoft founder Bill Gates and the politically connected Carlyle Group private equity firm, where George H. W. Bush was once a director. The 10 largest ethanol producers and their trade groups have handed out \$4.7 million in federal campaign contributions since 2000, says the Center for Responsive Politics. The Renewable Fuels Association has increased its lobbying spending 60 percent in the past seven years, and former Sens. Bob Dole of Kansas and Tom Daschle of South Dakota tout ethanol's national security benefits for a group of farm and energy interests called the 21st Century Agriculture Policy Project. Just as crucial, while far less tangible, has been Washington's veneration of the long-suffering small farmer, now turned ethanol entrepreneur.

It all paid off in 2005, when, with gasoline prices ratcheting higher, Congress wrote into its big energy bill a renewable

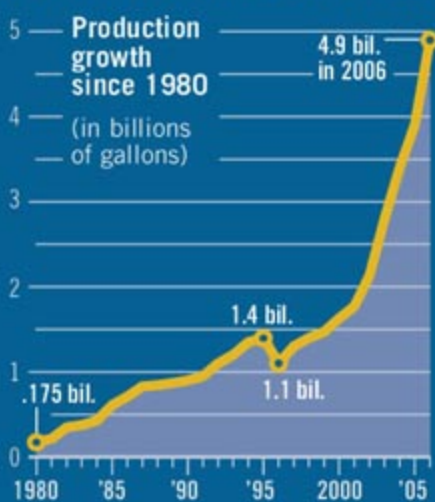


**AS ETHANOL BECOMES A LARGER PART OF THE ENERGY MIX, IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT WASHINGTON IS PREPARED FOR THE FALLOUT.**



This Iowa station is one of only 1,000 nationwide that sell E-85.

### PUMPING UP ETHANOL

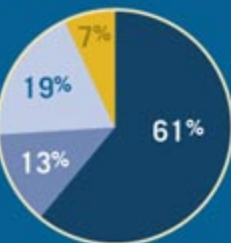


Source: Renewable Fuels Association

### FUEL BY THE BUSHEL

As the nation's appetite for corn grew, ethanol's share of the pie more than doubled.

CORN CONSUMED—2001:  
9.8 bil. bushels

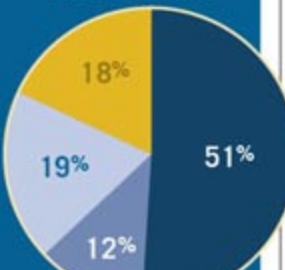


#### USES OF CORN

■ Ethanol ■ Livestock ■ Food ■ Exports

Source: USDA's Economic Research Service

CORN CONSUMED—2006:  
11.8 bil. bushels



since August—could rain on the parade. In fact, Wall Street is so worried that cheaper petroleum will cool ethanol profitability, as it has in the past, that the stock prices of companies that went public with fanfare last summer, VeraSun and Aventine, of Pekin, Ill., have slid 40 percent and 60 percent, respectively. Bill Gates would be \$140 million richer if he had sold his stake in Pacific Ethanol of Fresno, Calif., when gas prices began to spike last spring. As it stands, he's doing a bit better than break-even because of the bounce his company took after President Bush made his pitch in the State of the Union address to increase renewable fuels—a universe now almost entirely made of ethanol—a staggering sevenfold by 2017. Congress is already on the case: All eyes are on the important farm bill being shepherded forward this year by Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin, chair of the Agriculture Committee, as the perfect vehicle to force increased ethanol demand on the market.

Indeed, ethanol has proved one of the few issues in Washington for which it's nearly impossible to find a sparring partner. Even Sen. John McCain, who gave up on Iowa in his 2000 presidential bid because of his opposition to ethanol subsidies, now says the fuel should be "carefully examined." Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who once voted against the mandate, is calling for \$1 billion in ethanol research.

### Consequences

A new ethanol surge could cause more problems than it solves. Last year's astounding growth in ethanol gobbled up 20 percent of the U.S. corn crop. That surpasses all the corn Americans consumed last year—whether in cereal, corn-syrup-sweetened soda, or on the cob. And the strain has become severe on the nation's primary use of corn—as feed for dairy and beef cattle, pigs, and chickens. Meat, dairy, and egg producers are reeling from corn prices that have doubled in one year—now trading above \$4 a bushel for the first time in more than a decade.

The impact may really be felt when meat prices take off at the start of this summer's grilling season. "The American consumer is making a choice here," says Dick Bond, chief executive of Tyson Foods. "This is either corn for feed or corn

fuel standard, an unprecedented mandate requiring refiners to double the amount of ethanol they blend into the nation's gasoline by 2012—a major coup for the industry. Congress's decision in that bill not to give the oil industry any protection from MTBE lawsuits made ethanol even hotter. Oil refiners immediately announced a switch to ethanol en masse, dramatically boosting demand.

Energy economist Philip Verleger is one of many who traced last summer's high gasoline prices to ethanol panic. As it turned out, the taxpayer paid twice. First, at the pump. Then, because of the long-standing ethanol tax breaks—now at 51 cents per gallon—the government


sent \$2.5 billion last year to the flush oil industry to blend ethanol it would have needed anyway.

In 2006, production exceeded Congress's renewable fuel standard mandate by 25 percent, reaching 5 billion gallons produced. Nearly half of the gasoline being sold in the United States now contains 10 percent ethanol. But that leaves half the market open to conquest. Some 76 ethanol refineries are now under construction, including in such unlikely states as New York and Oregon, adding to the 112 already squeezing fuel from corn. By some counts, 200 more have been proposed.

Of course, oil prices—generally falling



**"IT'S AN EASY BANDWAGON TO JUMP ON. BUT THERE'S A LOT OF EXAGGERATION ABOUT WHAT ETHANOL IS CAPABLE OF DOING."**



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Finding a way forward.  GlaxoSmithKline



**COOKIN'.** A busy lunch hour at a Galva cafe; (below left) downtown street scene. Below right, Rita Frahm of the county economic development corporation

ural gas or coal throughout the production process. "Overall benefits in terms of . . . greenhouse gases are limited," concludes CRS. That problem may get worse with the emergence of coal-fired ethanol plants, like one that opened last month in Richardton, N.D. Bob Dinneen of the Renewable Fuels Association points out relatively clean natural gas is the industry standard, and he believes more earth-friendly plants are the next wave, such as those that trap methane from cattle feedlots to fire their boilers. But without mandated emissions caps, refineries may have little incentive to invest in such costly technology.

Farmers most likely will grow their corn on acres they normally would have rotated to soybeans. But that zaps topsoil of nutrients while exacerbating pest problems and use of more fertilizers and insecticides, which can wind up in the water supply. Plus, some land currently held fallow in the Conserva-

tion Reserve Program is likely to be put back to work. The complex issues throw environmentalists into a briar patch. "I hate talking about ethanol," says Dan Becker, head of the Sierra Club's global warming program. "There are ways ethanol can be a boon to the environment, there are ways that it could be a disaster for the environment, and the devil's in the details."

for fuel." He indicated his company intends to be active in the farm bill debate on Capitol Hill, and some livestock groups recently wrote a letter to warn the secretary of agriculture of their concerns. Lester Brown of the Earth Policy Institute warns that ethanol is on track to consume half of the U.S. corn crop as early as 2008. He is calling for a moratorium on new refineries, similar to the one the world's No. 3 ethanol producer, China, announced in December. "We used to have a food economy and an energy economy," says Brown. "The two are merging. We need to . . . think through carefully what we're doing."

Ethanol's boosters are confident farmers will plant more acres and increase the yield of corn per acre, with the help of new seed and genetic engineering technology—easing the price pressure. But for now, the futures market shows corn prices climbing further. That's de-

spite the fact that farmers are on track to plant 88 million acres of corn this year—up 10 million over 2006 and more than has been planted in the United States at any time since the 1940s, when crop yields were a fraction of today's.

The frenzy for the new yellow gold is not without environmental consequences, either. Plenty of greenhouse-gas emitting fossil fuels are used to produce ethanol—tractors in the field, trucks on the road, and nitrogen-based fertilizer born of natural gas. Some say that ethanol actually uses more energy than it returns. But only one oft-quoted study arrived at this conclusion by using apparently obsolete data. A Congressional Research Service analysis last year concluded that "most studies give corn-based ethanol a slightly positive energy balance." A tepid endorsement, at best. On climate issues, researchers are concerned with ethanol's reliance on nat-

tion Reserve Program is likely to be put back to work. The complex issues throw environmentalists into a briar patch. "I hate talking about ethanol," says Dan Becker, head of the Sierra Club's global warming program. "There are ways ethanol can be a boon to the environment, there are ways that it could be a disaster for the environment, and the devil's in the details."


## Logistics

Perhaps nothing illustrates the limits of an ethanol-fueled future better than the push for E-85—a mix that is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. It's available in only 1,000 of the nation's 180,000 gas stations, and Big Oil-branded stations haven't been quick to offer E-85. Ethanol boosters are hoping independent gas stations will step in, but it's



**SUDDENLY, THE PRICE ETHANOL REFINERS COULD FETCH FOR THEIR PRODUCT WAS FAR HIGHER THAN THE PRODUCTION COST.**





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Please see reverse side for Brief Summary of Prescribing Information.

Brief Summary of Prescribing Information

**ROZEREM<sup>™</sup>**

(ramelteon) Tablets

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

ROZEREM is indicated for the treatment of insomnia characterized by difficulty with sleep onset.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

ROZEREM is contraindicated in patients with a hypersensitivity to ramelteon or any components of the ROZEREM formulation.

**WARNINGS**

Since sleep disturbances may be the presenting manifestation of a physical and/or psychiatric disorder, symptomatic treatment of insomnia should be initiated only after a careful evaluation of the patient. The failure of insomnia to remit after a reasonable period of treatment may indicate the presence of a primary psychiatric and/or medical illness that should be evaluated. Worsening of insomnia, or the emergence of new cognitive or behavioral abnormalities, may be the result of an unrecognized underlying psychiatric or physical disorder and requires further evaluation of the patient. As with other hypnotics, exacerbation of insomnia and emergence of cognitive and behavioral abnormalities were seen with ROZEREM during the clinical development program.

ROZEREM should not be used by patients with severe hepatic impairment. ROZEREM should not be used in combination with fluvoxamine (see **PRECAUTIONS: Drug Interactions**).

A variety of cognitive and behavior changes have been reported to occur in association with the use of hypnotics. In primarily depressed patients, worsening of depression, including suicidal ideation, has been reported in association with the use of hypnotics.

Patients should avoid engaging in hazardous activities that require concentration (such as operating a motor vehicle or heavy machinery) after taking ROZEREM.

After taking ROZEREM, patients should confine their activities to those necessary to prepare for bed.

**PRECAUTIONS**

**General**

ROZEREM has not been studied in subjects with severe sleep apnea or severe COPD and is not recommended for use in those populations.

Patients should be advised to exercise caution if they consume alcohol in combination with ROZEREM.

**Use in Adolescents and Children**

ROZEREM has been associated with an effect on reproductive hormones in adults, e.g. decreased testosterone levels and increased prolactin levels. It is not known what effect chronic or even chronic intermittent use of ROZEREM may have on the reproductive axis in developing humans (see **Pediatric Use**).

**Information for Patients**

Patients should be advised to take ROZEREM within 30 minutes prior to going to bed and should confine their activities to those necessary to prepare for bed.

Patients should be advised to avoid engaging in hazardous activities (such as operating a motor vehicle or heavy machinery) after taking ROZEREM.

Patients should be advised that they should not take ROZEREM with or immediately after a high fat meal.

Patients should be advised to consult their health care provider if they experience worsening of insomnia or any new behavioral signs or symptoms of concern.

Patients should consult their health care provider if they experience one of the following: cessation of menses or galactorrhea in females, decreased libido, or problems with fertility.

**Laboratory Tests**

No standard monitoring is required.

For patients presenting with unexplained amenorrhea, galactorrhea, decreased libido, or problems with fertility, assessment of prolactin levels and testosterone levels should be considered as appropriate.

**Drug Interactions**

ROZEREM has a highly variable inter-subject pharmacokinetic profile (approximately 100% coefficient of variation in  $C_{max}$  and AUC). As noted above, CYP1A2 is the major isozyme involved in the metabolism of ROZEREM; the CYP2C subfamily and CYP3A4 isozymes are also involved to a minor degree.

**Effects of Other Drugs on ROZEREM Metabolism**

**Fluvoxamine (strong CYP1A2 inhibitor):** When fluvoxamine 100 mg twice daily was administered for 3 days prior to single-dose co-administration of ROZEREM 16 mg and fluvoxamine, the  $AUC_{0-\infty}$  for ramelteon increased approximately 190-fold, and the  $C_{max}$  increased approximately 70-fold, compared to ROZEREM administered alone. ROZEREM should not be used in combination with fluvoxamine (see **WARNINGS**). Other less potent CYP1A2 inhibitors have not been adequately studied. ROZEREM should be administered with caution to patients taking less strong CYP1A2 inhibitors.

**Rifampin (strong CYP enzyme inducer):** Administration of rifampin 600 mg once daily for 11 days resulted in a mean decrease of approximately 80% (40% to 90%) in total exposure to ramelteon and metabolite M-II, (both  $AUC_{0-\infty}$  and  $C_{max}$ ) after a single 32 mg dose of ROZEREM. Efficacy may be reduced when ROZEREM is used in combination with strong CYP enzyme inducers such as rifampin.

**Ketoconazole (strong CYP3A4 inhibitor):** The  $AUC_{0-\infty}$  and  $C_{max}$  of ramelteon increased by approximately 84% and 36%, respectively, when a single 16 mg dose of ROZEREM was administered on the fourth day of ketoconazole 200 mg twice daily administration, compared to administration of ROZEREM alone. Similar increases were seen in M-II pharmacokinetic variables. ROZEREM should be administered with caution in subjects taking strong CYP3A4 inhibitors such as ketoconazole.

**Fluconazole (strong CYP2C9 inhibitor):** The total and peak systemic exposure ( $AUC_{0-\infty}$  and  $C_{max}$ ) of ramelteon after a single 16 mg dose of ROZEREM was increased by approximately 150% when administered with fluconazole. Similar increases were also seen in M-II exposure. ROZEREM should be administered with caution in subjects taking strong CYP2C9 inhibitors such as fluconazole.

Interaction studies of concomitant administration of ROZEREM with fluoxetine (CYP2D6 inhibitor), omeprazole (CYP1A2 inducer/CYP2C19 inhibitor), theophylline (CYP1A2 substrate), and dextromethorphan (CYP2D6 substrate) did not produce clinically meaningful changes in either peak or total exposures to ramelteon or the M-II metabolite.

**Effects of ROZEREM on Metabolism of Other Drugs**

Concomitant administration of ROZEREM with omeprazole (CYP2C19 substrate), dextromethorphan (CYP2D6 substrate), midazolam (CYP3A4 substrate), theophylline (CYP1A2 substrate), diploxin (p-glycoprotein substrate), and warfarin (CYP2C9 [S]/CYP1A2 [R] substrate) did not produce clinically meaningful changes in peak and total exposures to these drugs.

**Effect of Alcohol on Rozerem**

**Alcohol:** With single-dose, daytime co-administration of ROZEREM 32 mg and alcohol (0.6 g/kg), there were no clinically meaningful or statistically significant effects on peak or total exposure to ROZEREM. However, an additive effect was seen on some measures of psychomotor performance (i.e., the Digit Symbol Substitution Test, the Psychomotor Vigilance Task

Test, and a Visual Analog Scale of sedation) at some post-dose time points. No additive effect was seen on the Delayed Word Recognition Test. Because alcohol by itself impairs performance, and the intended effect of ROZEREM is to promote sleep, patients should be cautioned not to consume alcohol when using ROZEREM.

**Drug/Laboratory Test Interactions**

ROZEREM is not known to interfere with commonly used clinical laboratory tests. In addition, *in vitro* data indicate that ramelteon does not cause false-positive results for benzodiazepines, opiates, barbiturates, cocaine, cannabinoids, or amphetamines in two standard urine drug screening methods *in vitro*.

**Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility**

**Carcinogenesis**

In a two-year carcinogenicity study, B6C3F<sub>1</sub> mice were administered ramelteon at doses of 0, 30, 100, 300, or 1000 mg/kg/day by oral gavage. Male mice exhibited a dose-related increase in the incidence of hepatic tumors at dose levels  $\geq 100$  mg/kg/day including hepatic adenoma, hepatic carcinoma, and hepatoblastoma. Female mice developed a dose-related increase in the incidence of hepatic adenomas at dose levels  $\geq 300$  mg/kg/day and hepatic carcinoma at the 1000 mg/kg/day dose level. The no-effect level for hepatic tumors in male mice was 30 mg/kg/day (103-times and 3-times the therapeutic exposure to ramelteon and the active metabolite M-II, respectively, at the maximum recommended human dose [MRHD] based on an area-under-the-curve [AUC] comparison). The no-effect level for hepatic tumors in female mice was 100 mg/kg/day (827-times and 12-times the therapeutic exposure to ramelteon and M-II, respectively, at the MRHD based on AUC).

In a two-year carcinogenicity study conducted in the Sprague-Dawley rat, male and female rats were administered ramelteon at doses of 0, 15, 60, 250 or 1000 mg/kg/day by oral gavage. Male rats exhibited a dose-related increase in the incidence of hepatic adenoma and benign Leydig cell tumors of the testes at dose levels  $\geq 250$  mg/kg/day and hepatic carcinoma at the 1000 mg/kg/day dose level. Female rats exhibited a dose-related increase in the incidence of hepatic adenoma at dose levels  $\geq 60$  mg/kg/day and hepatic carcinoma at the 1000 mg/kg/day dose level. The no-effect level for hepatic tumors and benign Leydig cell tumors in male rats was 60 mg/kg/day (1,429-times and 12-times the therapeutic exposure to ramelteon and M-II, respectively, at the MRHD based on AUC). The no-effect level for hepatic tumors in female rats was 15 mg/kg/day (472-times and 16-times the therapeutic exposure to ramelteon and M-II, respectively, at the MRHD based on AUC).

The development of hepatic tumors in rodents following chronic treatment with non-genotoxic compounds may be secondary to microsomal enzyme induction, a mechanism for tumor generation not thought to occur in humans. Leydig cell tumor development following treatment with non-genotoxic compounds in rodents has been linked to reductions in circulating testosterone levels with compensatory increases in luteinizing hormone release, which is a known proliferative stimulus to Leydig cells in the rat testis. Rat Leydig cells are more sensitive to the stimulatory effects of luteinizing hormone than human Leydig cells. In mechanistic studies conducted in the rat, daily ramelteon administration at 250 and 1000 mg/kg/day for 4 weeks was associated with a reduction in plasma testosterone levels. In the same study, luteinizing hormone levels were elevated over a 24 hour period after the last ramelteon treatment; however, the durability of this luteinizing hormone finding and its support for the proposed mechanistic explanation was not clearly established.

Although the rodent tumors observed following ramelteon treatment occurred at plasma levels of ramelteon and M-II in excess of mean clinical plasma concentrations at the MRHD, the relevance of both rodent hepatic tumors and benign rat Leydig cell tumors to humans is not known.

**Mutagenesis**

Ramelteon was not genotoxic in the following: *in vitro* bacterial reverse mutation (Ames) assay; *in vitro* mammalian cell gene mutation assay using the mouse lymphoma TK<sup>+</sup> cell line; *in vivo* *in vitro* unscheduled DNA synthesis assay in rat hepatocytes; and *in vivo* micronucleus assays conducted in mouse and rat. Ramelteon was positive in the chromosomal aberration assay in Chinese hamster lung cells in the presence of S9 metabolic activation.

Separate studies indicated that the concentration of the M-II metabolite formed by the rat liver S9 fraction used in the *in vitro* genetic toxicology studies described above, exceeded the concentration of ramelteon; therefore, the genotoxic potential of the M-II metabolite was also assessed in these studies.

**Impairment of Fertility**

Ramelteon was administered to male and female Sprague-Dawley rats in an in-lit fertility and early embryonic development study at dose levels of 6, 60, or 600 mg/kg/day. No effects on male or female mating or fertility were observed with a ramelteon dose up to 600 mg/kg/day (786-times higher than the MRHD on a  $mg/m^2$  basis). Irregular estrus cycles, reduction in the number of implants, and reduction in the number of live embryos were noted with dosing females at  $\geq 60$  mg/kg/day (79-times higher than the MRHD on a  $mg/m^2$  basis). A reduction in the number of corpora lutea occurred at the 600 mg/kg/day dose level. Administration of ramelteon up to 600 mg/kg/day to male rats for 7 weeks had no effect on sperm quality and when the treated male rats were mated with untreated female rats there was no effect on implants or embryos. In a repeat of this study using oral administration of ramelteon at 20, 60 or 200 mg/kg/day for the same study duration, females demonstrated irregular estrus cycles with doses  $\geq 60$  mg/kg/day, but no effects were seen on implantation or embryo viability. The no-effect dose for fertility endpoints was 20 mg/kg/day in females (26-times the MRHD on a  $mg/m^2$  basis) and 600 mg/kg/day in males (786-times higher than the MRHD on a  $mg/m^2$  basis) when considering all studies.

**Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C**

Ramelteon has been shown to be a developmental teratogen in the rat when given in doses 197 times higher than the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) on a  $mg/m^2$  basis. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Ramelteon should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

The effects of ramelteon on embryo-fetal development were assessed in both the rat and rabbit. Pregnant rats were administered ramelteon by oral gavage at doses of 0, 10, 40, 150, or 600 mg/kg/day during gestation days 6-17, which is the period of organogenesis in this species. Evidence of maternal toxicity and fetal teratogenicity was observed at doses greater than or equal to 150 mg/kg/day. Maternal toxicity was chiefly characterized by decreased body weight and, at 600 mg/kg/day, ataxia and decreased spontaneous movement. At maternally toxic doses (150 mg/kg/day or greater), the fetuses demonstrated visceral malformations consisting of diaphragmatic hernia and minor anatomical variations of the skeleton (irregularly shaped scapula). At 600 mg/kg/day, reductions in fetal body weights and malformations including cysts on the external genitalia were additionally observed. The no-effect level for teratogenicity in this study was 40 mg/kg/day (1,892-times and 45-times higher than the therapeutic exposure to ramelteon and the active metabolite M-II, respectively, at the MRHD based on an area-under-the-curve [AUC] comparison). Pregnant rabbits were administered ramelteon by oral gavage at doses of 0, 12, 60, or 300 mg/kg/day during gestation days 6-18, which is the period of organogenesis in this species. Although maternal toxicity was apparent with a ramelteon dose of 300 mg/kg/day, no evidence of fetal effects or teratogenicity was associated with any dose level. The no-effect level for teratogenicity was, therefore, 300 mg/kg/day (11,862-times and 99-times higher than the therapeutic exposure to ramelteon and M-II, respectively, at the MRHD based on AUC).

The effects of ramelteon on pre- and post-natal development in the rat were studied by administration of ramelteon to the pregnant rat by oral gavage at doses of 0, 30, 100, or 300 mg/kg/day from day 6 of gestation through parturition to postnatal (lactation) day 21, at which time offspring were weaned. Maternal toxicity was noted at doses of 100 mg/kg/day or greater and consisted of reduced body weight gain and increased adrenal gland weight. Reduced body weight during the post-weaning period was also noted in the offspring of the groups given 100 mg/kg/day and higher. Offspring in the 300 mg/kg/day group demonstrated physical and developmental delays including delayed eruption of the lower incisors, a delayed acquisition of the righting reflex, and an alteration of emotional response. These delays are often observed in the presence of reduced offspring body weight but may still be indicative of developmental delay. An apparent decrease in the viability of offspring in the 300 mg/kg/day group was likely due to altered maternal behavior and function observed at this dose level. Offspring of the 300 mg/kg/day group also showed evidence of diaphragmatic hernia, a finding observed in the embryo-fetal development study previously described. There were no effects on the reproductive capacity of offspring and the resulting progeny were not different from those of vehicle-treated offspring. The no-effect level for pre- and postnatal development in this study was 30 mg/kg/day (39-times higher than the MRHD on a  $mg/m^2$  basis).

**Labor and Delivery**

The potential effects of ROZEREM on the duration of labor and/or delivery, for either the mother or the fetus, have not been studied. ROZEREM has no established use in labor and delivery.

**Nursing Mothers**

Ramelteon is secreted into the milk of lactating rats. It is not known whether this drug is excreted in human milk. No clinical studies in nursing mothers have been performed. The use of ROZEREM in nursing mothers is not recommended.

**Pediatric Use**

Safety and effectiveness of ROZEREM in pediatric patients have not been established. Further study is needed prior to determining that this product may be used safely in pre-pubescent and pubescent patients.

**Geriatric Use**

A total of 654 subjects in double-blind, placebo-controlled, efficacy trials who received ROZEREM were at least 65 years of age; of these, 199 were 75 years of age or older. No overall differences in safety or efficacy were observed between elderly and younger adult subjects.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

**Overview**

The data described in this section reflect exposure to ROZEREM in 4251 subjects, including 346 exposed for 6 months or longer, and 473 subjects for one year.

**Adverse Reactions Resulting in Discontinuation of Treatment**

Fifty percent of the 3594 individual subjects exposed to ROZEREM in clinical studies discontinued treatment owing to an adverse event, compared with 2% of the 1370 subjects receiving placebo. The most frequent adverse events leading to discontinuation in subjects receiving ROZEREM were somnolence (0.8%), dizziness (0.5%), nausea (0.3%), fatigue (0.3%), headache (0.3%), and insomnia (0.3%).

**ROZEREM Most Commonly Observed Adverse Events in Phase 1-3 Trials**

The incidence of adverse events during the Phase 1 through 3 trials (% placebo, n=1370; % ramelteon [8 mg], n=1250) were: headache NOS (7%, 7%), somnolence (3%, 5%), fatigue (2%, 4%), dizziness (3%, 5%), nausea (2%, 3%), insomnia exacerbated (2%, 3%), upper respiratory tract infection NOS (2%, 3%), diarrhea NOS (2%, 2%), myalgia (1%, 2%), depression (1%, 2%), dyspepsia (1%, 2%), arthralgia (1%, 2%), influenza (0, 1%), blood cortisol decreased (0, 1%).

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in clinical trials of other drugs, and may not reflect the rates observed in practice. The adverse reaction information from clinical trials does, however, provide a basis for identifying the adverse events that appear to be related to drug use and for approximating rates.

**DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE**

ROZEREM is not a controlled substance.

**Human Data: See the CLINICAL TRIALS section, Studies Pertinent to Safety Concerns for Sleep-Promoting Agents, in the Complete Prescribing Information.**

**Animal Data**

Ramelteon did not produce any signals from animal behavioral studies indicating that the drug produces rewarding effects. Monkeys did not self-administer ramelteon and the drug did not induce a conditioned place preference in rats. There was no generalization between ramelteon and midazolam. Ramelteon did not affect rotorod performance, an indicator of disruption of motor function, and it did not potentiate the ability of diazepam to interfere with rotorod performance.

Discontinuation of ramelteon in animals or in humans after chronic administration did not produce withdrawal signs. Ramelteon does not appear to produce physical dependence.

**OVERDOSAGE**

**Signs and Symptoms**

No cases of ROZEREM overdose have been reported during clinical development. ROZEREM was administered in single doses up to 160 mg in an abuse liability trial. No safety or tolerability concerns were seen.

**Recommended Treatment**

General symptomatic and supportive measures should be used, along with immediate gastric lavage where appropriate. Intravenous fluids should be administered as needed. As in all cases of drug overdose, respiration, pulse, blood pressure, and other appropriate vital signs should be monitored, and general supportive measures employed. Hemodialysis does not effectively reduce exposure to ROZEREM. Therefore, the use of dialysis in the treatment of overdose is not appropriate.

**Poison Control Center**

As with the management of all overdose, the possibility of multiple drug ingestion should be considered. The physician may contact a poison control center for current information on the management of overdose.

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costly. Trying to expand E-85's availability, the House is likely to pass a bill this year that will direct federal agencies to figure how to make the switchover more cheaply. Rep. Bart Gordon, chair of the House Science and Technology Committee, said such a move is necessary "if this country is serious about reducing our dependence on foreign oil."

Congress has been far more tentative in dealing with bigger delivery questions. No pipelines exist to move ethanol from the Midwest the way that gasoline is pumped out of the Gulf Coast; rail works well now to transport most ethanol, but 25 percent moves by truck (burning diesel petroleum along the way). As production increases, the transportation strain is sure to worsen.

And even if E-85 were widely available tomorrow, it could be pumped only into the 2.5 percent of the nation's cars that are flexible fuel vehicles. Automakers have pledged to churn out many more, but Congress created a perverse incentive allowing them to produce more gas guzzlers if they manufacture enough flex fuel cars. Carmakers earned enough of a break on their Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards that the nation will burn 17 billion more gallons of gasoline from 2001 to 2008 as a result.

Thanks to such loopholes and foot dragging on improvement in CAFE standards, average new vehicle efficiency has dropped since 1988—a problem that comes home to roost with ethanol. Because of its lower energy content, it takes 1.5 gallons of ethanol to drive as far as 1 gallon of gasoline. *Consumer Reports* calculates E-85 ended up costing motorists about a dollar extra per gallon last year because of the need to buy more fuel. Renewable fuels lobbyist Dinneen points out that carmakers could solve the problem with improved engine technology. But with the fleet on U.S. roads now, and gasoline consumption continuing to creep upward, even today's incredible growth in ethanol production barely makes a dent in the nation's oil dependence. Ethanol now amounts to just 4.3 percent of gaso-

line sold by volume, and just 2.9 percent by energy content.

While corn-based ethanol production has room to grow, the industry acknowledges there's a ceiling—about 15 billion gallons yearly by most accounts, or three times the production in 2006. That's 20 billion gallons short of Bush's renewable fuels goal. Even with alternatives like natural gas vehicles, plug-in hybrids, or hydrogen cars, major advances in ethanol are necessary.

In the laboratory, so-called cellulosic ethanol can be wrung from fibrous ma-

would be driven down if production scales up, but a "chicken and egg problem" exists, says Harkin. "Investors are not investing in cellulosic plants because there's no supply," he says. "And farmers are not planting switch grass or other energy crops because there's no market." He has pledged to "jump-start" both demand and supply with research money and loan guarantees in a new farm bill.

But it will take more than money for new cellulosic technology to substantially weaken the grip of the nation's oil addiction. Lee Lynd, Dartmouth College



**FULL HOUSE.** Trucks waiting to unload their cargo of corn line up at an ethanol plant in Marcus, Iowa.

materials like cornhusks and rice hulls, as well as fast-growing reedy crops that require little fertilizer or tending, like switch grass, and timber industry excess. This would ease reliance on edible grain and spread the economic benefits beyond corn communities. Another bonus: Biotech enzymes rather than heat energy would break down the cellulose to fuel, reducing greenhouse gases to a fraction of those produced by corn.

But it has never been tried commercially, and it's unlikely that the fuel will go from zero to 20 billion gallons in 10 years. Just to get to 1 billion gallons of ethanol production, the corn industry took 13 years. The government estimates the capital cost of cellulosic is very likely five times that of corn. The expense surely

engineering professor and cellulosic pioneer, who founded Mascoma, a company that is building a pilot plant outside Rochester, N.Y., believes cellulosic will make "a much more limited contribution to energy supply" if behaviors don't change as well as technologies. Ethanol would make its greatest dent if Americans drove less and highly efficient cars were deployed widely, he says. Others agree. "Ethanol has a role to play in making the nation's energy situation more reliable," says economist Robert Wescott. "But it's not a panacea." That brings the debate back to the nitty-gritty fuel economy and conservation issues politicians have been mostly avoiding for years. They'd rather feel good, for the time being, about ethanol. ●



**ETHANOL HAS PROVED ONE OF FEW ISSUES IN WASHINGTON FOR WHICH IT'S NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND A SPARRING PARTNER.**

CHARLIE ARCHAMBAULT FOR USNEWS



Several witnesses have contradicted Libby's recollections.

# PULLING THE CURTAIN

No one looks especially noble in the trial of Scooter Libby

By Liz Halloran

**T**he perjury trial of Vice President Dick Cheney's former right-hand man won't go down in history as the turning point in the collapse of the Bush administration's once powerful control over its Iraq message. That milestone has long since passed.

But testimony by an all-star parade of witnesses in Lewis "Scooter" Libby's federal trial will make a fascinating footnote—with details about the usually secret and occasionally inept workings of a wartime White House and the reporters who cover it.

Libby is on trial in Washington for allegedly lying to a grand jury and FBI agents investigating whether administration officials illegally leaked to the media the name of CIA officer Valerie Plame in an effort to undermine the credibility of her husband, war critic Joseph Wilson. No one has been indicted for revealing her name, but Libby was charged with obstructing justice and perjury for discrepancies between his account and that of other witnesses about how he learned of the now former CIA operative and when he took that information to reporters.

The trial, which continues this week, has laid bare some of the capital's most peculiar tribal rituals. The jury has seen Libby's handwritten notes on the administration's plan to discredit Wilson, who, after a CIA-sponsored trip to Africa, wrote a *New York Times* piece disputing one of President Bush's arguments for going to war—that Iraq was attempting to buy uranium ore from Niger. Jurors heard former *New York Times* reporter Judith Miller's pricelessly convoluted, but largely accu-

Miller gave a convoluted but accurate explanation of how journalists and their sources negotiate information.

rate, explanation of how many journalists and their sources negotiate information—from "on the record" and "background" to "deep background" and beyond. And those jurors learned how far administration apparatchiks will go to protect themselves.

Libby, Cheney's powerful former chief of staff, walked a tortured path to Judge Reggie Walton's chambers in U.S. District Court. It all started in summer 2003, when the White House was in high dudgeon over Wilson's assertions. Libby's

meeting notes say that staffers were agitated that the former ambassador's claims were topping news reports and undermining the president's "trustworthiness." Top Bush aide Karl Rove, Libby wrote, bemoaned that Wilson had been accepted as "a credible expert."

**Coddling.** A pushback was hatched, and on a list of national journalists to be coddled, according to testimony by Cheney's communications director, was Miller, a controversial veteran *Times* reporter who had written extensively about weapons of mass destruction in the run-up to the war. Miller has since become a lightning rod; much of her prewar reporting has been discredited, and she has been criticized for being too cozy with the administration, including Libby, and thus helping it make the case for war.

Though Miller, who has since resigned from the *Times*, never wrote about Plame, she became a cause

célèbre in 2005 when she spent 85 days in jail for refusing to reveal to the grand jury that Libby gave her information about Wilson's wife. Miller was released, and agreed to testify, after Libby sent a note permitting her to disclose his identity. Her incarceration raised profound questions about the sanctity of reporter-source interactions and reinvigorated the ongoing debate about whether, in the public interest, such relationships deserve protection.

Miller was among a half-dozen witnesses last week—including former White House spokesman Ari Fleischer—who contradicted Libby's claim that he learned about Plame from NBC's Tim Russert during a July 10, 2003, conversation. Miller testified that Libby mentioned Plame to her in two meetings and a phone call that predated July 10.

Before the prosecution rests this week, it will question Russert, who has denied Libby's claim they spoke about Plame. Libby's lawyers will press their case that the administration made their client a Plamegate scapegoat to protect the powerful Rove. But this case isn't about scapegoating or leaks. It's about whether Libby told the truth under oath. After last week, that may be a difficult sell. ●

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PORTRAIT: REP. IKE SKELTON

# Armed With History

JEFFREY MACMILLAN FOR USNEWS

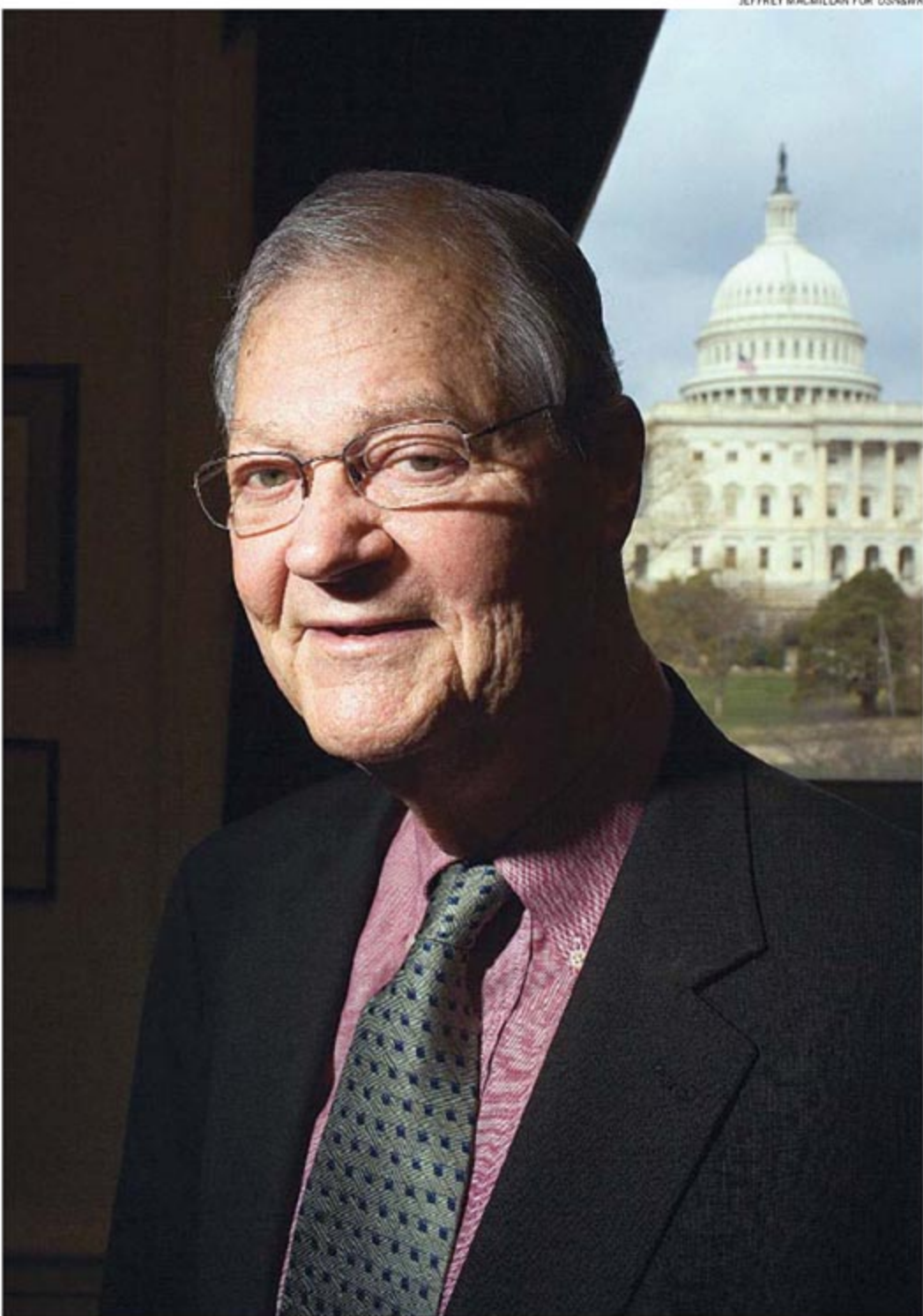
By Anna Mulrine

It was on the eve of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, in March 2003, that Missouri Rep. Ike Skelton sent a letter to President Bush. "There is no doubt that our forces will be victorious in any conflict," he wrote. "But there is great potential," he warned, "for a ragged ending to a war as we deal with the aftermath." He noted that then Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld "frequently talks about the list he keeps of things that could go wrong in an Iraq war." Added Skelton: "I have kept my own list."

He went on to outline some possibilities that would prove eerily prescient: Shiites attacking Sunnis, forcing U.S. troops to protect them. "Stabilization and reconstruction prove more difficult than expected," Skelton wrote. "This puts pressure on troop rotations, reservists, their families . . . and requires a dramatic increase in end-strength."

Nearly four years later, it is just such an increase in end-strength, meaning the overall size of the military, as well as the strain of repeated rotations on the Army and Marine Corps, that Skelton will confront as the new chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. In that role, this Democratic moderate figures to be a major player in examining America's wars on two fronts. As President Bush presses his case for sending 21,500 more troops to Iraq and details surface about wasted reconstruction aid (including Olympic-size swimming pools ordered up by Iraqi officials), Skelton summarizes the goals for his tenure with a word that has become his mantra: "Oversight. Oversight. Oversight."

**No nonsense.** That mantra is both a top item on his to-do list and a reminder of a lack of congressional supervision during critical phases of the Iraq war—and of the responsibility that Americans feel Capitol Hill should take up now. In a recent survey, nearly two thirds of Americans said that Congress has not been assertive enough in challenging the Bush administration's conduct of the war. "Oversight was nil," says Skelton. To that end, he has announced plans to revive the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, disbanded when Republicans gained House control in 1994. Skelton's committee will



**"This causes me great heartburn, this chewing away at our armed forces."**

**Born:** Dec. 20, 1931. **Family:** Wife Susan (Susie) died in 2005, after 44 years of marriage. Three sons—two currently serving in the military. **Education:** Bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Missouri—Columbia. **Public service:** Eagle Scout, elder of the First Christian Church, Missouri state attorney general 1961–1963.

take up topics including military readiness. "This causes me great heartburn, this chewing away at our armed forces," Skelton tells *U.S. News*. "Equipment is worn to a nubbin," he adds, noting that while Congress provided the military with \$17 billion last year to make up for equipment wear and tear, units in America "still don't have a lot to train on—it's left over there for succeeding brigades. And what's left over there is often worn out."

A member of the committee since 1981—and its ranking Democrat since 1998—Skelton, 75, still describes himself as a simple country lawyer. Colleagues

Kohn, former chief of history for the Air Force, who has testified before the committee. Now a professor of history at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, he recalls Rumsfeld's comments last year that the rise of Nazism resulted from "cynicism and moral confusion" in the West. When Rumsfeld then added a salvo aimed at critics of the Iraq war—that "it is apparent that many have still not learned history's lesson"—Skelton phoned Kohn: "He asked me for details about the general that George Marshall charged with crafting the occupation policies for American forces." He then took Rumsfeld

ment mementos on display is a telegram his father sent to Harry Truman, a note of support just after the president made the difficult decision to fire Gen. Douglas MacArthur. "Those making political capital out of this incident will get nowhere," wrote the elder Skelton, who was a Missouri prosecutor at a time when Truman was a local judge in a neighboring county. Today, Skelton says military leadership does not bear chief responsibility for a botched war. The troops, he says, "are better than their mission."

Skelton has made five trips to Iraq. In 2005, he spent several days in a military hospital after his armored bus was sideswiped and flipped over. Just back from a visit to Baghdad led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Skelton returned discouraged: "The question is, have we run out of time?" Skelton notes that Congress has the power of the purse strings, but he will not support withholding funds for the war. "You can always limit funds, but at the end of the day it would harm the troops." Though in six months, he warns, circumstances could change.

Skelton adds that he remains concerned about the ratcheting up of tensions in the Middle East. He draws on another historical analogy, noting how the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand led to World War I and trench warfare in Europe. In the wake of saber rattling with Iran, he says, "you don't know what events will cause other events to happen." But you can glean clues, he adds.

"You get instincts that come with reading so much history," says Skelton, who returns to the example of his home state hero, whose wife, Bess, endorsed him in appreciation of the support Skelton's father had provided her husband in a tough race. "Harry Truman seemed to see around corners, but that's because he read history," says Skelton. "We just think he made the right decisions. At the time, they were horrendously difficult."

And so Skelton keeps reading—and hopes others will do the same. The book he most often returns to these days is *Perils of Amateur Strategy*, a 1926 account of the disastrous Allied campaign on the Turkish peninsula of Gallipoli during World War I. "I sometimes wonder," the soft-spoken country lawyer and seasoned political veteran says, "whether the administration isn't laying the groundwork for the sequel. It's that old saying: History doesn't repeat itself, but it sure rhymes a lot." ●



Skelton speaks with generals before a hearing in 2004.

caution, however, that the moniker belies a gentle but no-nonsense questioning style that will set the committee's tone in the months to come.

Stricken with polio as a child, Skelton was unable to serve in combat but developed a voracious appetite for history books that he shares, he says, with military leaders. "That's my hobby. Some people bowl, some ski—I read history books." For that reason, says Robert Scales, the former president of the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., "the strongest thing you can do when you talk with Ike is to come armed with those historical connections. He understands that for the military, the battlefield is our lab, our law library, our courtroom, our stock exchange. Soldiers do war so infrequently that if you're going to gain knowledge, you've got to go to the historical lab."

And Skelton has little patience for those who delve into military matters without that historical perspective, adds Richard

to task for missing what he considered to be among World War II's most vital lessons. "The lesson he should have chosen to draw," he said, "is the lesson of the successful Allied occupation of Germany."

**History buff.** Skelton calls the choice of Lt. Gen. David Petraeus to lead U.S. troops in Iraq "excellent—just excellent." During the dedication of the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Mo., the two spent a good part of the morning touring the museum and discussing battles. Last year, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., named a chair for counterinsurgency after Skelton, an effort spearheaded by Petraeus, an expert in counterinsurgency himself. Skelton is "a true student and lover of history," Petraeus tells *U.S. News*. "He has had far and away the most significant impact on our professional military education institutions and programs."

Skelton's Capitol Hill office, too, is a small museum. Among the more promi-



*“He goes three times a night.  
He must really need to mark his territory.”*

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**Do you have an enlarging prostate?  
If you have any of these urinary symptoms,  
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- Urination starts and stops.
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0.5 mg/Once Daily  
**AVODART**  
(dutasteride)

#### What is AVODART?

AVODART is a medication for the treatment of symptoms of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) in men with an enlarged prostate to:

- Improve symptoms
- Reduce the risk of acute urinary retention (a complete blockage of urine flow)
- Reduce the risk of the need for BPH-related surgery

AVODART is not a treatment for prostate cancer. See the end of this leaflet for information about how AVODART works.

#### Who should NOT take AVODART?

- Women and children should not take AVODART. A woman who is pregnant or capable of becoming pregnant should not handle AVODART capsules. See "What are the special warnings for women about AVODART?"
- Do not take AVODART if you have had an allergic reaction to AVODART or any of its ingredients.

#### What are the special warnings for women about AVODART?

- Women should never take AVODART.
- Women who are pregnant or may become pregnant should not handle AVODART Capsules. If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby gets enough AVODART into her body after swallowing it or through her skin after handling it, the male baby may be born with abnormal sex organs.

#### What are the special precautions about AVODART?

- Men treated with AVODART should not donate blood until at least 6 months after their final dose to prevent giving AVODART to a pregnant female through a blood transfusion.
- Tell your doctor if you have liver problems. AVODART may not be right for you.

#### How should I take AVODART?

- Take 1 AVODART capsule once a day.
- Swallow the capsule whole.
- You can take AVODART with or without food.
- If you miss a dose, you may take it later that day. Do not make up the missed dose by taking 2 doses the next day.
- You may find it helpful to take AVODART at the same time every day to help you remember to take your dose.

#### What are the possible side effects of AVODART?

Possible side effects are impotence (trouble getting or keeping an erection), a decrease in libido (sex drive), enlarged breasts, a decrease in the amount of semen released during sex, and allergic reactions such as rash, itching, hives, and swelling of the lips or face. These events occurred infrequently.

Talk with your doctor if you have questions about these and other side effects that you think may be related to taking AVODART.

#### How should I store AVODART?

AVODART is a soft gelatin capsule that may become soft and leak or may stick to other capsules if kept at high temperatures. Store AVODART capsules at room temperature of 77°F (25°C) or lower.

If your capsules are cracked or leaking, don't use them, and contact your pharmacist.

#### General information about AVODART.

- Do not use AVODART for a condition for which it was not prescribed.
- Do not share your AVODART.
- Ask your doctor about how often you should return for a visit to check your BPH.
- A blood test called PSA (prostate-specific antigen) is sometimes used to detect prostate cancer. AVODART will reduce the amount of PSA measured in your blood. Your doctor is aware of this effect and can still use PSA to detect prostate cancer in you.
- If you have questions about AVODART, ask your doctor or pharmacist. They can show you detailed information about AVODART that was written for healthcare professionals.

#### How does AVODART work?

Prostate growth is caused by a hormone in the blood called dihydrotestosterone (DHT). AVODART lowers DHT production in the body, leading to shrinkage of the enlarged prostate in most men. Just as your prostate became large over a long period of time, reducing the size of your prostate and improving your symptoms will take time. While some men have fewer problems and symptoms after 3 months of treatment with AVODART, a treatment period of at least 6 months is usually necessary to see if AVODART will work for you. Studies have shown that treatment with AVODART for 2 years reduces the risk of complete blockage of urine flow (acute urinary retention) and/or the need for surgery for benign prostatic hyperplasia.





Romney speaks to the press outside a restaurant in Mount Pleasant, S.C.

# A MASSACHUSETTS CONSERVATIVE

Mitt Romney is walking a political tightrope in his run for the White House

By Dan Gilgoff

**M**OUNT PLEASANT, S.C.—In his stump speech to supporters gathered among the shrimp boats on the bank of Shem Creek, Mitt Romney makes no mention of hot-button issues like abortion or the role of religion in politics. But when the speech is finished, the Republican presidential hopeful is swarmed by reporters asking only hot-button questions: Will conservative voters believe that the formerly pro-choice ex-governor of Massachusetts is now antiabortion? How did he make the conversion? Will evangelical Christians back a devout Mormon like Romney?

Romney, in a tailored suit and flawlessly coiffed hair, insists that voters are more concerned with other issues, like “How are we going to beat the jihadists? How are we

going to be competitive with Asia? How to improve our schools and healthcare.”

And yet answering those hotter-button questions may hold the key to whether Romney has a shot at winning the Republican nomination. Romney has so far sold himself as the more conservative alternative to front-runners John McCain,

“Voters can respect a politician who changes parties,” says Republican strategist Scott Reed. “But it’s more difficult for a politician that changes philosophies.”

**Competition.** While convincing social conservatives that he has become one of them, Romney must also develop broad enough appeal to be seen as truly competitive with McCain and Giuliani. A CNN poll last week had Romney winning support from just 7 percent of Republican-leaning voters, compared with 32 percent for Giuliani and 26 percent for

McCain. Still, with Hollywood-style charisma, a résumé that includes a big win in the bluest of states, and a team of marquee activists and aides, Romney is probably the strongest White House hopeful that most Americans have never heard of. “You want to ask some presidential candidates who aren’t well known, ‘Why did you decide to do this?’” says

“Voters can respect a politician who changes parties. But it’s more difficult for a politician that changes philosophies.”

who riled many conservatives by supporting a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants and opposing a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, and likely contender Rudolph Giuliani, a supporter of gay rights and abortion rights. In doing so, however, Romney is battling his own past. He admits to being “effectively pro-choice” as recently as two years ago.

“Why did you decide to do this?” says

How  
will you  
find the  
best  
mutual fund  
for this  
year's IRA?



## Nation & World

Whit Ayres, a GOP strategist. "With Romney, you can see a path to go all the way."

Even before leaving office, Romney raised his profile among conservatives by fighting the Massachusetts Supreme Court's 2003 decision to legalize gay marriage. He helped prod the state legislature into voting to put the issue before voters in a referendum. Romney also began trumpeting his new anti-abortion stance, tracing his conversion to a 2004 meeting with Harvard scientists. Romney says one scientist told him cloning human embryos was not a moral issue because they were destroyed within two weeks. "It struck me that we had so cheapened the value of human life," Romney tells *U.S. News*, "that someone would feel that racks of human embryos being created . . . was not a moral issue." Now, Romney is drawing parallels between his own anti-abortion conversion and that of Ronald Reagan, who as governor of California signed a liberal abortion rights law. Mark DeMoss, an evangelical publicity executive who organized a meeting between Romney and evangelical leaders, says he was won over by Romney's story about the Harvard scientists: "To hear him tell it, it's almost like Paul's road-to-Damascus experience in the New Testament."

**Mission.** Romney's success rides largely on convincing social conservatives that White House hopefuls like former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Baptist minister, and Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback, an antiabortion rights leader, can't win the GOP nomination. So he's focusing on culturally conservative, early primary states like South Carolina, Iowa, and Florida, which is attempting to move up its primary. Still, some conservatives can't see past Romney's record, and his conversion tale, complete with an Ivy League scientist as boogeyman, seems almost too well crafted for conservative ears. Romney, once a top officer in the Mormon Church, may also face trouble among evangelicals, some of whom don't consider Mormons to be Christians. Richard Land, who directs the public-policy arm of the Southern Baptist Convention, is urging Romney to follow the ex-

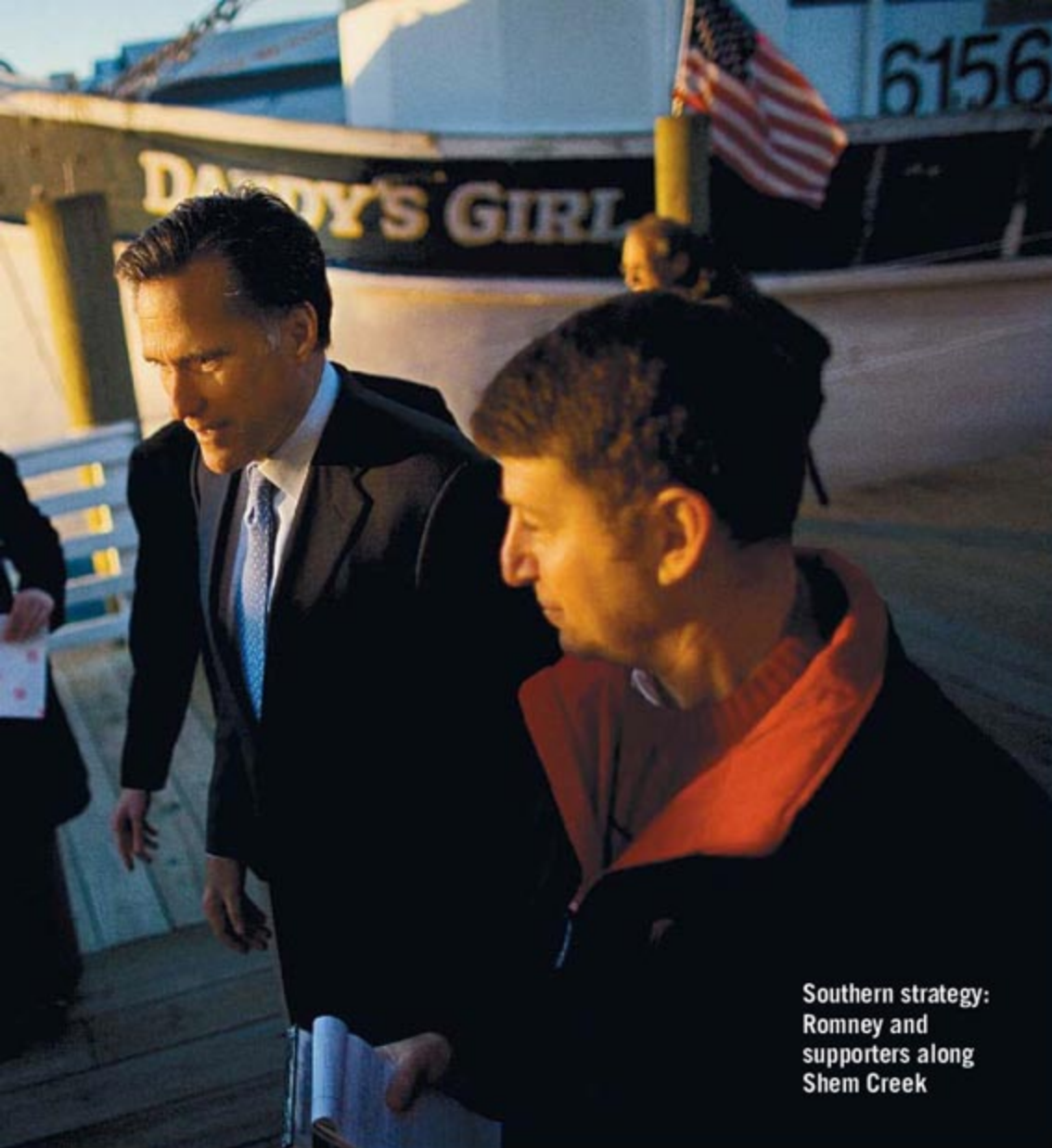


ample of then presidential candidate John F. Kennedy. "I do not speak for my church on public matters," Kennedy said of his Catholicism in 1960, "and the church does not speak for me." Until Romney makes a similar pronouncement, Land says, "he's in the loser's game of reacting to the spin instead of controlling it."

Romney's advisers, however, are reluctant to introduce him to the country as a

**"He just looks like a president.  
And he accomplished a lot...  
in Kennedy country."**

Mormon first, preferring the image of an executive with a record of fixing problems. "It's a benefit to come from the world of employment and regular people . . ." Romney says. "[T]he problem . . . today is that politics has become a profession and not a duty." While a latecomer to elected office, Romney's father was George Romney, a former Michigan governor. After graduating from Brigham Young University, Mitt Romney earned a law degree and M.B.A. from Harvard. With his wife, Ann, he stayed in Boston, raised five sons, and amassed a fortune by founding



Southern strategy:  
Romney and  
supporters along  
Shem Creek

the investment firm Bain Capital; he poured \$6.1 million into an unsuccessful 1994 Senate bid against Sen. Edward Kennedy. But competing in next year's primaries could cost 20 times that much. Romney raised \$6.5 million in a recent daylong call-a-thon, but the federally required disclosure of fundraising results at the end of March will be a big viability test.

Hired in 1999 to turn around the scandal- and debt-plagued Salt Lake City Olympic committee, Romney put it in the black and oversaw a successful Olympics in 2002. He was elected governor of Massachusetts that same year. With a Democratic-controlled state legislature, he managed to balance the budget without raising taxes. And he made national headlines last year by signing a universal health insurance plan that provides vouchers for low-income families and makes insurance portable for employees. "Personal ownership of private health insurance had been an objective of conservatives for decades," says Robert Moffit, a Heritage Foundation scholar. "This was really big."

It's the ability to devise such big solutions that Romney showcases on the campaign trail, as he describes an America faced with unprecedented challenges. "The next few years are going to be tough," says Kristin Simmons, 31, a medical work-

er who attended a Romney campaign stop at the Lizard's Thicket restaurant in Columbia, S.C. "He seems strong enough to handle it." What aides call Romney's "happy warrior" demeanor carries him through dozens of similar appearances before small groups of Republican activists across the country. "He just looks like a president," says Republican Georgia Rep. Jack Kingston, who hosted a meet-and-greet for Romney on Capitol Hill last month. "And he accomplished a lot with Democrats in Kennedy country."

Indeed, even as he cultivates the right wing, Romney is playing up his adventures in bipartisanship. So while he supports President Bush's "surge" plan for Iraq, he's also taking subtle swipes at the president. "If someone tells us the truth about the challenges and tells us what we have to do to overcome them, Americans will raise their hands and say, 'Put me in,'" he tells the Lizard's Thicket crowd. In an interview, Romney says "it's now time for us to . . . develop a far more comprehensive strategy to move the entire civilized world to help defeat the jihad." Romney says the strategy calls for major aid to moderate Islamic states. Discussing an issue—terrorism—of utmost importance to the GOP base, Romney was managing to sound downright practical. ●

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By Gloria Borger



## The Mommy Factor

**I**T WAS STRIKING. ON HER FIRST FORAY INTO Iowa as a presidential candidate, Hillary Rodham Clinton was clearly trying to soften up her image. "I am going to be asking people to vote for me based on my entire life experience," she said. "The fact that I'm a woman, the fact that I'm a mom is part of who I am." Wow. Could this be the same Hillary Clinton who told voters way back in her husband's first run for the White House that she wasn't just going to stay home and bake cookies? Or the first lady who tried to redo the nation's healthcare system? Or began collecting national security cred on Day 1 in the Senate by landing a seat on the Armed Services Committee?

The Clintons are a great reflection of the national zeitgeist. So don't take Hillary's appearance in Iowa in pastels lightly: It may mean we've come full circle, baby. After all these years of trying to be one of the guys—talking tough, playing backroom politics with the bad boys (more on those later)—do we now have to tone it down so people will like us again? Have we overcorrected the initial problem? "We can't decide if we want to wear iron britches or if we're sweet," says former Colorado Rep. Pat Schroeder. Remember her moment of fame? She cried when announcing that she would not run for president. "We got a lot of 'We don't want people who cry with their finger on the button,'" Schroeder told me. That happened 20 years ago, and we've tried not to cry ever since (although we love it when men do).

So here's my question: Is this a problem for all women at a certain stage, or is it mostly about Hillary? After all, when Speaker Nancy Pelosi gavelled her first session of the House of Representatives to order a few weeks back, she seemed to present pretty much the perfect, balanced portrait: a tough grandmother. When all the kiddies were invited to the podium, it seemed to be an entirely authentic moment—and a signal that Pelosi is, well, fully evolved. We accept it; in fact, we applaud it. "It was wonderful to watch her with the grandchildren," former vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro told me. "If I had done that, I would have been judged as too soft, a mommy, not able to handle the issues." To be fair, Pelosi has an advantage that Clinton doesn't: We haven't tracked her every move, as we've watched Hillary morph from the

wife bristling behind the podium to the candidate finally in front of it. Since we seem to have spent more than a decade observing her, maybe she just becomes someone with too many identities for us to sort out—or to decide which is real.

Sure, there's a natural affinity among women for Hillary Clinton when she tells voters that "I expect there will probably be more stories about my clothes and hair than some of the people running against me." You bet. And there will also be different kinds of girl questions, like the one from the man in Davenport, Iowa, who asked how she would handle the world's "evil and bad men." It was hard not to read something (aka Bill) into her playfully ambiguous response: "What in my background equips me to deal with evil and bad men?" With perfect comedic timing, she let the answer play as the audience erupted into laughter. And although she later denied she was even *thinking* about Bill Clinton, how could we think anything else? Can this possibly be the new, real, authentic, believable Hillary Clinton?

**Hanging tough.** The ultimate policy question for female candidates, of course, is the use of force. Maine Republican Sen. Susan Collins, who has muscle to spare (she has chaired the Senate's Homeland Security Committee and sits on the Armed Services panel), says: "I don't want to ever leave the impression that a woman won't do what's necessary to defend the country." Neither does Hillary Clinton. She voted for the war, but she has also refused to admit that the vote was a mistake—while other Democratic presidential candidates have done

their *mea culpas*. Instead, Clinton offers an explanation convoluted enough to be worthy of John Kerry: "If we had known then what we know now, there never would have been a vote, and I never would have voted to give this president that authority." Huh? If, as a woman, you're worried about being perceived as tough, maybe it's time to fret about being seen as artificial.

And what about this? Clinton complains that the president is doing the unthinkable, leaving Iraq for someone else to fix. "The president has said this is going to be left to his successor . . . and I think it's the height of irresponsibility," Clinton told an Iowa audience. "And I really resent it." But if Hillary Clinton is running as a mom, here's a thought: We're used to cleaning up messes, and we're good at it. ●

Did women go too far in trying to be tough, so now they have to try to be liked?



New York's junior senator, during her star turn in Iowa



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Along the DMZ, a North Korean soldier looks southward.

# LOOKING FOR A DEAL THIS TIME?

The United States and North Korea may be reassessing their deadlock

By Thomas Omestad

**L**ike any good diplomat, Christopher Hill knows how to dampen expectations before sitting down to hash out a deal. But more than most envoys, Hill, the top U.S. negotiator in talks resuming in Beijing this week over North Korea's nuclear weapons programs, has ample reason to let some skepticism show.

Fifty-two frustrating months into a confrontation with North Korea over its nuclear weapons programs, the six-nation talks established to rein in Pyongyang's atomic breakout have, so far, netted nothing. Nothing, that is, except neglected promises on paper. In that time, North Korea has tested ballistic missiles and an atomic bomb, declared itself a nuclear power, and multiplied its supply of plutonium from enough for one or two bombs to as many as 13—with most estimates now suggesting six to eight.

Even advocates for negotiations increasingly suspect that, despite its deci-

sion to rejoin talks, the North has made a strategic choice to stick with nuclear weapons as the ultimate deterrent to any effort to dislodge Asia's most secretive and anti-American regime. Time, it seems, has been working against Hill and others seeking a deal: With Pyongyang's nuclear buildup and its seeming judgment that the administration is tied down by wars

**A senior official says the "sense of urgency" this time exceeds past rounds of talks.**

in Iraq and Afghanistan, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il may believe that he can wait out President Bush and gain global acquiescence to the North's nuclear status. The U.S. bargaining position, says Gary Samore, director of studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, is "really much weaker."

But it is not just the North's prickly intransigence that has made Hill's task look

titanic. Policy struggles within the administration have led to fits of incoherence—or simply straitjacketed U.S. officials assigned to bargain with the North. The lines of battle have pitted hawks, who publicly back the negotiations with the communist North but privately see them as a dead end, against those who favor engagement. "We had warfare going on the

entire time I was there," recalls David Straub, a former Korea policy aide who resigned from the State Department last year.

A window on these debates opened last month after the resignation of John Bolton, a key hard-liner who served as the

U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. "Six-party talks have not worked," Bolton said in Tokyo. "Over time," he declared, "the only answer to the North Korean nuclear weapons program is the collapse of the regime." Despite repeated professions of support for a diplomatic approach, Bush himself has shown ambivalence at times about dickering with a dictatorship. He jettisoned the Clinton-era outreach to the

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North and did not conceal his personal antipathy toward Kim.

As the diplomatic stalemate wore on, hawks found a tool with unexpected capacity to reach out and hurt Kim's regime: a crackdown on money laundering, counterfeiting of U.S. dollars, and other illicit, money-making trade. The administration announced sanctions on a Macao bank alleged to be laundering money for North Korea. That happened just before Hill and envoys from South Korea, Japan, China, Russia—and North Korea—inked a joint statement on principles for nuclear disarmament in return for security assurances, normalization of relations, and economic and energy aid.

**Sledgehammer.** Under U.S. pressure, Macao authorities subsequently forced Banco Delta Asia to freeze some \$24 million in North Korean accounts. Though the amount seemed inconsequential, the U.S. sanctions prompted banks in China and Vietnam to close accounts or refuse to deal with North Korea. Treasury's action had the effect of discouraging even legal commerce with the North—enraging Pyongyang, which boycotted nuclear talks for more than a year. "The U.S.



U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, at the center of a news media scrum in Tokyo

found a ball-peen hammer," says Charles Pritchard, a former U.S. official who negotiated with the North. "When they struck it, it sounded like a sledgehammer to the North Koreans." Pyongyang's response, Robert Joseph, the departing under secretary of state for arms control and international security, told *U.S. News* last fall, "does, I believe, demonstrate the vulnerability of the regime. It's more than a defensive reaction."

As Hill, an assistant secretary of state,

met last month with North Korean diplomats and hopscotched across Asia and Europe to restart the nuclear talks, the internal policy skirmishes flared up again. U.S. diplomats moved to block U.N. development aid to North Korea on the grounds that the funds could be diverted to the Kim regime. The State Department said the action reflected an ongoing drive for U.N. reforms and the U.N.'s own schedule for making spending decisions. But other officials worried that the action

KOJI SASAHARA—AP

**BOLD MOVES**



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could provoke Pyongyang at a sensitive moment and saw instead, as one put it, "an effort to undermine" Hill.

Earlier in January, *U.S. News* has learned, a State Department official at a meeting in Paris suggested seeking a travel ban on the very North Korean diplomats who negotiate with Hill. Another official at State denied the report, and a senior U.S. policymaker said no such effort is underway. Still, the audacity of suggesting such a travel ban prompted Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar last week to complain of actions that could "subvert" Hill's efforts and to demand an explanation. Says Donald Zagoria, who has organized gatherings with North Korean officials for the National Committee on American Foreign Policy in New York, "I am flabbergasted at the brazenness with which some are trying to undercut the process."

Despite the hurdles at home, current and former administration officials say, Hill now has a greater degree of "running room"—the flexibility, for example, to conduct three days of initially secret bilateral meetings in Berlin with North Ko-

rean officials last month. "The president and Secretary [Condoleezza] Rice have told Hill to get a deal," one former senior official tells *U.S. News*. Adds a serving official, "He's been given a mandate."

**Gestures.** Other developments point to some movement on the nuclear front. Treasury officials last week conducted unprecedented, detailed talks with North

delved into practical ideas for implementing the September 2005 agreement; it was, says one official, a "freewheeling dialogue" that was used to "shake some things loose." South Korean officials have hinted at both U.S. and North Korean concessions. Initial steps might include a North Korean freeze on its plutonium-producing Yongbyon reactor and the return of U.N. nuclear inspectors—as the financial squeeze is eased and some benefits, likely energy supplies, begin to flow. Doubts remain, however, that North Korea may be mostly intent on deflecting international pressure. A senior U.S. official

says the "sense of urgency" this time exceeds past rounds of talks. But there is also a studied lack of optimism. "No one's confident at all."

Whatever the outcome in Beijing, the sense in Washington is that Bush badly needs a foreign policy "win," and North Korea could be it. "Rice has been given a legacy charge. The clock is ticking," says Pritchard. And patience with the six-party saga is waning. Without toutable progress soon, it just may snap. ●

## Policy struggles have straitjacketed U.S. officials assigned to bargain with the North.

Korean finance counterparts, reviewing nearly 50 North Korean-related accounts at Banco Delta Asia. One objective appears to be identifying accounts that are not part of illegal activities, setting the stage for their unfreezing. A senior U.S. official tells *U.S. News* that North Korea has dropped its demand to lift the financial sanctions before it negotiates on the nuclear question, saying, "They've walked back."

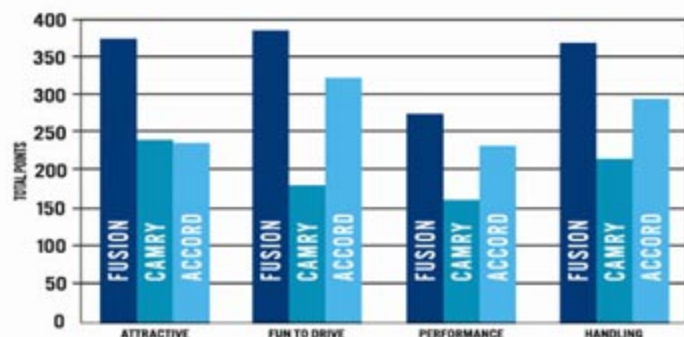
More broadly, the Berlin meetings

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## LETTER FROM LEBANON

## Who's Stoking the Fires?

By Mitchell Prothero

**B**EIRUT—The presence of balaclava-clad young men waving weapons from motorbikes is never a good sign. Even so, their arrival during a recent series of street clashes between Sunni Muslim supporters of the current Lebanese government and the Shiite followers of the Hezbollah-led opposition is particularly ominous given Lebanon's tragic history of sectarian violence and civil war.

For more than two months, Lebanon has teetered on the brink of chaos. Hezbollah and its allies have been demanding the American-backed government of Prime Minister Fouad Siniora submit to the formation of a so-called national unity government—one that would tip the political balance in favor of the Shiite community. A series of escalating demonstrations finally exploded in late January into sectarian violence that left about 10 people dead and more than 200 wounded. There are concerns about further clashes next week if thousands of pro-government demonstrators turn out to mark the second anniversary of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri.

This should be a parochial struggle among Lebanese in a tiny nation of 3.8 million where the mix of Sunnis, Shiites, and Christians is just diverse enough that no group can dominate. During

Lebanon's 15-year civil war, which claimed some 100,000 lives and turned Beirut into a rubble-strewn battleground, the country mainly split between Christians and Muslims. Now, nearly two decades later, the conflict's defining characteristic is the rift within the Muslim community, a split that draws in on opposing sides the region's two major powers, Sunni Saudi Arabia

and Shiite Iran. Lebanon is a testing ground for growing Iranian influence—and for Saudi Arabia's efforts to block it. This has led to some unusual political twists. After war unexpectedly erupted last summer between Hezbollah and Israel, the major Sunni Arab states—Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Jordan—moved quickly to condemn the provocation by Hezbollah. For the first time, these Arab states essentially took Israel's side.

Lebanon's Sunni Mus-

lims—who include much of Beirut's economic elite—tend to look to the Saudis for patronage. And with the prime minister slot open only to a Sunni (Lebanon's Christians get the presidency and the Shiites get the parliament speaker), Hezbollah's political attack on Siniora is widely perceived as part of an Iran-backed challenge to the Sunni Islam power structure

economic bill necessary. "It began last summer during the war, when the Arab League came to Siniora's defense," says Michael Young, opinion editor of Beirut's English-language newspaper, the *Daily Star*. "The Saudis promised him then anything he needed. Siniora does not stand for Siniora; he's a steadfast symbol of the Sunni Arab world and its political establishment. He is

always someone who has fought for an Arab consensus to every problem. So to assail him is to assail the Sunni Arab world itself." But then came a series of street clashes between Sunnis and Shiites that seemed to take everyone by surprise, apparently including Hezbollah itself. "Look, Hezbollah is a disciplined organization, maybe the most disciplined in the Arab world," says one security official, who cannot speak for attribution on this subject. "But it's not enough to

control your fighters and officials. They clearly lost control of the kids and their allies, who aren't organized like they are. This really scared everyone involved."

Even, perhaps, officials in Saudi Arabia and Iran, who may have their own interests in not having their rivalry push Lebanon over the brink. Whether or not that is the case, Saudi and Iranian officials unexpectedly opened direct talks to calm the crisis. They need to hurry to keep Lebanon from again sliding into civil war. ●



A car burns as rival groups of young men clash during January street fights in Beirut.

MARWAN NAAMANI—AFP / GETTY IMAGES



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 GlaxoSmithKline

**Important information about ADVAIR.** Prescription ADVAIR won't replace fast-acting inhalers for sudden symptoms and should not be taken more than twice a day. ADVAIR contains salmeterol. In patients with asthma, medicines like salmeterol may increase the chance of asthma-related death. So ADVAIR is not for people whose asthma is well controlled on another controller medicine. Talk to your doctor about the risks and benefits of treating your asthma with ADVAIR. If you are taking ADVAIR, see your doctor if your asthma does not improve. Tell your doctor if you have a heart condition or high blood pressure. Some people may experience increased blood pressure, heart rate, or changes in heart rhythm. ADVAIR is for patients 4 years and older. For patients 4 to 11 years old, ADVAIR 100/50 is for those who have asthma symptoms while on an inhaled corticosteroid.

\*People ages 12 years and older taking ADVAIR 100/50 experienced improved lung function and asthma symptom scores, and a reduction in fast-acting inhaler use, compared with people taking either fluticasone propionate 100 mcg or salmeterol 50 mcg (inhalation powders) alone.

Please see important information about ADVAIR on the next page.

Results may vary.

# ADVAIR DISKUS<sup>®</sup> 100/50, 250/50, 500/50

(fluticasone propionate 100, 250, 500 mcg and salmeterol 50 mcg inhalation powder)

## What is the most important information I should know about ADVAIR DISKUS?

In patients with asthma, long-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist medicines such as salmeterol (one of the medications in ADVAIR<sup>®</sup>) may increase the chance of death from asthma problems. In a large asthma study, more patients who used salmeterol died from asthma problems compared with patients who did not use salmeterol. So ADVAIR is not for patients whose asthma is well controlled on another asthma controller medicine such as low- to medium-dose inhaled corticosteroids or only need a fast-acting inhaler once in a while. Talk with your doctor about this risk and the benefits of treating your asthma with ADVAIR.

ADVAIR should not be used to treat a severe attack of asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) requiring emergency medical treatment.

ADVAIR should not be used to relieve sudden symptoms or sudden breathing problems. Always have a fast-acting inhaler with you to treat sudden breathing difficulty. If you do not have a fast-acting inhaler, contact your doctor to have one prescribed for you.

## What is ADVAIR DISKUS?

There are two medicines in ADVAIR: fluticasone propionate, an inhaled anti-inflammatory belonging to a group of medicines commonly referred to as corticosteroids; and salmeterol, a long-acting, inhaled bronchodilator belonging to a group of medicines commonly referred to as beta<sub>2</sub>-agonists. There are 3 strengths of ADVAIR: 100/50, 250/50, 500/50.

### For Asthma

- ADVAIR is approved for the maintenance treatment of asthma in patients 4 years of age and older. ADVAIR should only be used if your doctor decides that another asthma controller medicine alone does not control your asthma or that you need 2 asthma controller medications.
- The strength of ADVAIR approved for patients ages 4 to 11 years who experience symptoms on an inhaled corticosteroid is ADVAIR DISKUS 100/50. All 3 strengths are approved for patients with asthma ages 12 years and older.

### For COPD associated with chronic bronchitis

ADVAIR 250/50 is the only approved dose for the maintenance treatment of airflow obstruction in patients with COPD associated with chronic bronchitis. The benefit of using ADVAIR for longer than 6 months has not been evaluated. The way anti-inflammatories work in the treatment of COPD is not well defined.

## Who should not take ADVAIR DISKUS?

You should not start ADVAIR if your asthma is becoming significantly or rapidly worse, which can be life threatening. Serious respiratory events, including death, have been reported in patients who started taking salmeterol in this situation, although it is not possible to tell whether salmeterol contributed to these events. This may also occur in patients with less severe asthma.

You should not take ADVAIR if you have had an allergic reaction to it or any of its components (salmeterol, fluticasone propionate, or lactose). Tell your doctor if you are allergic to ADVAIR, any other medications, or food products. If you experience an allergic reaction after taking ADVAIR, stop using ADVAIR immediately and contact your doctor. Allergic reactions are when you experience one or more of the following: choking; breathing problems; swelling of the face, mouth and/or tongue; rash; hives; itching; or welts on the skin.

## Tell your doctor about the following:

- If you are using your fast-acting inhaler more often or using more doses than you normally do (e.g., 4 or more inhalations of your fast-acting inhaler for 2 or more days in a row or a whole canister of your fast-acting inhaler in 8 weeks' time), it could be a sign that your asthma is getting worse. If this occurs, tell your doctor immediately.
- If you have been using your fast-acting inhaler regularly (e.g., four times a day). Your doctor may tell you to stop the regular use of these medications.
- If your peak flow meter results decrease. Your doctor will tell you the numbers that are right for you.
- If you have asthma and your symptoms do not improve after using ADVAIR regularly for 1 week.
- If you have been on an oral steroid, like prednisone, and are now using ADVAIR. You should be very careful as you may be less able to heal after surgery, infection, or serious injury. It takes a number of months for the body to recover its ability to make its own steroid hormones after use of oral steroids. Switching from an oral steroid may also unmask a condition previously suppressed by the oral steroid such as allergies, conjunctivitis, eczema, arthritis, and eosinophilic conditions. Symptoms of an eosinophilic condition can include rash, worsening breathing problems, heart complications, and/or feeling of "pins and needles" or numbness in the arms and legs. Talk to your doctor immediately if you experience any of these symptoms.
- Sometimes patients experience unexpected bronchospasm right after taking ADVAIR. This condition can be life threatening and if it occurs, you should immediately stop using ADVAIR and seek immediate medical attention.
- If you have any type of heart disease such as coronary artery disease, irregular heart beat or high blood pressure, ADVAIR should be used with caution. Be sure to talk with your doctor about your condition because salmeterol, one of the components of ADVAIR, may affect the heart by increasing heart rate and blood pressure. It may cause symptoms such as heart fluttering, chest pain, rapid heart rate, tremor, or nervousness.
- If you have seizures, overactive thyroid gland, liver problems, or are sensitive to certain medications for breathing.
- If your breathing problems get worse over time or if your fast-acting inhaler does not work as well for you while using ADVAIR. If your breathing problems worsen quickly, get emergency medical care.
- If you have been exposed to or currently have chickenpox or measles or if you have an immune system problem. Patients using medications that weaken the immune system are more likely to get infections than healthy individuals. ADVAIR contains a corticosteroid (fluticasone propionate) which may weaken the immune system. Infections like chickenpox and measles, for example, can be very serious or even fatal in susceptible patients using corticosteroids.

## How should I take ADVAIR DISKUS?

ADVAIR should be used 1 inhalation, twice a day (morning and evening). ADVAIR should never be taken more than 1 inhalation twice a day. The full benefit of taking ADVAIR may take 1 week or longer.

If you miss a dose of ADVAIR, just skip that dose. Take your next dose at your usual time. Do not take two doses at one time.

Do not stop using ADVAIR unless told to do so by your doctor because your symptoms might get worse.

Do not change or stop any of your medicines used to control or treat your breathing problems. Your doctor will adjust your medicines as needed.

## When using ADVAIR, remember:

- Never breathe into or take the DISKUS<sup>®</sup> apart.
- Always use the DISKUS in a level position.
- After each inhalation, rinse your mouth with water without swallowing.
- Never wash any part of the DISKUS. Always keep it in a dry place.
- Never take an extra dose, even if you feel you did not receive a dose.
- Discard 1 month after removal from the foil overwrap.
- Do not use ADVAIR with a spacer device.

Children should use ADVAIR with an adult's help as instructed by the child's doctor.

## Can I take ADVAIR DISKUS with other medications?

Tell your doctor about all the medications you take, including prescription and nonprescription medications, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

If you are taking ADVAIR, you should not take SEREVENT<sup>®</sup> DISKUS or Foradil<sup>®</sup> Aerolizer<sup>®</sup> for any reason.

If you take ritonavir (an HIV medication), tell your doctor. Ritonavir may interact with ADVAIR and could cause serious side effects. The anti-HIV medicines Norvir<sup>®</sup> Soft Gelatin Capsules, Norvir Oral Solution, and Kaletra<sup>®</sup> contain ritonavir.

No formal drug interaction studies have been performed with ADVAIR.

In clinical studies, there were no differences in effects on the heart when ADVAIR was taken with varying amounts of albuterol. The effect of using ADVAIR in patients with asthma while taking more than 9 puffs a day of albuterol has not been studied.

ADVAIR should be used with extreme caution during and up to 2 weeks after treatment with monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors or tricyclic antidepressants since these medications can cause ADVAIR to have an even greater effect on the circulatory system.

ADVAIR should be used with caution in people who are taking ketoconazole (an antifungal medication) or other drugs broken down by the body in a similar way. These medications can cause ADVAIR to have greater steroid side effects.

Generally, people with asthma should not take beta-blockers because they counteract the effects of beta<sub>2</sub>-agonists and may also cause severe bronchospasm. However, in some cases, for instance, following a heart attack, selective beta-blockers may still be used if there is no acceptable alternative.

The ECG changes and/or low blood potassium that may occur with some diuretics may be made worse by ADVAIR, especially at higher-than-recommended doses. Caution should be used when these drugs are used together.

In clinical studies, there was no difference in side effects when ADVAIR was taken with methylxanthines (e.g., theophylline) or with FLONASE<sup>®</sup>.

## What are other important safety considerations with ADVAIR DISKUS?

**Osteoporosis:** Long-term use of inhaled corticosteroids may result in bone loss (osteoporosis). Patients who are at risk for increased bone loss (tobacco use, advanced age, inactive lifestyle, poor nutrition, family history of osteoporosis, or long-term use of drugs such as corticosteroids) may have a greater risk with ADVAIR. If you have risk factors for bone loss, you should talk to your doctor about ways to reduce your risk and whether you should have your bone density evaluated.

**Glaucoma and cataracts:** Glaucoma, increased pressure in the eyes, and cataracts have been reported with the use of inhaled steroids, including fluticasone propionate, a medicine contained in ADVAIR. Regular eye examinations should be considered if you are taking ADVAIR.

**Lower respiratory tract infection:** Lower respiratory tract infections, including pneumonia, have been reported with the use of inhaled corticosteroids, including ADVAIR.

**Blood sugar:** Salmeterol may affect blood sugar and/or cause low blood potassium in some patients, which could lead to a side effect like an irregular heart rate. Significant changes in blood sugar and blood potassium were seen infrequently in clinical studies with ADVAIR.

**Growth:** Inhaled steroids may cause a reduction in growth velocity in children and adolescents.

**Steroids:** Taking steroids can affect your body's ability to make its own steroid hormones, which are needed during infections and times of severe stress to your body, such as an operation. These effects can sometimes be seen with inhaled steroids (but it is more common with oral steroids), especially when taken at higher-than-recommended doses over a long period of time. In some cases, these effects may be severe. Inhaled steroids often help control symptoms with less side effects than oral steroids.

**Yeast infections:** Patients taking ADVAIR may develop yeast infections of the mouth and/or throat ("thrush") that should be treated by their doctor.

**Tuberculosis or other untreated infections:** ADVAIR should be used with caution, if at all, in patients with tuberculosis, herpes infections of the eye, or other untreated infections.

## What are the other possible side effects of ADVAIR DISKUS?

ADVAIR may produce side effects in some patients. In clinical studies, the most common side effects with ADVAIR included:

- |                                |                       |                                    |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Respiratory infections       | • Bronchitis          | • Musculoskeletal pain             |
| • Throat irritation            | • Cough               | • Dizziness                        |
| • Hoarseness                   | • Headaches           | • Fever                            |
| • Sinus infection              | • Nausea and vomiting | • Ear, nose, and throat infections |
| • Yeast infection of the mouth | • Diarrhea            | • Nosebleed                        |

Tell your doctor about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. These are not all the side effects with ADVAIR. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

## What if I am pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or nursing?

Talk to your doctor about the benefits and risks of using ADVAIR during pregnancy, labor, or if you are nursing. There have been no studies of ADVAIR used during pregnancy, labor, or in nursing women. Salmeterol is known to interfere with labor contractions. It is not known whether ADVAIR is excreted in breast milk, but other corticosteroids have been detected in human breast milk. Fluticasone propionate, like other corticosteroids, has been associated with birth defects in animals (e.g., cleft palate and fetal death). Salmeterol showed no effect on fertility in rats at 180 times the maximum recommended daily dose.

## What other important tests were conducted with ADVAIR?

There is no evidence of enhanced toxicity with ADVAIR compared with the components administered separately. In animal studies with doses much higher than those used in humans, salmeterol was associated with uterine tumors. Your healthcare professional can tell you more about how drugs are tested on animals and what the results of these tests may mean to your safety.

## For more information on ADVAIR DISKUS

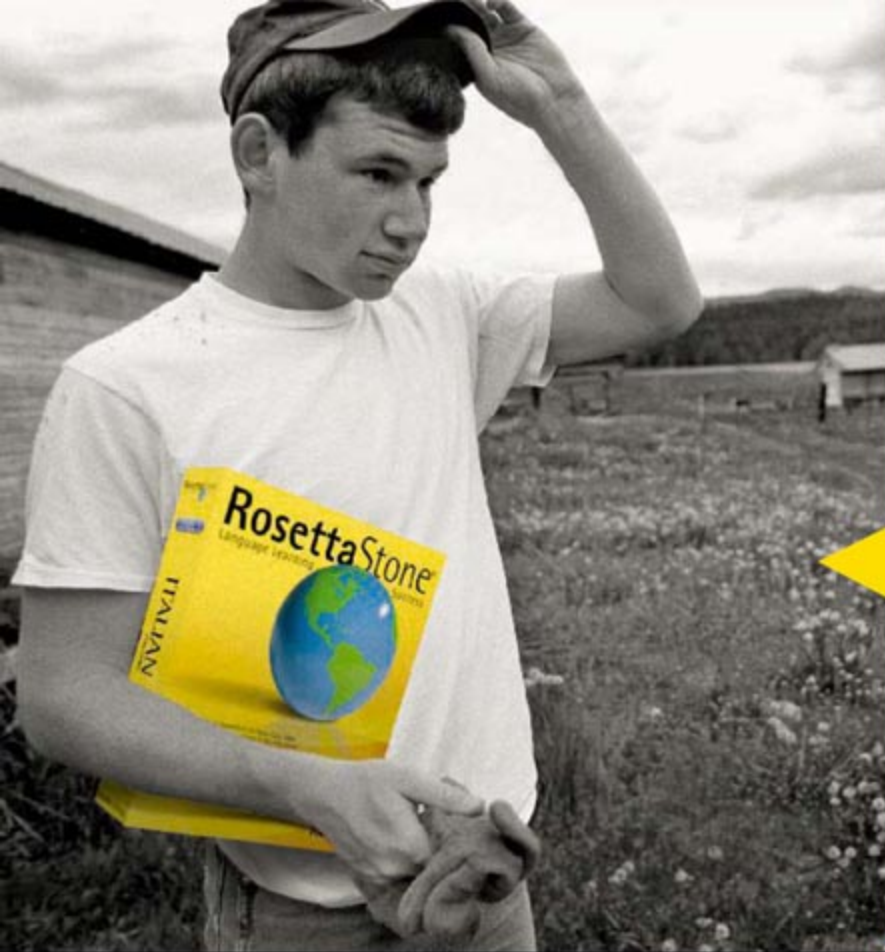
This page is only a brief summary of important information about ADVAIR DISKUS. For more information, talk to your doctor. You can also visit [www.ADVAIR.com](http://www.ADVAIR.com) or call 1-888-825-5249. Patients receiving ADVAIR DISKUS should read the medication guide provided by the pharmacist with the prescription.

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**He was a hardworking farm boy.**

**She was an Italian supermodel.**





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# A BOUNCE FOR BUSH

Steady interest rates and an expanding economy give the president some good news, for a change

By James Pethokoukis

It's not really too surprising that George W. Bush's visit to the floor of the New York Stock Exchange last week marked only the second time that a sitting president had made such an appearance. (The first was Ronald Reagan in 1985.) After all, most politicians probably think it's better to be seen as a representative of the common man and Main Street than of shiny-suited financiers and Wall Street.

But Bush's big problem right now is that instead of Main Street or Wall Street, he might be more associated with Haifa Street, the lethal "street of fear" in Baghdad where U.S. and Iraqi troops fought insurgents last month. So Wall Street's not a bad alternative for an embattled president dealing with a foreign policy nightmare, especially when he can talk up what's turning out to be a vibrant economic boom. On the same day that Bush visited the NYSE and gave an upbeat speech at historic Federal Hall in Manhattan—"consumers are confident, investors are optimistic," the president declared—the Commerce Department reported that the U.S. economy grew at a snappy 3.5 percent pace in the fourth quarter of 2006. "This was a strong number," says Joel Prakken, chairman of Macroeconomic Advisers in St. Louis, "that showed the year really ended strong."

Investors agreed, pushing the Dow Jones industrials up nearly 100 points. The economy's performance was espe-

cially impressive considering that it wasn't so many weeks ago that economists were whispering that the fourth quarter might be a "one handle"—meaning growth between 1.0 and 1.9 percent. Now instead of a "hard" or "soft" landing, bearish investment pros are talking about a "growth scare" where a surprisingly robust economy would push the Federal Reserve into raising interest rates. (The Fed, in its placid statement last week, seems to be worrying less about both weak growth and rising inflation.)

The fourth-quarter spurt brings the economy full circle. Growth started fast in 2006, up 5.6 percent in the first three months of the year, but then weakened dramatically as the housing market tanked, oil prices rose sharply, and auto production slackened. Gross domestic product grew by only 2.6 percent in the second quarter and 2 percent in the third. Yet for the year, the economy expanded by 3.4 percent—better than the 3.2 percent rate in 2005 despite all those challenges.

Even though many Americans own houses worth less than they were a year ago, they continue to spend like NBA rookies after draft day. Real personal consumption expenditures—a measure of consumer strength—rose 4.4 percent in the fourth quarter. Helping consumers afford their spending habits was a 5.4 percent jump in real disposable personal income. For the year, it climbed 2.7 percent vs. 1.2 percent in 2005. The recent drop in gas prices "means that consumers had more money in their pockets

**"The fact is that income inequality is real. It's been rising for more than 25 years."**

President Bush, on Wall Street



## The Fed Shifts Gears.

On the eve of his first anniversary as chairman of the Federal Reserve, Ben Bernanke gave Wall Street a big, fat present last week. And while it wasn't exactly what investors ultimately want—an interest-rate cut—it was the next best thing.

For the fifth straight time, the Bernanke-led Fed held short-term interest rates steady. More important, the Fed noted that the nation's inflation outlook is improving even as the economy expands.

The Fed seemed to be sending a sig-



**VISITOR.** Bush on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange

## Should You?

nal that further interest-rate hikes may not be on the immediate horizon. And Wall Street celebrated the news, propelling the Dow Jones industrial average to a record-high close.

"What you saw was a bit of a relief rally that the probability of another rate hike this year is now lower than investors previously thought," says Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's Economy.com. Barring any unforeseen hiccup in the economy, the Fed probably will remain on the sidelines for the rest of the year.

Does it matter to investors how soon

the Fed starts to ease monetary policy? If you're a long-term, buy-and-hold investor, probably not much. But many investors make tactical portfolio adjustments based on the economy's health or geopolitical concerns.

**Changeover.** Stock market leadership tends to change dramatically once the Fed begins to trim rates. Standard & Poor's chief investment strategist, Sam Stovall, has found that in "plateau periods"—when the Fed has stopped raising rates but not yet begun cutting—the stock market sectors that have fared best have been conservative segments such as healthcare, consumer staples, and utilities.

However, once the Fed actually starts trimming rates, economically sensitive areas of the market lead the way. Since 1945, the best-performing sector in the six months following the first Fed rate cut has been technology. It has posted average gains of 21 percent.

Not surprisingly, the sector that investors were most bullish on heading into this year was technology, according to a Russell Investment Group survey of investment managers done in December.

But that was when it looked as if the Fed might start to cut rates early in the year. Now with rates holding steady, it may be safer to stick with more defensive sectors of the stock market. —Paul J. Lim

than they expected," says Wachovia senior economist Mark Vitner, "and they spent it." Vitner also notes that lots of those dollars went toward buying ever cheaper flat-panel televisions. "They just flew off the shelves."

Consumers will most likely keep pulling out their credit cards while jobs remain plentiful. Which they are: Unemployment is only 4.6 percent; an average of 187,000 new jobs a month were created in 2006, plus 111,000 in January.

**Feeling the pain.** Most economists seem to agree with the Fed in predicting that growth in 2007 will be moderate, somewhere in the 2.5 percent to 3.0 percent range. Yet Bush conceded in his Wall Street speech that not everyone is fully benefiting from the five-year economic expansion and that the good top-line numbers may mask underlying economic anxiety. "I know some of our citizens worry about the fact that our dynamic economy is leaving working people behind," Bush said. "We have an obligation to help ensure that every citizen shares in this country's future. The fact is that income inequality is real. It's been rising for more than 25 years."

The admission may be a response to the populist economic message that Democrats employed to pound Republicans during the fall congressional campaigns—when they weren't talking about Iraq, of course. And Democrats have hammered away into the new year, most notably in Virginia Sen. Jim Webb's rebuttal to Bush's State of the Union speech. Webb lambasted the growing gap between CEO pay and workers' wages. "The middle class of this country," he said, "... is losing its place at the table."

Bush's response last week was to defend globalization and free trade, press the need for better education to increase middle-class incomes, and scold corporate boards for not reining in undeserved executive compensation packages. The Bush message: I care. "This speech said that 'I understand your pain, I understand things look good from the 30,000-foot, macro level but maybe not so good from the Main Street level,'" says Gregory Casey, president of BIPAC, a pro-business lobbying group. "But where was this speech six months ago?"

Whether such populist issues continue to bite six months from now will probably depend on whether income and wages, which lagged during the early part of the economic expansion, keep playing catch-up.

For now, though, Bush is happy just to have something to celebrate. ●

# L.A. Rainmaker

## Billionaire Eli Broad wants nothing less than to remake his adopted city

By Betsy Streisand

**E**li Broad never met a schedule he couldn't love. Although he is a world-class art collector, he moves through even the best museums as if he's fleeing a burning building. His regular Sunday hikes in the Santa Monica Mountains with good friend and former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan consist of Broad charging up the trail, taking in the view for five seconds, then barreling back to the bottom. A news-hound who built two *Fortune* 500 companies and a multibillion-dollar fortune, Broad (rhymes with road) whizzes through the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, and the *Los Angeles Times* each morning before most people can conquer a double cappuccino. He rarely slows down to finish a story, unless, as someone close to him puts it, "it's about him."

But it's "about him" so often these days that just keeping up with himself threatens to throw Broad completely off schedule. One of the richest (net worth \$5.8 billion), most powerful (as much clout as the mayor), and most philanthropic men in Los Angeles (and the nation), Broad is a blunt force in business, the arts, education reform, and politics. He is the city's leading cultural rainmaker, the major mover behind its \$1.8 billion downtown redevelopment, and a powerful liberal Democrat who really *can* make things happen simply by picking up the phone. For those rea-

sons alone, he has long been a familiar face in the press, particularly the *Los Angeles Times*, his hometown paper. And, if he has his way, it could be covering him from a different angle as well: as its owner.

Last month, Broad, who made his billions in real estate and insurance, and Ron Burkle, who made his in supermarkets, together joined a small group of suitors making bids for the Tribune Co., which owns the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Chicago Tribune*, among other newspapers, several television stations, and the Chicago Cubs baseball team. Under pressure from California's Chandler family, which owned the *L.A. Times* for decades and holds 20 percent of the

company's shares, Tribune Co. put itself on the block in late September. Broad, whose bid calls for a debt-heavy recapitalization of the company, is said to be vying for Tribune with at least two private-equity firms, including one that represents the Chandlers and News Corp. CEO Rupert Murdoch. None of the parties would comment on the confidential auction, which could drag on for months. Entertainment

billionaire David Geffen (the "G" in DreamWorks SKG) also has offered \$2 billion solely for the *L.A. Times*.

Broad has said that if he and Burkle get the company, which is valued at roughly \$14 billion, they may sell off most of the assets, keeping only the *L.A. Times*, which could be managed by a public trust. "I believe that a newspaper

**Born:** June 6, 1933

**Family:** Wife Edythe and two sons

**Education:** B.A., Michigan State University

**Making it:** Amassed his first million in his early 20s, his first billion in his mid-60s

**Giving back:** The Broad Foundation has spent more than \$1 billion to fund medical research, education, and the arts.



TIMOTHY ARCHIBALD FOR USNEWS

is a great civic asset and that ownership is best in the hands of foundations or wealthy families that want to own it for reasons other than maximizing profits," Broad, 73, said in an interview in the art-filled Los Angeles headquarters of the Broad Foundation. "I also believe newspapers should remain in local hands."

While that sentiment is widely shared,

not everyone thinks those hands should be Broad's. "You have to admire Eli Broad's ability to make billions of dollars. He's obviously very intelligent and has great capabilities," says Hal Vogel, a longtime media industry analyst in New York. "But neither he nor Burkle comes to mind as tremendous operating managers, and neither one of them knows

the media business."

There are other concerns as well: namely, that Broad and Burkle—not to mention Gefen—with their megafortunes and egos to match, would not be able to keep from meddling in the paper's coverage, particularly when it was directed at them. Broad, who has a reputation as a control freak's control freak, has said that he would not assume an active role in management and that he would stay out of the newsroom. "I've got enough other things going on right now to take a publishing role," says Broad, in the flat midwestern accent he acquired during his childhood in Detroit. "I'm too busy for that."

Those who know Broad well aren't buying it. "I'm not saying Eli's lying, but that's not him. Eli doesn't just write a check and get out of the way," says a close friend. "When you're trying to do the things he's doing, there's no reason to buy the *Times* unless there's some intent to shape people's thinking."

**Big checks.** That said, Broad's claims of being over-subscribed are hard to dispute. He has been building his legacy and throwing his financial weight around lately at a rate that makes his hiking pace look sluggish. In the past year alone, the former CEO of tract-home giant KB Home and annuities empire SunAmerica (now part of AIG) sank \$100 million more into the recently established Eli and Edythe Broad Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Mass. He also pledged \$25 million to the University of Southern California for new stem cell research laboratories and nearly \$9 million to establish

the Broad Fellows Program in Brain Circuitry at the California Institute of Technology. Furthering his efforts to reform public education, he gave \$10.5 million to open 21 small charter high schools in L.A. and bestowed the annual \$500,000 Broad Prize for Urban Education on the Boston public schools. On the cultural front, Broad donated \$6 million to the

Los Angeles Opera to stage Wagner's *Ring* cycle; christened the \$23 million Eli and Edythe Broad Art Center at UCLA, and broke ground on the \$60 million (all from Broad) Broad Contemporary Art Museum at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. When it is completed, it will be a home for Broad's \$1 billion-plus collection of contemporary art.

"He's a superdoer," says former Mayor Riordan, who with his gregarious nature and Republican politics plays Oscar to Broad's circumspect and left-leaning Felix. "If I had any genius when I was mayor, it was getting people like Eli to implement major projects. All I had to do was call him, and that was the beginning and the end of my work." A tireless cheer-

leader for the city, Broad was instrumental in creating the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in 1979 and spearheaded the \$135 million fundraising drive in 1996 that rescued Walt Disney Concert Hall after missteps nearly sank architect Frank Gehry's glistening landmark. Now, as chairman of the \$1.8 billion Grand Avenue Project, Broad is out to manufacture the "downtown" he believes L.A. is missing. The Gehry-designed project, with its wide sidewalks, shops, theaters, restaurants, office towers, five-star hotel, and 16-acre park, is intended to be to the city what the Champs-Élysées (aka the Champs Eli) is to Paris. "Los Angeles is divided culturally and geographically, and it needs a vibrant center where everyone can come together," says Broad, who adds that L.A.'s vastness unnerved him when he first moved here in the 1960s because he didn't understand it. Some critics think he still doesn't.

"Eli has this notion that a great city must have a dynamic downtown, and that's what a city lives by," says Joel Kotkin of the New America Foundation in Washington, D.C., and author of *The City: A Global History*. "Yet he has been living in one of the greatest cities in the world, and it's the exact opposite. L.A. is a multipolar city, and the notion that you can create New York in the middle of it without understanding the context is a mistake. He's in denial."

**Egos.** Actually, it's more like he won't be denied. Disciplined and driven, Broad isn't fazed by his critics. He is ac-

customed to being perceived as a prickly, impatient, and controlling boss, and he's fine with it. "I'd rather be respected than loved," he says. As for big egos, he believes in them. He once told former MOCA Director Richard Koshalek that egomania should be a condition of employment for high-profile job candidates, because "there's too much at risk for them to fail."

Not that failure is something Broad knows a whole lot about. Born in the Bronx to Lithuanian immigrants, he was raised in Detroit, where his father owned two five-and-dime stores. He earned an accounting degree and at 20 became the youngest person ever to pass Michigan's CPA exam. Soon thereafter, he went to work for home builder Donald Kaufman.

### As chairman of a \$1.8 billion project, Broad aims to manufacture the vibrant "downtown" that he believes L.A. needs.



**SHAKERS.** Broad, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and architect Frank Gehry

Broad surveyed the real-estate business (about which he knew nothing) and decided he and Kaufman could do better. They lowered costs (and sales prices) by eliminating basements and garages in favor of slabs and carports, and by the late 1950s Kaufman & Broad Building Co. (later KB Home) had mastered the market in Detroit's burgeoning suburbs. The company went public in 1961 (the first home builder on the New York Stock Exchange) and moved to Los Angeles two years later, where its business exploded.

With Broad now in charge, KB acquired Sun Life Insurance of America. Broad shifted the company's focus from death benefits to retirement savings, and it went on to be one of the best-performing stocks on the NYSE for more

than a decade. In 1999, AIG paid \$18 billion for the renamed SunAmerica, and Broad, a fierce negotiator, cashed in his 19 percent stake for \$3.4 billion.

Although he is the third-richest man in Los Angeles (behind Sumner Redstone and Kirk Kerkorian), Broad's persona is still more chamber of commerce than corporate celebrity. Semiretired, he still comes into the office every day, always in a suit. The Broads avoid the social limelight; they are the last people to be found at a movie premiere, and their home phone number was listed until just a few years ago. Broad jets around on his Gulfstream, taking coffee orders and serving lunch himself. At the Broad Foundation, which is decorated with contemporary masterpieces by the likes

of Jasper Johns, he often eats at his desk and drinks inexpensive bottled water—out of the bottle. "If you described someone as the typical L.A. mogul, you'd be 180 degrees from Eli," says Barry Munitz, the former president and CEO of the J. Paul Getty Trust.

Broad defines himself as a venture philanthropist, meaning he expects more than a psychic return on his money. His foundation has spent \$1.4 billion since 2000 to fund biomedical research, the arts, and especially education. Broad believes in training the good teachers like corporate managers, tossing the weak ones in favor of smart outsiders, and managing the whole enterprise *Fortune* 500 style from the top down. His foundation

runs programs that teach new school-board members how to govern big organizations. Broad even woos unions, trying to get them to embrace pay scales tied to student performance. The L.A. schools, however, have largely resisted his reforms.

Overcoming the status quo is rarely easy, even in small ways. Broad, for instance, dines several times a month at the same Italian restaurant in Santa Monica. Every time he asks the waiter to read the specials, and every time he orders veal Parmesan. "I ask him why he puts the waiter through it, and he says he might hear something new that interests him," says Munitz, a frequent dinner companion. "But you can bet your life savings that he's going to order veal Parmesan." ●



A pipeline will carry natural gas 400 miles to the Amazon port of Manaus.



# WHITHER THE WORLD'S LAST FOREST?

Brazil bets that it can save the Amazon wilderness while tapping its riches

By Mark London and Brian Kelly

**T**he flame on the horizon is startling, a tight orange cone shimmering over the tree line. After flying for almost two hours southwest from Manaus with nothing but trees and an occasional snaking brown river underneath, any sign of civilization is satisfying. The fire's source becomes clear as we approach: a sprawling series of white chimneys, part of a high-tech industrial complex that looks like a secret military installation. An army of workers in orange jumpsuits moves through a maze of pipes and steel towers and low squat buildings. We hadn't seen a town for hundreds of miles in any direction, not even a road, except for the spine of black pavement we spotted as

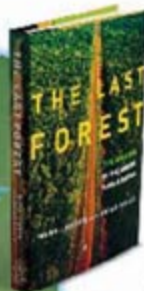
we approached this clearing. A wildcatter from Oklahoma exploring for oil in the Peruvian Amazon once said to us, "As a general rule, you have to remember the good Lord was a fine man, but he picked some godawful places to put oil." This was one of them.

The oil and gas field at the headwaters of the Urucu River lies almost dead center in the South American continent, surrounded by primary rain forest for hun-

dreds of miles in all directions. If there were a part of the Amazon that even the most worrisome environmentalist considered impenetrable, this would be it.

It's estimated that there are at least 100 billion cubic meters of gas and 18 million barrels of oil in the Urucu region. "This is not Saudi Arabia, but for Brazil it will be very helpful," said Ronaldo Coelho, who manages the site for Petrobras, the state-owned oil company.

The hydrocarbons are high quality and easily recoverable. The crude is unusually pure, bubbling out of the wellhead like espresso. "You could practically strain this through your handkerchief



From *The Last Forest* by Mark London and Brian Kelly  
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and put it in your gas tank," said Coelho as he rubbed some between his fingers. "The only issue is how to get it out of this site to a market. And that's a political problem, not a technical one." A big political problem.

Whenever an access route has been created in the Amazon, a spontaneous influx of immigrants hungry for land has emerged. Environmentalists see the gas and oil finds as a death blow to the remote western jungle, fearing that pipelines to Manaus and Porto Velho in the southwestern Amazon will open a seam of entry to empty forest and protected Indian lands, clearing the way for a torrent of loggers, miners, and cattle ranchers. The controversy over the pipelines—along with other burgeoning industries such as cattle ranching, soy farming, and iron mining—has profoundly changed the traditional debate about how to manage the Amazon—or, as many environmentalists would see it, how to save the Amazon. The construction of these pipelines will alter the rain forest but will also generate energy for millions of people. Nearly 2 million people live in Manaus alone, and they need energy. Blackouts rotate through the city daily. Lack of energy has retarded factory construction, holding back employment expansion. When Brazilian President Lula da Silva approved the pipeline to Manaus in the spring of 2004, he said, "If people want development that preserves the environment, we have to have energy. It's no good people saying the Amazon has to be the sanctuary of humanity and forget there are 20 million people living there."

The Amazon is not, and never has been, a pristine wilderness that could be fenced and preserved as an intact ecosystem. Increasingly, it is proving to be a resource-rich region of a continent that desperately needs to grow. Brazil, which contains most of the Amazon basin, is under particular pressure as it tries to reconcile its great disparities between rich and poor. And there's a voracious market for the goods, whether it's the Chinese buying steel or the Europeans buying soybeans. At the same time, the vast



The Urucu oil field stands amid the vast Amazon forest.

## The hard question facing Brazil is whether some development can prevent a lot of deforestation.

basin of freshwater and forest is a global feature of such magnitude that its destruction will only help tip a fragile global climate further over the edge. The hard question facing the various governments and organizations with a stake in the outcome is whether some development can prevent a lot of deforestation.

Every year a chunk of forest equivalent to an average-size U.S. state disappears from the Amazon. In the year ending August 2004, 16,236 square miles, about twice the size of Massachusetts, were deforested. According to Conservation International, that represents between 1.1 billion and 1.4 billion trees of 4 inches or more in diameter. This deforestation took place during a time of heightened environmentalism in Brazil, during a robust return to democracy when a comprehensive body of laws protecting the Amazon had been enacted and supported by broad enforcement powers—though often, not

the enforcement itself. The reaction of the Brazilian government and nongovernmental organizations to these annual figures can be summarized by the Yogi Berra quote, "It's like déjà vu all over again." The so-called experts annually express "shock and surprise" at the figures. The shock subsides, then reappears the following spring. Fingers point at the culprit du jour—the cattle ranchers in some years, or the soy farmers, or the migration of small families clearing homesteads. Loggers, miners, and ranchers get denounced regularly. And in response, the government usually sets aside another national park equivalent in size to a small American state. A federal department's budget gets increased by more than \$100 million, at least publicly. A government official sometimes resigns. Nongovernmental organizations use the statistics in their annual pleas for contributions. The *New York Times* writes an editorial reminding Brazil that "the rain forest is not a commodity to be exploited for private gain." The *Economist* chides Brazil for its institutions, which are "weak, poorly coordinated, and prone to corruption and influence-peddling."

But from one year to another, the process repeats itself and the Amazon shrinks. When we first traveled here in 1980, about 3 percent had been deforested. Today, more than 20 percent is gone.

That number needs some interpretation. Compared with the dire predictions of 25 years ago—that most of the forest would be destroyed by now—it actually looks good. And there's widespread acceptance that even more forest inevitably will be cleared. The problem is how that clearing is managed. Now it is haphazard and uncontrollable. The emerging consensus, at least among the key decision makers in Brazil, is that the solution is more development, not less. The argument is that development means civilization, which brings the resources to create better economic incentives and to enforce the laws. The downside is that if the Brazilian strategy doesn't work, it will be too late to change course.

"You have to understand that deforestation is not just about the environment," says

For an audio slide show: [www.usnews.com/amazon](http://www.usnews.com/amazon)

Everton Vargas, the top environmental strategist for the Brazilian Foreign Ministry. "Deforestation is an economic issue. It will not be avoided simply by saying, 'Don't cut the trees.' You have to say, 'Here's why you don't have to cut the trees.'"

Finding those incentives and making them work is a job that keeps Eduardo Braga up at night. The governor of the state of Amazonas is one of the most important decision makers when it comes to the future of the Amazon. After a long day at his office in Manaus, he slumps from the stress of trying to administer a territory as vast as the land between Chicago and Juneau, Alaska. His outer office is filled with small-town mayors who have traveled days just to meet with him. "I am constantly tired," he confides. "There is so much to do. So much space to cover."

His optimism comes from two serendipities that he inherited on taking office six years ago. The first can be found in the Zona Franca, an incongruous sprawl of modern manufacturing plants that rings the outskirts of Manaus, which was the capital of the turn-of-the-century rubber boom and now has turned into a mix of glassy high-rise condos, suburban housing tracts, and fetid Latin American slums set amid majestic but peeling colonial buildings. The tax-free Zona Franca takes in parts from international brands like Honda and Nokia and ships out finished motorcycles and cellphones. The other windfall is the natural gas discovery.

"Gas changes everything for us. It will give us the energy to allow industry to grow in Manaus. It will give us the energy in the small towns to improve their quality of life. Gas will give us the money to do other things, to improve social services here and to have programs to develop the rest of the state in a way that protects the environment."

He plans to create a network of family farms and supporting towns to provide a bulwark against uncontrolled development. "It's inevitable that people are going to invade these areas," he says. Braga sees two choices for Amazonas on its southern flank: spillover development and the resulting anarchy and violence endemic elsewhere in the Amazon, or some semblance of civil so-

ciety. "If we have roads, we can put IBAMA [the environmental protection agency] there. We can put government agencies there. We can put schools there. We can put health centers there. We can create conditions for family farms that are clearly demarcated and where people can make a living. You think that no controls means no people? No controls means that people just invade the land and do what they want. The people already are there, and we

## The governor of Amazonas state is promoting a Green Free-Trade Zone and the creation of "certified" forests.



Brazil's President Lula da Silva (left) with Amazonas Gov. Eduardo Braga

can't leave them behind like a bag of trash. We need to connect them."

But Braga also knows that the cycle of development, once started, cannot be stopped. It is based on an economic, not ecological, choice. "I understand that the small farms eventually will sell out to the big farms, and then you end up with major agricultural interests and small people in search of land. As long as using the land brings more material benefits to people than not using the land, we don't really have much chance. I hope to break the cycle."

Braga calls the program the Zona Franca Verde, or the Green Free-Trade Zone. He's promoting a range of local products to help create stable communities: guarana berries, which make a popular soft drink; jute fibers; fish farms. This comes under the rubric of "sustainable development," an ill-defined buzzword of the international development community that has so far shown mixed to disappointing results elsewhere in the Amazon.

Much more important may be large-scale forest management through the creation of so-called certified forests. Braga wants to lease timber concessions to big companies that would practice sustainable forestry by carefully harvesting and replanting trees. The companies in turn sell their lumber to U.S. and European importers who agree to buy only certified wood.

And his ultimate goal is to tie the Amazon into some sort of international carbon market that, by putting a price on the carbon contained in the trees, would create an incentive to not cut and burn them. Carbon-trading markets exist in Europe and the United States on a mostly experimental basis. If they became global, the rights to billions of trees—whether in the Amazon or other endangered forests in South Asia and Africa—could become quite valuable.

That may be far off, but Braga sees a much more immediate possibility of bringing foreign investment to Amazonas as a way to break out of the traditional Third World cycle of exporting low-priced raw materials to advanced factories in the developed world. "People want to save the forest? They want to help?" Braga asks. "We need resources to establish these

programs. Maybe Home Depot wants to build a factory here and will buy only certified wood. Let us add value here. Then we can take those profits and return them to the people." The area of Carajás has the world's greatest iron ore reserves, but there are no steel mills on-site. Trombetas has one of the world's greatest bauxite mines, but there are no aluminum mills in proximity. "It's frustrating," Braga says. "It's frustrating when the Kyoto Protocol does nothing to help us. It's frustrating when we try to open markets to products and we can't get the investment we need to support the production."

So for now, the Brazilians have decided to try to forgo the pleadings and promises of the international community and take their chances on promoting aggressive development while hoping they can control its effects. "Other countries just are going to have to trust us to take care of the Amazon," says Everton Vargas. "That's the way it'll have to be." ●

# PRIME TIME

PERSONAL FINANCE | INVESTING | RETIREMENT PLANNING



## Frank Talk on Finances

Laying bare their money secrets, bloggers trade strategies for retirement. Many are young. A few even make a buck

By Emily Brandon

It isn't easy to talk about money. When Jonathan Ping graduated from college and married, he finally achieved a steady stream of income. But his head became filled with questions like, "Should I open a Roth IRA? Which broker is best? What funds should I buy? Should I pay down my student loans first?"—topics he didn't feel comfortable discussing over

dinner or at work. So, Ping, a 28-year-old computer science student and part-time research assistant in Portland, Ore., started My Money Blog to converse with like-minded people about one of his favorite subjects—financial planning for retirement.

Like Ping, baby boomers and generation X-ers—many of them still decades away from retiring—are finding that articulating retirement goals online helps them organize and stick to their retire-

ment plans. "I think most bloggers started doing so because they didn't get the information and/or interaction they needed from their coworkers or friends," says Ping, who has been blogging for two years. "Online I can ask for additional details or why someone chose one investment over another."

**Worth.** Some bloggers regularly calculate their net worth and their attempts to make it grow. "Just the virtue of documenting my journey and recording my success and failures along the way helps me," says Brian Jaeger, 30, a Raleigh, N.C., engineer who writes 2 Million, a blog named for his goal of amassing a net worth of \$2 million. "I record monthly my net worth, and the process . . . has really helped me tune my actions toward making progress toward my goals. I have no excuses. It's all out there, and it really helps me own up to my mistakes."

For his part, Ping is actively increasing his net worth as well. "The blog helps with motivation," Ping says. "Some months, if I spend too much money and didn't save enough, then I have to blog about it and explain myself."

By having an open and honest conversation about money, many bloggers are earning dollars, too. John Nardini, the 42-year-old author of the popular Free Money Finance blog, says he makes from \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year by hosting advertising on his site. He donates the proceeds to charity. However, most bloggers make only a few hundred dollars or less each month from paid advertisements on their blogs. It's not big money, but it's extra cash for which they don't have to commute to earn.

And the perks aren't bad either. Some companies promote their books, DVDs, and products by sending them to well-known bloggers in hopes they will write about them online. "Sometimes when a company comes out with a new product, they'll actually tell bloggers ahead of time and use buzz marketing to promote their products," says Ping. "A lot of book publishers have contacted me so I can review" works about to be published.

Starting a blog just for a little cash and free stuff might be a mistake, though. Blogging daily is a big commitment. Only about 55 percent of all blogs have been updated even once in the past three months, according to Technorati, a company that tracks 63 million blogs. The rest are either neglected or abandoned. Many people write enthusiastically for the first several weeks. Then their posts become more and more infrequent. "Finding the time to really make a commitment to it can be a challenge," says Lori Woehrle, 48, the Washington, D.C.-based author of *Tuna on Rye*, a blog about "the sandwich generation" of people who are struggling to raise their own children, care for elders, and plan for retirement at the same time. Woehrle faithfully sets aside an hour each night to blog after her daughter is in bed.

**Freshness.** "Typically, the bloggers who post very regularly and every day are the ones who have the most loyal and consistent audiences and are therefore most attractive to advertisers," says Derek Gordon, Technorati's vice president of marketing. But even if you don't have time to blog every day, you can maintain an audience. "If you don't post anything



**INCOME.** Businessman John Nardini says his blog profits go to charity.

Spoils from blogging might not seem so lucrative once you consider the time a blog requires. "I once sat down and added up how many hours I have put into the blog, and it's basically less than minimum wage," says Ping, who estimates he makes over \$1,000 a month from his blog. "But if you have a passion for it and would do it anyway, why not?"

The bloggers who stick with it often find themselves to be part of a new kind of Internet community. "People think of bloggers as being these lonely people in pajamas who toil away at their computers all day long, but they are engaged and connected and really conducting two-way dialogues," says Gordon. Many personal-finance bloggers link to one another's websites and regularly comment on other blogs. Some even talk on the phone, although none of those interviewed have met a fellow retirement blogger in person. "I try to make it interactive and make people want to come and share ideas," says Jeffrey

on a weekly basis, you're still OK," says Esteban Kolsky, an analyst for the technology research firm Gartner. "But once you get into the 10-days-to-two-weeks time frame [without posting], people stop paying attention to your blog."

Picking the right topic is key. "Find a subject that you feel passionately about, and don't focus as much on making money," advises Jeff Hanson, 42, a partner with Ohio Innovation Fund in Omaha and the author of the blog *Your Way Ahead*. "I think if you go into it with the intention of making money, people will see that."

Pritchard, 37, a financial planner in Beaumont, Texas, and author of the *All Financial Matters* blog. "Some topics will get 20 or 30 comments from different people weighing in."

As bloggers discuss investment decisions they are considering, commentators aren't usually shy about giving a thumbs down to what they think is a bad move. "If you get something wrong, people will let you know," says Nardini, who is part of a six-member group of blogs called the Money Blog Network. They have banded together to share ideas and market their blogs to advertisers, so far

## All Money Talk, All the Time

**AllFinancialMatters.com.** A financial planner discusses 401(k)'s, IRAs, asset allocation, and portfolio management.

**ConsumerismCommentary.com.** To hold himself accountable for spending money, a man keeps a public record of his net worth.

**FreeMoneyFinance.com.** This blogger dispenses practical advice on maximizing income, curbing expenses, and amassing wealth.

**2MillionBlog.com.** Pledging to save \$2 million by age 45, a 30-year-old chronicles his journey toward financial freedom.

**MoneyBlogNetwork.com.** Six popular personal finance bloggers join forces in trying to improve their bottom lines.

**MyMoneyBlog.com.** This 20-something strives to make more money, spend less, and manage his finances.

**TiredButHappy.blogspot.com.** A librarian muses about money matters within relationships and families.

**seniorcare-dc.blogspot.com.** Child rearing, elder care, and retirement planning have Tuna on Rye's author "sandwiched."

**YourWayAhead.com/blog.** A baby boomer discusses ideas and plans for a financially sound retirement.

We're an organization for people who have birthdays.



We're all getting older. You, me, the neighbor next door, the mailman, the dentist, the latest heartthrob, this year's biggest movie stars, last year's swimsuit models — every last one of us. So what do we do? Do we let age define who we are and what we can do? No, we make the most of it. We work out. We eat better. We cut down on stress. We have fun. We travel to exotic places with funny names. And we make the most of every minute with our family and friends.

Above all, we continue to challenge ourselves. But this doesn't have to mean climbing Mount Everest (although several people over the age of 50 have). It could simply mean going outside for a walk or planting a garden, learning to paint or starting a book club — anything that taps our creativity. People are accomplishing amazing things at all ages. There are 50-year-olds competing in ultra-marathons and 70-year-olds winning National Book Awards and Pulitzer Prizes. And countless others in their 50s, 60s and 70s starting businesses.

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Jaeger actively seeks comments and criticisms from people all over the world about financial quandaries, like his recent \$3,500 investment in an emerging market fund. One commentator called it a "wise investment," while others posed questions about the fund, offered their own international picks, or reminded him to diversify his assets. "I certainly wasn't an expert when I started this, and I'm not an expert now," Jaeger says, "but I get a lot of feedback about whether something is a good idea."

**Secrets.** Not all bloggers are keen to expose their finances using their real names. For some, part of the mystique of blogging is keeping their identity secret as they share details about their salaries, investments, and personal money decisions. The author of *Tired But Happy*, a 30-year-old Philadelphia librarian who asked that her name not be used, enjoys reading about the financial decisions of other bloggers, comparing herself with them, and writing on her blog about money matters that are confusing or scary. But she prefers to do so anonymously. "My blog is a family finance blog where I write about what it's like to be in a relationship with someone who relates to money in a different way than I do," she says. "I couldn't write as honestly about this stuff as I do if I knew my grandmother was going to read it."

Ping's blog, on the other hand, is regularly read by his wife and relatives. "Now that my parents know about it, they read it as a way to keep in touch with my life," says Ping. His parents tell him, "You never call, so all we really know about you is what you write in your blog."

Other bloggers are worried that what they write might hurt them at work. "There's a lot of personal information I put up there," says the 30-year-old author of *Consumerism Commentary*, who works for a financial services company in central New Jersey and likes to be known by his nickname, Flexo. "In the past, I've written about looking for jobs. I wouldn't feel terribly comfortable if the people I work with knew about it."

But Nardini, the executive vice president of Denali Flavors, a Wayland, Mich., company that invents and markets specialty ice cream, found his employer to be blog-friendly. He even blogs from work with his boss's OK. "My company makes Moose Tracks ice cream, something totally unrelated to personal finance," Nardini says. "But it has allowed me to blog in exchange for the primary sponsorship position on the blog." ●

## CHECKLIST

# Take Time to Review Your Retirement Game Plan

**O**ne month into the new year, it's time to check in on your promises to yourself to start saving more for retirement. Fully 70 percent of Americans are concerned about not having enough money for a comfortable retirement, a recent Fidelity Investments study found. Here are strategies to boost your retirement savings in 2007.

✓ **Save before you spend.** "Pay yourself first, and find ways to invest automatically," says Heather Dzielak of Lincoln Financial Group. "Get in the discipline of setting aside money for your retirement." Many companies will let you automatically deposit part of your paycheck into savings or investment accounts.

✓ **Contribute to an IRA.** Most Americans are counting on individual retirement accounts to help fund their retirement. But as of 2004, only 29 percent of families owned an IRA or Keogh, with a median value of \$30,000, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI). The deadline for making a 2006 contribution to a tax-advantaged IRA is April 17, the date your federal tax return is due.

✓ **Max out your 401(k).** Be sure to contribute enough to get your employer's full match. "The way to really do well," says Ed Slott, author of *Your Complete Retirement Planning Road Map*, "is to keep putting more money in as much as you can. I try to fund all the retirement accounts I can to the max." You should also account for all 401(k) plans you've had at previous employers and consolidate them in your current employer's plan or transfer them into a rollover IRA, says Dallas Salisbury, EBRI president. Rolling a 401(k) over into an IRA allows you to avoid most

fees and penalties.

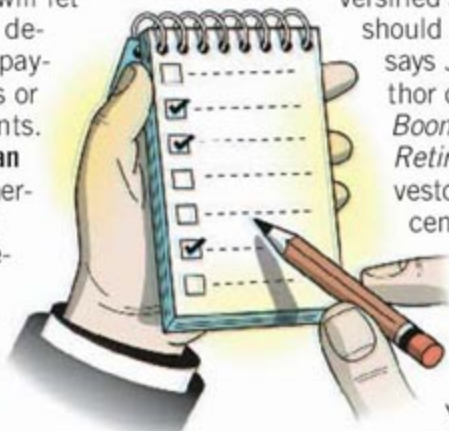
✓ **Set a retirement savings goal.** Only 4 in 10 workers have actually calculated how much they need to save for retirement, according to EBRI. And many of those created their own estimate or guessed. It's a good idea to sit down with a financial adviser or use an online calculator or retirement worksheet.

✓ **Examine your investment portfolio.** You should review your retirement accounts annually to make sure you are getting a good return on your investments. "Over the long term, diversified stocks and bonds should return you 7 percent," says Jonathan Pond, the author of *You Can Do It! The Boomer's Guide to a Great Retirement*. "The average investor makes about 4 percent." Pond recommends constructing a diversified portfolio and regularly monitoring it.

✓ **Review your Social Security statement.** You'll get a statement in the mail every year.

Check it for accuracy, and contact the Social Security Administration with any corrections.

✓ **Plan for the financial transition.** You'll need a plan to convert retirement savings into a stream of income. "It's the way you take it out that will determine how much you and your family keep and how much goes to the government," says Slott. "If you take it out the wrong way, it all goes back to the government." A financial adviser can help you determine the most tax-advantaged way to withdraw money from retirement accounts. You'll also want to double-check the beneficiary forms on all your retirement accounts. Says Slott: "Most people think that somebody else took care of this. . . . The beneficiary form is the key document that's going to determine who gets all this money you've saved." —E.B.





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## SECOND ACTS

# Another Kind of Reward

Ex-consultant now helps orphans with AIDS

By Kerry Hannon

**M**ost people wouldn't walk away from a high-paying job. But Kim Ogden did. "It was time," she says with a gentle laugh.

Ogden, 44, who had risen to partner at Bain & Co., the Boston-based management consulting firm, headed off at the end of 2002, after 14 years there. Her destination: an unpaid position as chief operating officer of Agape Inter-



**ON THE JOB.** Kim Ogden holds an AIDS orphan during a trip to India.

ner paycheck, which typically reaches seven figures for top consulting jobs.

Ogden had harbored the altruistic goal of blending challenging work with giving back to society ever since she graduated from Dartmouth College in 1984, armed with a degree in economics. She did interview with nonprofit firms after earning an M.B.A. from Harvard in 1989, but nothing met her salary objectives or offered the learning opportunity and responsibility she desired. "I figured I could pay off my student loans and be more effective later with some training," she says.

**Hitting the wall.** The years slid by, and with them came lucrative promotions. Although she struggled with the trade-off, she stayed the course, until 9/11, when a few people she knew lost their lives. "I hit the wall," she remembers. "I realized I could die tomorrow. I had been feeling I

national, a nonprofit organization in Sudbury, Mass., that cares for children in India—ages 18 months to 16 years— orphaned as a result of AIDS. In doing so, she traded in her eye-popping part-

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wasn't really doing what I was supposed to be for a long time. I asked, 'Am I pleased with what I have accomplished?' I had good intentions, but I wasn't doing anything to help those less fortunate."

In 2002, she took a six-month sabbatical. Ogden and her husband, Frank, also a management consultant, had socked away an ample nest egg. Moreover, her husband's paycheck bought Ogden some freedom.

She began volunteering with a number of nonprofits, including the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston. Then a few months into her sabbatical, she heard Lynne Guhman, who would go on to found Agape (the Greek word for unconditional love, pronounced AH-guh-pay), speak at her church about her vision for AIDS orphanages. "We clicked right away," she remembers.

Guhman, also in her mid-40s, is another corporate exile. She first visited India in 2000 and helped start an orphanage. While there, Guhman became convinced that she could make a difference for India's children whose lives have been torn apart by AIDS. Tens of

thousands of them live amid garbage in slums of plastic tents. She quit her investment management job and returned to live in India.

**Overwhelmed.** In 2003, Ogden helped Guhman launch Agape. Today, Ogden is responsible for running all of Agape's U.S. operations out of her home office. "Bain taught me how to take scarce resources and figure out how to allocate them," she says. Her background gave

**"These children just soak up the love. ...And before long, they are laughing, going to school, and playing."**

Kim Ogden, chief operating officer, Agape International

her a network of potential donors to call upon—some 400 have signed on to date, in addition to private foundations. She handles everything from accounting to fundraising and licking stamps for handwritten thank-you notes to donors, while caring for two teenage boys and a 2-year-old daughter.

In Hyderabad, a city in south-central India, a region overwhelmed by AIDS, Agape runs three orphanages, home to

130 children. Worldwide there are an estimated 15.2 million AIDS orphans (children who have lost one or both parents to the epidemic), according to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

Plans call for Agape to open two or three additional orphanages this year, as well as a 20-bed hospice. Currently, one of the existing orphanages is designated for children who are HIV positive—more will be added. "One third of our kids are HIV positive themselves," says Ogden, who recently returned from her first trip to India.

Ogden was moved by meeting the kids she is helping. "These children just soak up the love," she says, on the edge of tears. "They just want to be held when they arrive, and before long, they are laughing, going to school, and playing with the other children."

Ogden admits to sometimes missing the instant respect afforded a partner at Bain. "I've had to let it go," she says. "There's something so liberating about not caring about that anymore." Without missing a beat, she cites Luke 12:48: "To whom much is given, much is expected." ●

While science seeks answers, a mammogram is still the best defense.



# Density Danger

Women with dense breasts have a greater likelihood of cancer

By Katherine Hobson

**W**hen Pam Schmid got a baseline mammogram in her 30s, the radiologist remarked that she had dense breasts. And that was that. "I remember thinking, 'I don't know what that means,'" says the Raleigh, N.C., wellness coach, now 49. Eventually, it meant a belated discovery of cancer. In 2003, Schmid felt a lump in her breast, and it turned out she had several tumors.

After a grueling series of treatments—mastectomy, chemotherapy, radiation, and hormonal therapy—Schmid is now in remission. But she wonders if understanding the implications of breast density at that first appointment might have led to an earlier diagnosis. Doctors are only now widely realizing that a high proportion of dense, nonfatty tissue in a woman's breasts trails only her age and rare mutations in the BRCA genes at upping the odds of developing cancer. "Beyond a doubt, it's an important risk fac-

tor," says Norman Boyd, an epidemiologist at the Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto. In a study published last month in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Boyd and his colleagues reported that when at least 75 percent of a woman's breast tissue is dense, she has about five times as high a chance of developing breast cancer as someone with very little dense tissue. That's a scary stat, given that about a quarter of women are believed to hit at least the 50 percent mark. So there's a new sense of urgency

about uncovering explanations. Until now, many physicians have believed dense tissue to be dangerous only because it can cloak tumors on a mammogram. How, exactly, might it lead to tumors? Scientists don't know, though they have some ideas. Dense tissue (which shows up as the light areas on a mammogram) contains different types of connective tissue and epithelial cells, which support and line the body's organs. Epithelial cells throughout the body give rise to most tumors; in the case of dense breasts, researchers suspect that some process involving connective tissue helps nascent tumors take root and grow. (Collagen, a type of connective tissue found in tumors, is found in greater proportion in dense breasts.)

Hormones found in fatty tissue could play a role, too, says James Cerhan, an epidemiologist at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. It may in fact be a dialogue between dense and fatty tissues that increases the risk of cancer. Locating the genes responsible for breast density, researchers hope, will provide clues about the mechanism that produces cancer—and a better understanding of why some women have dense breasts and others don't.

**Next steps.** It's way too soon to say whether altering a woman's breast density might lower her risk of cancer, but researchers are exploring ways to do just that. Since density changes in response to levels of sex hormones—decreasing after a woman gives birth and as she ages and reaches menopause—it's possible that drugs might make a difference, too. It's already clear, for example, that hormone therapy that includes both estrogen and progesterone increases density by stimulating the growth of the epithelium and connective tissues. Tamoxifen reduces density by shrinking those tissues. Meanwhile, a study released last week led by Melinda Irwin, a researcher at the Yale School of Public Health, found that exercise reduced density in obese postmenopausal breast cancer survivors. There's also some evidence associating greater density with consumption of fat and alcohol, but those links have yet to be established.

While science searches for answers, women should quiz radiologists about their own breast density now. "I'm of

the school that the more you know, the more your power is," says Mary Daly, head of the Margaret Dyson Family Risk Assessment program at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. There's no need to panic. While their risk is higher, most women with dense breasts won't get cancer: Boyd says a 50-year-old woman with density in more than half her breast still has only about a 5 percent chance of getting breast cancer in the next decade, compared with about 2.5 percent for the average 50-year-old woman. But a few precautions may be in order. Talking to a doctor

searchers funded by the National Cancer Institute and the Avon Foundation will issue a preliminary report this autumn on whether there's evidence that ultrasound screening in these women can reliably pick up tumors not detected by a mammogram. If so, the American Cancer Society will review whether its screening recommendations should add ultrasound to mammography for women with dense breasts, says Robert Smith, the organization's director of screening.

In the meantime, a woman with dense breasts can ask her doctor whether it's worthwhile to seek out either technology. That may be tricky and costly—digital mammography is available in only about 15 percent of imaging facilities, for example, and insurance might not cover the full cost. About 35 percent of facilities can do ultrasound.

In any case, a mammogram is the first line of defense, says Wendie Berg, a radiologist and breast imaging consultant in Lutherville, Md., and head of the ultrasound trial. "If it's convenient, it's probably a good idea to have it done digitally, but it's less important than to have a regular one at a good facility," she says. Regular clinical breast exams are a must, too.

Pam Schmid, whose tumor didn't show up on a mammogram, is a big proponent of the low-tech self-examination. She felt a lump during her regular check, agreed to a wait-and-see period of six months, then insisted on an ultrasound. One tumor showed up, and a subsequent MRI revealed four. Schmid urges women to ask their radiologists to explain mammogram results, find out the density percentage of their breasts, consider further imaging, and trust their intuition.

At this point, there are clearly more questions than answers about density and cancer. But because of the number of women affected, the implications of finding answers are huge, says density researcher Jack Cuzick, head of the department of epidemiology, mathematics, and statistics at the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine in London. Assuming that it is possible to lower risk by lowering density, he says, getting women with 50 percent density down to 15 percent "could eliminate a third of breast cancer." ●

## A CLEARER PICTURE?

Regular film mammograms (right) remain the gold standard. But other, more sensitive technologies are in use or under study for certain groups of women, including those who have dense breasts. They may be expensive and hard to find, but if you're at elevated risk of breast cancer, talk to your doctor about:



**Digital mammography.** Computer-generated testing works about as well as regular mammograms in most women, but it is more effective at spotting trouble in younger women and those with dense breasts.

**Ultrasound.** At the moment, ultrasound—which uses sound waves to create an image of the breast—is prescribed as a follow-up to evaluate lumps and other abnormalities.

**Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).** This supersensitive test produces a lot of false positives and is more onerous than mammography. It's not used as a general screening test but rather as a tool to assess known cancers or to screen women at very high risk of breast cancer.

**Digital tomosynthesis.** This new technology creates a 3-D picture of the breast using multiple X-rays. It may find cancers not seen on a mammogram. For now, tomosynthesis is available only for research purposes. But stay tuned. —K.H.

about the potential danger of using combined hormone therapy may be wise, for example. The jury's still out on other interventions.

And there's good reason to be extra diligent about being screened, possibly by one of the newer technologies (box). A study published in 2005 showed that digital mammograms are more effective than traditional ones using X-ray film at detecting cancer in women with dense breasts. Studies of ultrasound's power have also been promising; re-

Edited by Margaret Mannix

## Gearing Up for a Flu Shutdown

**T**he feds want everybody to start planning for a flu pandemic—now.

Last week the government rolled out a strategy for communities if a flu pandemic of any variety, avian or otherwise, hits. "Pandemic influenza is not necessarily imminent, but we believe it's inevitable," says Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And since there probably won't be enough vaccine—the best protection—on hand at the start, she adds, localities should implement other measures. They include asking infected people and their household members to stay home from work, dismissing schools and clos-



ing child care programs, canceling public gatherings, and arranging for employees to work from home. "Closing schools makes sense," says John Bartlett, professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and director of the Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies. "Children have always been the vectors of influenza."

**Flu conduct.** The feds have also created a pandemic severity index, modeled after the hurricane ranking system, which will be posted at [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov). Consumers can play a role too,

experts say, by practicing basic flu etiquette: covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands frequently, and staying home from work and keeping kids out of school when sick. "We don't have high-tech answers to these problems," says Jonathan Fielding, director of public health for Los Angeles County. —Sarah Baldauf



## Tainted Air May Harm the Heart

Researchers at the University of Washington in Seattle report that women who live where levels of air pollution produced by car exhaust and power plants are high have a greater-than-average risk of developing heart problems and of dying from them. Over several years, the team tracked the health of almost 66,000 postmenopausal women living in various metropolitan areas, none with previous

heart disease. Every additional 10 micrograms per cubic meter increase in the levels of smoke and dust translated to a 24 percent increase in the risk of a heart attack or other cardiac problem. Joel Kaufman, the epidemiologist and internist who led the study—which appears in the *New England Journal of Medicine*—theorizes that the pollutive particles may encourage hardening of the arteries. Prior research suggests men are also at risk.

—Katherine Hobson

## Slothfulness May Sideline You

Men who are troubled by erectile dysfunction may want to get up off the couch and make a lifestyle change: namely, adopt a regular exercise routine. A new survey published in the current issue of the *American Journal of Medi-*

*cine* found a strong association between physical inactivity and impotence. Men who admitted to watching more than five hours a day of television or who considered themselves "less active" than other men their age were almost three times as likely to have the problem as their more active peers. About 18 percent of American men over the age of 20 were found to have erectile dysfunction. About half of men with diabetes or cardiovascular disease are affected. —Adam Voiland



## Unequal Treatment in the ER

If you're an African American man with chest pain, you're 25 to 30 percent less likely to get standard tests like a chest X-ray to detect a heart attack than if you're a white male, according to a new study of 7,000 patients. Women and people on Medicaid or Medicare also get fewer tests. "This suggests a real bias in the healthcare system," says Gary Green, an ER physician at Johns Hopkins Hospital and a coauthor of the study in *Academic*

*Emergency Medicine*. Hospital staffs are not openly bigoted, he says, but may be making unconscious judgments about patients that result in a lower standard of care. If patients don't get these tests, Green adds, they should ask why. —Josh Fischman

Information on heart disease, erectile dysfunction, and other conditions is at [www.usnews.com/besthealth](http://www.usnews.com/besthealth)

By Bernadine Healy, M.D.



## One Puff Above the Limit

**R**EST EASIER, ROBBERS. THE COPS HAVE some new villains to track down. They're called smokers. Recently, police in Bangor, Maine, took on the job of ticketing people spotted puffing on cigarettes in their cars if children under 18 are onboard. Last year, Arkansas and Louisiana enacted similar bans, and many other states, including New Jersey, New York, California, Kansas, and Utah, are considering them. Some propose fines as high as \$500—and jail time.

To be sure, public policies like advertising bans and smoke-free public places have been highly effective in reducing exposure to second-hand smoke. And the goal of these new laws is just as laudable. But this particular anti-smoking campaign has more than libertarians concerned that government is going too far in policing behavior and trouncing privacy. Next, the health police could ticket parents for buying children junk food or for letting them get too much sun at the beach. A more practical and immediate concern, however, may be whether enlisting the police to punish smokers will improve children's health.

Smoking is an ugly habit. It pollutes the air with toxic vapors that can be inhaled by innocent bystanders. This seems to explain why nonsmoking spouses of smokers face a small but increased chance of lung cancer. For children, as pointed out by the surgeon general's 2006 report "The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke," homes filled with smoke increase youngsters' risk of respiratory problems like bronchitis, pneumonia, and asthma attacks. The report also revealed that Mom's smoking has a greater negative effect than Dad's. But it's not just smoking during pregnancy that can do damage. The lungs of infants and toddlers are also vulnerable to passive smoke, a risk that trails off and disappears as children grow older and move into their teens. What does not disappear, however, is a child's risk of becoming an active smoker, facing a greater chance of cancer and heart disease later on in life.

There are few data on smoking in cars per se. The danger is inferred because of smoke concentration in a contained space. You might also infer that people so into their cigarettes that they have to light up in the confines of a car represent a pretty hard-core group of smokers.

Smoking them out of their cars will only drive these tobacco addicts to light up more in their kitchens and family rooms, out of sight or reach of the health police.

**Singled out.** But even among those who have not yet become addicted, the threat of a ticket may not be a deterrent. Over the past 20 years, more than 30 states have enacted laws imposing hefty fines, court appearances, loss of driver's licenses, school suspensions, or other penalties on teenagers caught buying, possessing, or using tobacco. But these penances haven't worked very well. Neither policymakers nor police are enthusiastic about punitive approaches, and the laws are often enforced in an erratic and seemingly selective way. This suggests another problem for the smoking police: The odds are that the adults they will be singling out for smoking in cars with underage passengers will be disproportionately poor, uneducated, and female, as today's smokers are tilted toward lower incomes and less formal schooling. And even though more men smoke than women, more often than not, women will be the ones ferrying young children around in cars. They're called Moms. So be real. Will a \$500 fine or 30 days in jail improve the well-being of these often-disadvantaged mothers and their children?

A former professor of mine used to preach that when caring for a child, be sure to "build up Momma."

Remember to tell her what a good job she's doing, and help her when she may be struggling. Momma is the one who bears the major responsibility for young children, day in and day out. She—no offense, Dads—is the one who typically sets the tone for health behavior in the home. Yet young women are taking up smoking in droves, and in what seems to be a curious fact of gender biology, once hooked it's harder for them to quit than men. Women respond differently to smoking cessation programs and may also face more intense withdrawal symptoms.

Most parents who smoke want to give it up and sure don't want their kids to start. Moms may be just the pressure point for change. But don't punish them. Encourage, educate, and motivate them, and provide programs tailored to assist them in kicking their addiction. Help smokers become better mothers. And let health experts, not cops, walk the smoking beat. ●

Police in some states will ticket smokers driving in cars with minors onboard.

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## Why We Can't Leave

**O**UR HYPERACTIVE PRESIDENT'S WALKABOUTS, radio talks, interviews, conferences on energy, the economy, and obesity—and his recent State of the Union address—find him looking well and speaking well, but rather in the manner of the Wizard of Oz. When the curtain is drawn back on the big flashing pronouncements, the Wizard is revealed not as a powerful magician but someone who can't even dispossess a wicked witch of her broomstick without the help of a young girl, her little dog, a scarecrow, a toothless lion, and a tin man. (Cast those characters yourself!) The only thing that is melting before the wizard's eyes is not the wicked witch but the wizard's own support in the country, in the Congress, and within his own party.

George W. Bush bet his presidency on Iraq. And now he's betting his party's future on it. If the new troop "surge" fails, it will destroy the Republicans' reputation on national security for at least a generation.

The president said, "Nothing is more important at this moment in our history than for America to succeed in the Middle East, to succeed in Iraq." He's right. Abandoning Iraq would plunge the country we went to war to save into

a grim horror movie. The Iraqi government cannot stop sectarian killing when it is able to call on the world's most powerful military. Who can expect it to do so if the Americans leave? Indeed, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi professionals—physicians, academics, and the like—have divined the answer and fled to other countries.

**Unbelievable horrors.** Of course, most Americans believe the nightmare in Iraq simply cannot get much worse. Wrong—it most certainly could. Advocates of a "phased" withdrawal of our troops must reckon with the certainty of a serial disaster: a full-blown civil war spreading a contagion of violence across the region, with Iran virtually uncontainable. Our enemies, as the president said, would emerge with new safe havens, new recruits, and new resources. The head of the CIA, Michael Hayden, put it starkly: "An al Qaeda victory in Iraq would mean a fundamentalist state that shelters jihadists and serves as a launching pad for terrorist operations throughout the region and against our own homeland." A premature pullout would condemn Iraq and the region to unbelievable horrors. It would be a historic victory for our Islamic enemies. If America is defeated in Iraq, a victory in the broader war on terror will be impossible. And unlike what happened after Viet-

nam, the enemy will undoubtedly follow America home.

How the president must rue his idealized concept of the war, and his obstinacy in persisting with the "too little, too late" way it was conducted. The desire for democracy in Iraq is a noble one, but democracy is not achieved by a single election. It was exhilarating to see so many Iraqis proudly raising their inky voting fingers in the face of threats, but installing democracy is different from organizing an election. Democracy requires security. It requires civil institutions, of which Iraq had none, except for the mosque where Islamists organized to the detriment of dreams of a secular state. It requires respect for the rule of law, for which the Shiite and Sunni extremists have only contempt. It requires tolerance for minorities, but in Iraq today people are murdered daily because of their name or the street where they live. Indeed, those elections had counterintuitive consequences for they divided the country into three sectarian communities and hardened the differences among them.

As for the "plan" the president proposed, it is, like "democracy," a mere bromide. Putting 21,500 more troops into Baghdad may well be repeating the error of undercommitment, which doomed Bush's Iraq venture in the

**The odds of success sure aren't great, but pulling out of Iraq is exactly the wrong thing to do and would create a nightmare of unimaginable proportions.**

first place. The plan, the president tells us, requires the elected Iraqi government to do things for which it has shown no enthusiasm and, indeed, about which it has been obstructionist. Bush may insist that the weaselly prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, listen. But Maliki has only one ear, it seems—for Moqtada al-Sadr, the firebrand Shiite cleric and sworn foe of America. On CNN last week, Maliki again poured cold water on the Bush plan for Baghdad.

This, of course, should have come as no surprise. Back in June, in Operation Together Forward, the president vowed that "a joint effort" would be made by 26,000 Iraqi soldiers, backed by 7,200 mostly U.S. forces, to secure Baghdad's violent streets. No more than 9,000 Iraqi soldiers showed up. Then there was Stage II of the operation. Of the six battalions supposed to join an additional 5,500 Americans, only two showed up. A half-year into this critical joint undertaking, the U.S. has committed 15,000 soldiers to the mission. Iraqi combat forces in Baghdad have never numbered more than 10,000.

The continual failure of Maliki to deliver brings to mind the quote from *Henry IV*: "I can call spirits from the vasty deep," says Owen Glendower. To which Hotspur replies: "But will they come when you do call for them?" ●

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