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Inbox

Weighing Influence

I ENJOYED THIS YEAR'S TIME 100, FEATURING the most influential people in the world [May 14], especially the stories of everyday [and] unsung heroes like U.S. Army Captain Timothy Gittins, Chinese blogger Zeng Jinyan and construction worker Wesley Autrey, who saved a man's life in the New York City subway. They prove you don't have to be a politician or a billionaire to do the right thing. In the end, simple acts of humanity and justice can change the world. I look forward to discovering what I can do to help our fragile planet.

John Jacob, EAST LANSING, MICH.

I AM PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN citizen and manage to stay fairly well informed. My views on current global affairs may be largely apolitical and often bipartisan, but I felt surprise and shock to see that President George W. Bush was missing from your list of the 100 most influential people. All things considered, I think it was a serious mistake.

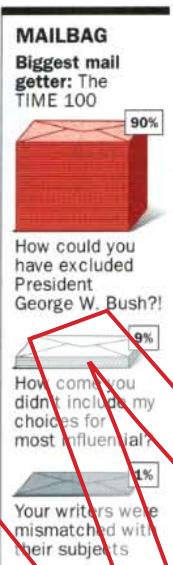
Raviprakash Govindrao Dani LUBBOCK, TEXAS

I CHUCKLED AS I WATCHED TV PUNDITS galore proclaim TIME irrelevant because Bush was not on the A list. If TIME is so yesterday,

'M.I.T. students may know the difference between a quark and a lepton, but if they do not learn integrity, they will have learned nothing at all.'

Mitchell R. Lester, WESTPORT, CONN.

Behind the curve *Marilee Jones, dean of admissions at M.I.T., resigned because of her false résumé*



why were they discussing it? First of all, the TIME 100 was divided into several categories, which narrowed the number of slots that Bush was eligible to fill. And as the pundits went on to decry the supposed snubbing of the leader of the one superpower, they failed to separate the man from the office. Bush is steadily losing the respect of the world as his record of failed policies grows. A man who has to wield the power of his office with ever increasing threats is not displaying leadership. TIME is right. Bush's actions do not qualify him for a place on the list.

Linda Bleakley BELLA VISTA, ARK.

AS A LONG-TERM SUBSCRIBER, I was deeply disappointed that you chose creationist Michael Behe to write the piece on biologist Richard Dawkins. Dawkins is a prominent and well-respected scientist and a highly successful science educator for the lay audience. In marked contrast, Behe's writings and public appearances have damaged science education and practice in this country. Of all of the distinguished scientists and writers TIME might have chosen to describe Dawkins and his work, it is astonishing that your magazine settled on Behe. This terrible error of judgment is indicative



BOPPING TO A NEW BEAT SEPT. 8, 1975

If the Hustle, the dance with partners, is a sign of things to come, I embrace it.

CLASSIC LETTER Dancing with a partner is prettier and friendlier than just standing opposite someone thinking your own thoughts, doing your own thing. It is a social grace, nicer than saying hello and it is fun to exchange bon mots while dancing with an old friend or someone you have just met.

Above all there is something joyous about dancing. There is a sense of taking part and a sense of accomplishment as one fits the steps to the music. It is too bad that the name of the new dance is not more romantic, but then I guess the young people would not like it.

Ginger Rogers EAGLE POINT, ORE.



of either inexcusable ignorance about the state of modern science or a deliberate willingness to help perpetuate the mythology that the theory of evolution is a controversy rather than a fact comparable to the theory of gravity.

Michael R. Freeman, Ph.D. Harvard Medical School, BOSTON

STEPHEN HAWKING, A BRILLIANT MIND explaining secrets of the universe while fighting a debilitating illness, and Bill Gates, who is using the world's largest private fortune to solve some of the world's most pressing problems, are among the most influential people of not only our time but all time. Rosie O'Donnell, however, has left her mark by simply parading as television's opinionated egomaniac. Unfortunately, such errors of omission and commission could put TIME in line to be ranked among the 100 least influential publications.

Stephen Landman, LOUISVILLE, KY.

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Religion is one of the most provocative topics in American society today. We invite you to find a special collection of TIME articles on religion and spirituality at Time.com/ReligionPages – and explore the relationship between religion and a range of topics including science, sexuality and American democracy.



God vs. Science

Nov. 13, 2006 | By DAVID VAN BIEMA
Religion and science have clashed throughout history. Now more and more Americans are coming to a middle ground by seeing the two as complementary responses to the mystery and wonder of the unknown.

Mother Teresa's Crisis of Faith

Aug. 24, 2007 | By DAVID VAN BIEMA
One of the world's greatest religious icons, it now appears, experienced a "shameful secret" – numerous periods of tremendous doubt in the divine. How Mother Teresa's spiritual journey may look like yours.

How the Democrats Got Religion

July 12, 2007 | By NANCY GIBBS AND MICHAEL DUFFY
The Democrats—and left-leaning religious groups—are finally finding their religious voice after recognizing the folly in having ceded the values debate to Republicans. How will religious America react to this new trend?

Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Thomas Jefferson

July 5, 2004 | By WALTER KIRN
Jefferson was man with a tantalizing inner complexity and a strong belief in the goodness of mankind. How would the author of the Declaration of Independence and a leading proponent of the separation of church and state view today's America?

The Case For Teaching the Bible

Apr. 2, 2007 | By DAVID VAN BIEMA
Proponents suggest that studying the Bible in public schools is essential to being a well-rounded student and an engaged citizen. But can it be taught objectively, and constitutionally?

Einstein & Faith

Apr. 16, 2007 | By WALTER ISAACSON
A combination of awe and rebellion helped shape not only Einstein's science, but also his spiritual journey, ultimately determining the nature of his faith.

The Evolution Wars

Aug. 7, 2005 | By CLAUDIA WALLIS
Darwin's theory of evolution is widely regarded as the rational explanation for the diversity of life on Earth, grounded in decades of study and objective evidence. Now along comes the intelligent-design movement—the latest attempt to discredit this famous theory.

What Does God Really Think About Sex?

June 24, 1991 | By RICHARD OSTLING
Three decades after the sexual revolution began percolating through American society, the relationship between God and sex again sends some of the country's largest religious denominations into turmoil as they debated whether to liberalize their standings.

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