

# **Most Americans want cleaner media\_50304**

April 30, 2004  
Posted: 5/03/04

## **Most Americans want cleaner media**

WASHINGTON (RNS) Three-quarters of Americans think the entertainment industry needs to reduce the amount of sex and violence in movies, television and music, a recent Gallup Poll revealed.

Most Americans said they are offended by the sex, violence and profanity in entertainment, and 75 percent said the industry should make a serious effort to reduce offensive images.

More than 60 percent said they are offended by the violence in entertainment, 58 percent by the profanity, 58 percent by sexual content and 52 percent by homosexuality.

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## **Two-thirds of Americans upset about moral climate of the**

# **nation, but most younger Americans are gene**

April 30, 2004

Posted: 5/03/04

## **Two-thirds of Americans upset about moral climate of the nation, but most younger Americans are generally satisfied**

WASHINGTON (RNS)—An annual Gallup Poll found that nearly two-thirds of Americans are dissatisfied with the country's moral and ethical climate.

But the same poll showed younger people seem to be less pessimistic than their elders.

Gallup's annual Mood of the Nation poll found that 64 percent of Americans are dissatisfied with the country's moral climate, while 35 percent say they are satisfied.

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## **American religious activity**

# **increases, makes people happier, polls indicate\_50304**

April 30, 2004

Posted: 5/03/04

## **American religious activity increases, makes people happier, polls indicate**

WASHINGTON (RNS)—An annual look at the nation's religious behavior by Barna researchers has found an increase in religious practice beyond the sanctuary, while church and Sunday school attendance has remained relatively stable.

Meanwhile, a different poll indicates Americans who are religiously active—particularly those who give financially to faith communities—are more satisfied with life than those without strong faith.

The survey by Barna Research Group found increases in Bible study and small groups—excluding Sunday school and other church classes—over the last decade for all Christian churches.

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## **Nations choose violence**

# **because they see God on their side\_50304**

April 30, 2004  
Posted: 5/03/04

## **Nations choose violence because they see God on their side**

**By Jeffrey Macdonald**

*Religion News Service*

BELMONT, Mass.-Terrorists are not the only ones who increasingly hear God's call to arms.

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## **San Saba churches busy following up after evangelistic rally\_50304**

April 30, 2004  
Posted: 5/03/04

# San Saba churches busy following up after evangelistic rally

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

SAN SABA-God moved among the people of San Saba, with nearly one resident in five making a commitment to Christ at a recent evangelistic crusade. Now the churches are moving, trying to contact everyone who made a decision.

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## Tidbits\_50304

April 30, 2004

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## Texas Tibits

**TBM conducts essay contest.** Texas Baptist Men is conducting a Father's Day essay contest. Boys can choose one of three writing topics: "Why I want to be like my dad," "My dad is the greatest because ..." and "The greatest lesson my dad taught me is ...." Essays from students in grades 1 to 3 should be 25 to 75 words; in grades 4 to 6, they should be 75 to 100 words; and in grades 7 to 12, they should be 100 to 200 words. Essays must be submitted to Keith Mack, Texas Baptist Men, 333 N. Washington, Dallas 75246 or [mack@bgct.org](mailto:mack@bgct.org) by June 1. For more information, call (214) 828-5354.

**Tamez named border consultant.** David Tamez, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista in Tyler, has been named border region consultant for the Baptist General Convention of Texas Church Multiplication Center. He will help facilitate church starting from El Paso to Brownsville. Before he became pastor in Tyler in 1997, Tamez was professor of pastoral ministries at Seminario Teológico Bautista Mexicano in Mexico City. He holds a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and is a doctoral candidate at the University of Liverpool in England.

**Student journalists win.** The student newspapers at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and Houston Baptist University and the UMHB yearbook won multiple awards at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association convention in Austin. In addition to individual awards received by staff members of the publications, the UMHB Bluebonnet yearbook placed first overall in its division, the UMHB student newspaper, The Bells, placed second and the HBU student newspaper, The Collegian, placed third. The Bluebonnet staff also was recognized recently by Taylor Publishing Company with an award of excellence for design and coverage.

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## **TOGETHER: Lottery slots are a bad bet for Texas\_50304**

April 30, 2004

Posted: 5/03/04

## **TOGETHER:**

### **Lottery slots are a bad bet for Texas**

If you have played video games, you know their almost-hypnotic appeal. The gambling industry exploits that by pushing video lottery terminals-VLT slots. They have been called the “crack cocaine” of gambling. Psychologists say video gambling accelerates addictive behavior through speed, nonstop playing, the perception that skill is involved and the game's hypnotizing effect.

Why is this important? The Texas Legislature, with the strong support of the governor, is looking at putting VLT slots in Texas racetracks. This also opens the door to casinos.

Under the guise of “helping the children,” the gambling industry is pouring millions of dollars into campaign contributions to get another leverage point by which they can make extravagant profits off Texans. Gambling profits wind up more in the pockets of international firms in Malaysia, South Africa and Nevada than in Texas.

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**Fine arts majors more spiritual  
than science or business  
majors, UCLA survey**

# indicates\_50304

April 30, 2004

Posted: 5/03/04

## **Fine arts majors more spiritual than science or business majors, UCLA survey indicates**

**By Kevin Eckstrom**

*Religion News Service*

LOS ANGELES (RNS)-Are biology majors a bunch of godless evolutionists and business students cold-hearted capitalists? Are art and music students the ones truly in touch with their spiritual sides?

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## **Cybercolumn for 5/03 by John Duncan: Simple things\_50304**

April 30, 2004

Posted: 5/03/04

# CYBERCOLUMN: Simple things

**By John Duncan**

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, thinking about simple things. The British poet John Keats once quipped, "Stop and consider! Life is but a day; a fragile dew-drop on its perilous way."

John Duncan
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I'm sitting here with morning dew under my feet, pondering the simple things in life. Jesus used simple things to discuss the kingdom of God—golden treasures stored in lock boxes; wedding banquets in their gala and festive joy with wedding garments like white dresses and a banquet table loaded with delicious food; fruit trees minus figs for a story; plush seats at banquet tables and rough roads with potholes on a narrow way; lamps full of oil for light; a widow sweeping the house while looking for a lost coin; a shepherd searching in the open fields for a lost sheep; farmers plowing fields and planting seeds in expectation of a bountiful crop; storms that blow in at midnight and houses built on a rock; a mother crying over her wayward son and a troubled son who leaves home and returns amid tears and a party on the porch; bread and lights on a hill and simple words like, "Follow me."

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# Storylist for 4/05 Issue\_40504

April 30, 2004

## Storylist for 4/05 issue

### GO TO SECTIONS:

- [Texas](#)
- [Baptists](#)
- [Faith](#)
- [Departments](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Bible Study](#)

### FRONT PAGE ARTICLES

- [No break from ministry for student missionaries](#)
- [Church struggles to learn legal lessons from bus accident](#)
- [Fort Worth evangelist shares gospel message by](#)
- 
- [No break from ministry for student missionaries](#)
- [Buckner marks 125 years of ministry to children, families and the elderly](#)
- [Buckner honors BGCT, Park Cities, orphans' home alumnus](#)
- [How high is the cost of discipleship for missionaries today?](#)
- [Faith-based ad consortium created](#)
- [Baylor Health Care gifts total \\$5.7 million](#)
- [Church earmarks \\$10,000 of missions offering to BWA](#)
- [Help youth succeed by focusing on strengths, speaker urges](#)
- [Experts discuss proper role of religion in public education](#)

- [Archaeologist finds life lessons in ancient relics](#)
- [Logsdon, Wayland partner to bring master of divinity program to South Plains residents](#)
- [BHS employees nap for good cause](#)
- [Christian social workers challenged to transform profession](#)
- [Texas Baptist disaster relief volunteers say they want to serve where God is working](#)
- [Wayland and Kenyan college partner to train church leaders](#)
- [On the Move](#)
- [Around the State](#)
- [Texas Tidbits](#)

### **IS YOUR CHURCH SAFE & LEGAL?**

- [Church struggles to learn legal lessons from bus accident](#)
- [Agency suggests questions to ask when selecting a charter company](#)
- [Privacy policies designed to protect children from predators](#)
- [Establishing a driver policy can help keep church out of court, lawyers say](#)
- [15-passenger vans pose rollover crash risk, extra safety measures needed, agencies say](#)

### **Previously posted on 3/26**

- [Country church believes new life may rest on the other side of the nearby](#)

[cemetery](#)

- [Baptist aid worker injured in Iraq shooting continues recovery in Dallas](#)
- [Fort Worth evangelist shares gospel message by clowning around the world](#)
- [Building campaign helped unify, strengthen congregation, Mineral Wells pastor testifies](#)



- [How high is the cost of discipleship for missionaries today?](#)
- [CBF, World Vision, Buckner & Kenyan Baptists partner to help AIDS orphans](#)
- [Organization's online auction site sells collectibles to benefit missions](#)
- [Baptist mission volunteers favor construction projects, survey says](#)
- [Baptist Briefs](#)

### **Previously posted on 3/26**

- [Baby Boot Camp offers six weeks of basic training for first-time mothers of newborns](#)
- [Dispute between Shorter College, Georgia Baptists headed for state's Supreme Court](#)



- [Student worship leader followed circuitous rout](#)
- [Modern CD reclaims ancient hymn](#)

### **Previously posted on 3/26**

- [Worship works when leaders relate honestly to each other, Swindoll says](#)



- [Bible exhibit a labor of love for its curators](#)

## **FAITH & SPORTS**

- [Fellowship of Christian Athletes marks 50 years of campus Jesus huddles](#)
- [Good Sports league offers haven from profanity, pressure](#)
- [Sports Idolatrous or just good clean fun for Christians?](#)

## **Previously posted on 3/26**

- [Around the world, Moms in Touch lift up children in prayer](#)



- [Court hears arguments for, against 'under God' in pledge](#)
- [Experts discuss proper role of religion in public education](#)
- [Two-thirds of Americans dissatisfied with moral climate, Gallup Poll says](#)
- [Most Americans claim belief in literal truth of Bible stories, new poll shows](#)

## **Previously posted on 3/26**

- [Revised Federal Marriage Amendment draws mixed reviews](#)
- [Study shows minister surplus, but few willing to serve in small churches](#)



- [Classified Ads](#)
- [Cartoon](#)

- [Texas Baptist Forum](#)

- [On the Move](#)

- [Around the State](#)



- [EDITORIAL: Buckner Christ's presence today](#)

- [EDITORIAL: More churches need to go bivo](#)

- [DOWN HOME: Tax time reminds him of wife's love](#)

- [TOGETHER: Journey to Georgia 'unforgettable'](#)

- [ANOTHER VIEW: Baptists & Pentecostals stand stronger on common ground](#)

- [Cybercolumn by John Duncan: The quality God blesses](#)

- [Cybercolumn by Jeanie Miley: A necessary task in changing times](#)

- [Texas Baptist Forum](#)



- [LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for April 11: Worship is proper response to resurrection](#)

- [LifeWay Family Bible Series for April 11: God's grace gives testimony to his great love](#)

- [LifeWay Explore the Bible Series for April 18: Paul gives Timothy his final marching orders](#)

- [LifeWay Family Bible Series for April 18: Jesus Christ is the church's one foundation](#)

[See articles from previous issue 3/22/04 here.](#)

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# **Some teens cut themselves to block out emotional pain, counselor says\_41904**

April 30, 2004

Posted: 4/16/04

## **Some teens cut themselves to block out emotional pain, counselor says**

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

DALLAS—Teenagers in church youth groups may be cutting themselves to relieve emotional pain, a counselor recently warned North Texas youth ministers.

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# **Warning signs of obsessive-compulsive disorder highlighted\_41904**

April 30, 2004

Posted: 4/16/04

## **Warning signs of obsessive-compulsive disorder highlighted**

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

DALLAS—Self-mutilation is not the only type of obsessive-compulsive disorder affecting youth, counselor Carrie Beard told youth ministers at a recent seminar. The disorders can be as varied as the people afflicted, but they share some common traits.