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“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

VOL. CLIII . . No. 52,915 +

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NEW YORK, MONDAY, JULY 19, 2004

ONE DOLLAR



Left, Andrew Redington/Getty Images; Associated Press

Celebrations in Scotland and Illinois

Todd Hamilton and his fans at his hometown course in Oquawka, Ill., exulting over his victory in the British Open. SportsMonday, Page D1.

At Riggs Bank, A Tangled Path Led to Scandal

By TIMOTHY L. O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON, July 18 — Riggs Bank, which for years billed itself as “the most important bank in the most important city in the world,” now finds itself the most scrutinized bank in the most unforgiving city in the world.

The Senate’s Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations has concluded that Riggs executives and bank regulators, even after the events of Sept. 11, 2001, failed to monitor suspicious financial transactions involving hundreds of millions of dollars.

A report it released last week in connection with a hearing on the bank’s operations gives a detailed picture of events that snowballed into a financial scandal and appear to have ended the venerable bank’s independence. On Friday, the parent of Riggs announced that PNC Financial Services of Pittsburgh had agreed to buy it for \$779 million. Still, Riggs, and those who ran it, face more regulatory, Congressional and law enforcement investigations.

The controversy that has shaken Riggs has sent tremors through the industry. Regulators acknowledge that, despite the impetus provided by the terrorist attacks, there are holes in their ability to analyze and prevent possible abuses of the nation’s financial system.

To seal those holes, the federal government is considering overhauling the way it polices the activities of banks. Such changes might involve investing a single agency with greater authority to enforce laws against money laundering and terrorist financing, according to regulators and

Continued on Page A15

Single Evangelical In Need of Advice? Books Have Plenty

By GINIA BELLAFANTE

By any standard, Michelle McKinney Hammond qualifies as a prolific writer. In less than a decade, Ms. Hammond has written 20 books, 5 of them published in the past 18 months, and nearly all are devoted to helping Christian women navigate the territories of love, dating and self-empowerment.

Close to one million copies of her books have been sold, and Ms. Hammond’s talks at churches and Christian conferences draw thousands of women.

In one of her most popular titles, “Sassy, Single and Satisfied,” which has sold 150,000 copies since its release last year, Ms. Hammond, who is 46 and single, asks, “Why do we feel that if we are not married, we are not free to enjoy life to the fullest?”

Ms. Hammond is perhaps the most visible face of a growing evangelical advice industry for single men and women that borrows more from the vernacular of psychotherapy than theology, and advances the discussion of romantic attachments beyond a focus on chastity.

Traditionally, Christian-themed books about dating have been intended for teenagers and college students. In recent years, recognizing that Americans of all faiths are mar-

Continued on Page A14

Putting Weakened Heart in Experimental Hands

By DENISE GRADY

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Lying on the operating table, his thin arms outstretched to either side, Ric Ray spoke little as doctors and nurses in masks and scrubs descended on him with needles, scalpels and intravenous lines. It was 7:35 a.m.

Shaving Mr. Ray’s chest with a few quick razor strokes, an anesthesiologist asked, “When was your heart attack?”

“March 8, 1987,” Mr. Ray replied.

“How old were you?”

“Thirty-five,” Mr. Ray said softly.

The heart attack did so much damage that Mr. Ray’s heart never recovered, but weakened steadily over the years. In 1990, when his daughters were 5, 12 and 15, he had to retire from his engineering career. By this year, his heart was pumping so little blood that he became short of breath just walking around the house, and his leg muscles, starved for oxygen, burned as if he were running a mara-

LAST RESORTS

Second article of a series.

thon. At 52, he had end-stage heart failure.

A few months ago, he began to think the time had come for a heart transplant, something he had tried to put off for as long as possible. A new heart might not buy him more than 10 years, he was told; he and his family hoped for more time.

A transplant surgeon suggested another possibility: a clinical trial, an experiment designed to find out whether medicines and certain types of heart surgery could help people with heart failure and blocked coronary arteries.

The experiment, at 90 centers around the world, is to include 2,800 patients who will be followed for seven years. Sponsored by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, it is called Stich, for surgical treatments

for ischemic heart failure. (The word ischemic refers to inadequate blood flow.)

Mr. Ray joined Stich and was assigned at random to undergo a risky operation at Ohio State University Medical Center, which would include bypass surgery to improve blood flow to his heart muscle as well as a more drastic procedure: cutting open his heart to reshape it, get rid of some scar tissue and help it pump more efficiently. For comparison purposes, others in the study will receive medicine alone, or medicine and bypass surgery.

Mr. Ray’s surgeon, Dr. Robert E. Michler, chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Ohio State, said the study was being done because doctors did not know the best way to treat patients like Mr. Ray, with scarred, failing hearts and blockages in the arteries that feed blood to the heart muscle itself. Although there is a

Continued on Page A14

INSIDE



Dado Galdieri/Associated Press

Bolivians Approve Natural Gas Referendum

In a show of support for President Carlos Mesa, voters in Bolivia approved a referendum that lets private companies continue to export natural gas. In the village of Ajllata, indigenous Aymara Indians voted.

PAGE A6

Information Hot Line: Soon for Tourists, Too

Just in time for the Republican National Convention next month, the Bloomberg administration plans to expand the city’s information hot line, 311, to help tourists find out about concerts, museum exhibits, restaurants, theaters and even last-minute street closings. The information will also be stored in a special database to be used after convention-goers depart.

PAGE B1

Tiny Agency Outdoes Rivals

A comparatively small intelligence agency, with no spies, no satellites and a reputation for contrariness was the closest to being right on Iraq and illicit weapons.

PAGE A10

9/11 Panel to Push Overhaul

Members of the 9/11 Commission plan an aggressive lobbying campaign to press the White House and Congress to overhaul the nation’s intelligence agencies.

PAGE A11

Israeli Leaders Seek Unity

As the Palestinian government continued to struggle in disarray, Israeli party leaders met in an effort to form a parliamentary majority and proceed with a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

PAGE A3

France Scolds Sharon

France criticized Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel for urging French Jews to emigrate to Israel to escape what he called “the wildest anti-Semitism.”

PAGE A3

Intel’s Wireless Plan

The Intel Corporation is pushing to translate its dominance of the computer microprocessor market into expertise in building chips for mobile devices.

BUSINESS DAY, PAGE C1

Crackdown After India Fire

As Indians mourned victims of a fire that killed 90 schoolchildren in Kumbakonam, the state of Tamil Nadu ordered all schools to immediately stop holding classes in any room with a thatched roof.

PAGE A7



Dibyanshu Sarkar/Agence France-Presse—Getty Images

Kerry Building Legal Network For Vote Fights

Bush Team Also Ready to Deploy Lawyers

By DAVID M. HALBFINGER

Mindful of the election problems in Florida four years ago, aides to Senator John Kerry, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, say his campaign is putting together a far more intricate set of legal safeguards than any presidential candidate before him to monitor the election.

Aides to Mr. Kerry say the campaign is taking the unusual step of setting up a nationwide legal network under its own umbrella, rather than relying, as in the past, on lawyers associated with state Democratic parties. The aides said they were recruiting people based on their skills as litigators and election lawyers, rather than rewarding political connections or big donors.

Lawyers for the campaign are gathering intelligence and preparing litigation over the ballot machines being used and the rules concerning how voters will be registered or their votes disqualified. In some cases, the lawyers are compiling dossiers on the people involved and their track records on enforcing voting rights. The disputed 2000 presidential election remains a fresh wound for Democrats, and Mr. Kerry has been referring to it on the stump while assuring his audiences that he will not let this year’s election be a repeat of the 2000 vote.

“A million African-Americans disenfranchised in the last election,” he said at the N.A.A.C.P. convention in Philadelphia on Thursday. “Well, we’re not just going to sit there and wait for it to happen. On Election Day in your cities, my campaign will provide teams of election observers and lawyers to monitor elections, and we will enforce the law.”

The Kerry campaign’s legal efforts are hardly occurring in a vacuum.

The Bush-Cheney campaign says it will have party lawyers in every state, covering 30,000 precincts. An affiliated group, the Republican National Lawyers Association, held a two-day training session in Milwaukee over the weekend on “how to promote ballot access to all qualified voters,” according to the group’s Web site.

Lawyers for nonpartisan advocacy groups conducting voter registration drives are also working behind the scenes and in court to ensure that their new registrants make it onto the rolls and that their ballots are counted.

But it is the campaign of Mr. Kerry that appears to be doing the most to apply lessons from the Florida recount and that is adopting the more fiercely partisan posture in the early going.

Its plans include setting up SWAT teams of specially trained lawyers, spokesmen and political experts to swoop into any state where a recount could be needed.

“The U.S. has had a policy of being

Continued on Page A12

Late Edition

New York: Today, mostly cloudy, a shower, high 80. Tonight, gradual clearing, low 70. Tomorrow, partly cloudy, a late storm, high 85. Yesterday, high 78, low 72. Details, Page B8.

IRAQ GIVES ORDER TO REOPEN PAPER G.I.’S HAD CLOSED

GESTURE TO SHIITE CLERIC

In Sign of New Tactics on Militants, Premier Lets U.S. Strike Falluja

By IAN FISHER

BAGHDAD, Iraq, July 18 — Prime Minister Iyad Allawi on Sunday ordered the reopening of a radical Shiite newspaper closed by United States soldiers nearly four months ago. The closing was a catalyst for some of the worst anti-American mayhem of the occupation.

Dr. Allawi’s decree concerning the newspaper, Al Hawza, was a pointedly conciliatory gesture to Moktada al-Sadr, the rebel Shiite cleric whose associates run the newspaper. The decree came on the same day as Dr. Allawi approved an American airstrike meant to pound another branch of insurgent fighters, in the city of Falluja, a center for attacks on American and Iraqi forces here.

Together, Dr. Allawi’s two actions seemed early evidence of his stated strategy for taming the deadly insurgency by making concessions to fighters who cooperate and cracking down on those who do not. It is unclear, however, how much influence he has with the American military, though American officials said the airstrike in Falluja was carried out after Dr. Allawi had endorsed it.

[But violence in Baghdad continued. On Monday, a suspected car bomb blew up outside a police station in the southwestern part of the capital shortly after 8 a.m., killing at least eight people and wounding four police officers, Reuters reported, citing Iraqi officials, witnesses and the American military.]

[Lt. Adnan Qathan of the Iraqi National Guard said eight people had been killed in the blast, and another guardsman, Wissam Abdel Sattar, said he believed all were civilians. Officials at the Yarmouk hospital said they were treating 52 people who had been wounded.]

At least 11 people were reported killed in the Falluja airstrike early on Sunday morning against what the American military said were forces allied with Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Mr. Zarqawi, a Jordanian militant with reported ties to Al Qaeda, has claimed credit for much of the worst violence in Iraq, including three beheadings in recent weeks and two car bombs on Saturday. The militants in Falluja are largely members of Iraq’s minority Sunni sect and foreign fighters.

Hours after the airstrike, Dr. Allawi announced in a statement that because he believed in freedom of the press he would allow the reopening of Mr. Sadr’s newspaper. It had been padlocked March 28 by American soldiers acting on orders of L. Paul Bremer III, the former occupation chief, because he said it had incited anti-American attacks. The

Continued on Page A10

Europe Fears Islamic Converts May Give Cover for Extremism

By CRAIG S. SMITH

ST-PIERRE-EN-FAUCIGNY, France — The Courtailier brothers grew up in this medieval Alpine town, children of a butcher who went broke, who divorced his wife and moved to a job in a meatpacking plant far away. Two of the three brothers, David and Jérôme, educated in Catholic schools, founded in drugs until they found religion: Islam.

Within five years of David’s initial conversion at a mosque in the British seaside resort of Brighton in 1996, the brothers embraced many of the leading lights of Europe’s Islamic terror network. David, 28, is now in jail, and in late June, Jérôme, 29, turned himself in to the police in the Netherlands, days after he was convicted by a court there of belonging to an international terrorist group.

The Courtailiers are part of a growing group of people who found a home in Islam and then veered into extremism, raising concerns among antiterrorism officials on both sides of the Atlantic that the new recruits could provide foreign-born Islamic militants with invisibility and cover, by escaping the scrutiny often reserved for young men of Arab descent.

A handful of Westerners have already been arrested on terrorism charges. Their experiences, the authorities fear, could foreshadow a deepening problem.

“Converts will be used for striking

more and more by jihadist circles,” said Jean-Luc Marret, a terrorism expert at the Strategic Research Foundation, in Paris. “They have been used in the past for proselytism, logistics or support, and they are operationally useful now.”

Islam is Europe’s fastest-growing religion, and many experts say that while there are no reliable statistics, they believe that the number of converts has grown since Sept. 11, 2001, in many ways because of the campaign against terrorism.

Antoine Sfeir, a French scholar who is writing a book on the trend, said a small number of converts, many of them disaffected and often troubled young people, saw the current wave of Islamic terrorism as “a

Continued on Page A8

NEWS SUMMARY

A2

Arts E1-8
Business Day C1-10
Editorial, Op-Ed A16-17
International A3-10
Metro B1-6
National A11-15
SportsMonday D1-9

Obituaries B7 Weather B8

Classified Ads C9 Auto Exchange D10

Updated news: nytimes.com
Tomorrow in The Times: Page B8