

## UPDATE

PRESIDENT HINCKLEY AWARDED  
MEDAL OF FREEDOM

ON 23 JUNE, President Gordon B. Hinckley celebrated his 94th birthday in Washington, D.C., where he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush.



President Hinckley is congratulated by President Bush

During the White House ceremony, Bush stated that President Hinckley “inspired millions and led efforts to improve humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and education funding across the globe. His tireless efforts to spread the word of God and promote

goodwill have strengthened his faith, his community, and our nation.”

Other 2004 Medal of Freedom recipients include Pope John Paul II (who received his medal in the Vatican), golfer Arnold Palmer, and actresses Rita Moreno and Doris Day.

FIRST PRESIDENCY DISCOURAGES  
CIRCULATION OF STATEMENTS

WEEKS AFTER A report of remarks by Elder L. Tom Perry at an Idaho stake conference received wide Internet circulation, the First Presidency issued a letter read from ward pulpits discouraging members from passing to others statements they hear from General Authorities or notes they take during conferences.

“From time to time statements are circulated among members which are inaccurately attributed to leaders of the Church,” reads the letter, as published in the *Salt Lake Tribune*. “We encourage members of the Church to never teach or pass on such statements without verifying that they are from approved Church sources such as official statements, communications, and publications.”

The letter also addresses notes that members take of addresses by General Authorities: “Any notes made . . . should not be distributed without the consent of the speaker. Personal notes are for individual use only. True spiritual growth is based on studying the scriptures, the teachings of the Brethren, and Church publications.”

People

**Exposed.** JAY S. BYBEE, at the center of controversy surrounding prisoner abuse by U.S. troops in Iraq. Bybee, a Latter-day Saint and BYU law school graduate confirmed in 2003 for a lifetime appointment to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, is the author of an August 2002 document, now often referred to

as the “Bybee memo,” advising the federal government that it could authorize a wide variety of extreme techniques to extract information from prisoners without violating federal torture law or international treaties. The narrow definition of torture in Bybee’s memo has been latched on to by some as evidence that soldiers at Abu Ghraib prison may have felt emboldened in their abuse, thinking it was encouraged by those at the highest levels of command.

**Under deliberation.** The future of GLENN TAYLOR HELZER, the charismatic leader of a California cult group accused of killing and dismembering five people and dumping the remains into the Sacramento River. According to court testimony, Helzer planned to hasten the Second Coming by sending South American orphans to Salt Lake City to kill the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve. Helzer, who had been excommunicated from the LDS Church in 1998, planned to then become Church president himself.

**Crowned.** KEN JENNINGS, an elders quorum president from Murray, Utah, the longest consecutive running champ in *Jeopardy!* history. At SUNSTONE press time, Jennings was still

champion with a seventeen-day cumulative winnings total of \$552,959. Naturally well-prepared in categories such as religion or the Bible, Ken admits to having studied arduously in preparation for liquor-themed categories. “I guess I should tell my bishop just how much I know about bartending,” he quips.



**Honored.** OMAR M. KADER, a Palestinian-American Latter-day Saint and former Brigham Young University professor was awarded an honorary doctorate from Weber State University for his peace advocacy and long-time service as a voice for the Palestinian people. Kader also delivered Weber’s commencement address, in which he shared the story of his father’s immigration to the United States and discussed the importance of taking risks.

**Named.** ROBERT KIRBY, “Favorite Columnist” for the sixth consecutive year in the *City Weekly’s* survey of Utahns’ favorite people and places. Kirby is well-known to many SUNSTONE readers for his regular column in the Saturday edition of the *Salt Lake Tribune* in which he frequently discusses Mormon-related issues in a light-hearted yet serious way. Kirby has also recently become a member of the Sunstone Foundation board of directors.



In his 21 March visit to the Kuna Idaho stake, Elder Perry reportedly told the audience that the Twelve even eat chocolates and go through doors in order of seniority. He also allegedly stated that although President Boyd K. Packer is the most inspirational of men, when the president occasionally gets irate, Elder Perry has taken on the job of kicking him in the shins. A CES memorandum repudiated a widely circulated email version of the remarks, but members of the Kuna Stake say the email justly summarizes Elder Perry's statements (see SUNSTONE, May 2004, pp. 76-77).

### MANHATTAN STAKE CENTER GETS "CELESTIAL MAKEOVER"



Artist's rendering of the Manhattan Temple with steeple and Angel Moroni addition; inset, the temple today

FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE RENOVATION, three floors of the New York New York Stake Center were dedicated 13 June as the Manhattan Temple. The edifice stands on Columbus Avenue, a block from Central Park.

The exterior, still under renovation, will include a corner spire that will give the building a mosque-like appearance. A similar multi-purpose building stands today in equally crowded Hong Kong, where, as President Gordon

B. Hinckley quipped, \$10 million will buy a piece of property the size of a postage stamp.

### CHURCH ISSUES NEW POLICY FOR SELLING GARMENTS

LDS LEADERS ARE taking steps to ensure that those who buy

temple garments are LDS. According to a 1 June letter issued by the First Presidency, beginning on 1 August, members purchasing garments will be asked to provide either a temple recommend or their ID and date of birth so Beehive clothing personnel can verify their "endowment status."

Some observers believe the new policy reflects an effort to prevent Temple Square protesters from desecrating garments during general conference and to stem the recent surge in the sale of garments through online auctions such as eBay

The purchase of ceremonial clothing has already been restricted for some time to current temple recommend holders.

### FLDS BUILD COMPOUND IN TEXAS

WHEN DAVID S. Allred began to build several residences on a 1,300-acre ranch just outside the small, west Texas town of Eldorado, he told neighbors the com-



compound would be a corporate hunting retreat. But the truth is now out—the outpost will be home to many members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the secretive polygamist sect on the Utah-Arizona border.

During a 28 April meeting with Sheriff David Doran, FLDS leaders apologized for their initial deception about the nature of their building project. They said they had done so to avoid negative news media and to not overburden local officials. FLDS leaders say the new compound will consist initially of five buildings and will house some two hundred of prophet Warren Jeffs's followers.

Texas has no law banning polygamy, but according to Doran, consummating a marriage with a girl sixteen years of age or younger would be a felony.

### Solar Flare

**Golden Questions for the Golden Tanned.** While through the years many missionaries have been reprimanded for letting their hair grow too long, some elders from the Salt Lake South Mission have recently been chastised for getting theirs cut. According to a recent *Salt Lake Tribune* story, a group of LDS missionaries had become regulars at Bikini Cuts, a new Sandy, Utah, salon staffed by beautiful young women whose year-round cosmetologist uniform consists of a skimpy bikini.

"I'll tell you what, [the missionaries] were doing their work," says store owner Bethany Prince. "They were actually trying to convert the girls."

Other Sandy Mormons are also patronizing the establishment. According to Prince, an LDS woman who originally intended to chastise the stylists found the service so professional that she left with a stack of business cards and a bumper sticker announcing, "My Stylist Is Hotter Than Yours!"

In a November 2003 column about this new-to-Utah business, the *Tribune's* Robert Kirby quipped, "My wife doesn't care if I get my hair cut by a scantily clad woman. She knows I would only give myself a migraine trying to see without my glasses."



CAL GRONDAHL, FREEWAY TO PERFECTION