

# MY GOD IS BETTER THAN YOUR GOD.

**Anna Nicole Smith**  
1967-2007

In the none-too-lasting existence of Vickie Lynn Hogan, as she was born, she circumnavigated the life cycle of celebrity as quickly as others lose and gain weight (which she also did). Smith rocketed to fame and plummeted to disgrace. She married into money and then had to fight to the Supreme Court to get it. Everything seemed to come too easily—but then, like her men, never stay long.



**Max Roach** 1924-2007

AS A FOUNDER OF BEBOP, THE INVENTIVE BANDLEADER made percussion a star player, melodically driving rhythms disturbed by loud bass-drum beats, sudden silences and erratic rifting. Roach, who anchored seminal recordings by Charlie Parker and Miles Davis, later composed for theater, tried hip-hop and formed an acclaimed all-percussion band.



**Marcel Marceau**  
1923-2007

If you hate mimes (it's a common prejudice), blame the poor imitators of this eloquent pantomime artist, not the man himself. A hero of the French Resistance, Marceau was an international postwar sensation playing the silent Everyman trapped in a cage or walking against the wind. In Mel Brooks' *Silent Movie* he spoke the film's only word: *Non!* But his life was one long affirmative, revealing the possibilities in a smile, a shrug, the will to move on.



**Kurt Vonnegut** 1922-2007

HE SURVIVED THE BOMBING OF Dresden in 1945 (by taking shelter in a slaughterhouse) and a suicide attempt in 1984 before time—a favorite target of his tar-black humor—finally caught up with him. Both cynical and sentimental, furious and full of good-fellowship, Vonnegut combined defiantly idiosyncratic temperament with a universal approachability. He distilled the dissatisfaction of his entire species in the cauldron of his boiling brain. "We are what we pretend to be," he warned in the intro to his novel *Mother Night*, "so we must be careful about what we pretend to be."



# UNDERSTANDING BUILDS RESPECT.

Religion is one of the most provocative topics in American society today. We invite you to view a special collection of TIME articles on religion and spirituality at [time.com/ReligionPages](http://time.com/ReligionPages)—and explore the relationship between religion and a range of topics, including American democracy, science, the environment, gender identity and sexuality.



## Gay Family Values

July 16, 2007 | By TIM PADGETT  
With the number of children in the U.S. waiting to be adopted at uncomfortably high levels, states are beginning to legalize adoption by gay and lesbian couples. How does this impact the kids, and will this trend eventually lead to gay marriage?

## The Case for Teaching the Bible

April 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?

## God vs. Science

Nov. 13, 2006 | By DAVID VAN BIEMA  
Religion and science have clashed throughout history. A debate between prominent scientists in TIME's pages took up the question of whether the two can be seen as complementary responses to the mystery and wonder of the unknown.

## The Battle Over Gay Teens

Oct. 10, 2005 | By JOHN CLOUD  
Gay teens are coming out these days in greater numbers and at an earlier age. While they're finding much more acceptance now than in the past, some groups are offering support for gay youths as they are, while others are offering promises to help them change.

## 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.

## God of Our Fathers

July 5, 2004 | By WALTER ISAACSON  
They would agree or disagree with the display of the Ten Commandments in public spaces or the inclusion of "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, one thing is certain: The Founding Fathers would unquestionably disapprove of using religion as a political wedge to divide Americans instead of unite them.

## Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Thomas Jefferson

July 5, 2004 | By WALTER KIRN  
Jefferson was a 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 Challenges We Face

Aug. 26, 2002 | By JEFFREY KLUGER and ANDREA DORFMAN  
It's not about saving the planet. It's about saving ourselves—the human species—from extinction. How well-planned, well-executed sustainable development may be the ticket to a healthier, livable planet.



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