

FROM THE EDITOR

WE GET IT

By Dan Wotherspoon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. *Sunstone Gallery*. Months ago, while Elbert Peck and I worked on SUNSTONE together, we created an "Ideas for the Future" file. One of the best notes in that file was to call Michael Schoenfeld, a photographer Elbert knew and whose work he admired. Elbert showed me some of Schoenfeld's photographs, and I was captivated as well, especially by his portraits. They were playful; they were interesting; and best of all, they offered brief but piercing glimpses into their subject's lives. Schoenfeld seems to be one of those with that knack—that Richard Avedon, Annie Liebovitz, Arnold Newman ability—to create portraits that allow something in a subject's soul to shine through. We thought it would make a great SUNSTONE feature to turn Schoenfeld loose with some of our favorite Mormon personalities, and see what he'd come up with.

So, we're very excited to present in this issue the first of we hope many portraits by Schoenfeld for SUNSTONE. For the first portrait in what we've decided to call, simply, the Sunstone Gallery, we asked Schoenfeld to photograph the multi-talented Ardean Watts. Please turn to the centerfold (pages 40–41) to see the result.

Schoenfeld has told us he's going to have fun doing these pictures. We're expecting it to be great fun for all of us as well!

2. *Reflections—11 September 2001*. Sunstone forums are naturally reflective: the topics we engage at our symposiums and in the pages of the magazine reflect the issues and ideas being discussed in conversations around us. This is as it should be. We are never better than when we host timely discussions, than when speakers and authors pose interesting questions generated by their gospel study or when they use LDS concepts or categories of understanding to shine a new light on important trends or events. In this spirit, we believe it is important to devote

pages in this and coming issues to reflections on the terrible, world-altering events set in motion on 11 September.

We have chosen three short pieces to lead off this series. The first, "Late Night Thoughts on the Terrorist Attacks on America" by Robert Rees (page 64), wrestles with some of the theological issues the tragedies naturally raise. Rees's essay also fits well in this issue that dedicates about half of its pages to celebrating Eugene England, for the essay's title recalls one of Gene's writings about the Persian Gulf War, "Late Night Thoughts at the End of a War" (*Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 24:1, spring 1991, page 7). The two other essays, by James Sterba (page 67) and Dennis Potter (page 70), bring the specifics of the attacks and the United States's responses into dialogue with the philosophical and theological tradition known as Just War Theory. Sterba, a well-respected theorist and advocate for pacifism, provides an explanatory introduction to different forms of pacifism and how his concept of "just war pacifism" might guide U.S. policy. Meanwhile, Potter wrestles with what might constitute a "just" response by engaging the Book of Mormon story of Nephi's slaying Laban and the Lord's commandments to the early Latter-day Saints about when it is and is not proper to use violence against their enemies (D&C 98).

In future issues, we're planning to publish an article on Mormon responses to violence, reflections from a Latter-day Saint woman who has been married to a Muslim for more than twenty years and who has lived among Muslim women in Libya, and interviews with Mormons engaged in interreligious dialogue and conflict-resolution efforts. We are also hoping to publish accounts of 11 September experiences from Mormons living in New York City and Washington, D.C. We've gathered a few so far but would love to receive more. Please send us your stories or leads about locating others.

3. *News and Update section editor*. We are pleased to announce that long-time Sunstone friend and contributor Hugo Olaiz has officially agreed to edit our News and Update section. We say "officially" because, if you know Hugo, you understand this job is just an extension of what he naturally enjoys and has already been doing for us. Of our many friends who keep their eyes open for interesting or fun news items to pass to us, Hugo has been by far our most active.



HUGO OLAIZ

Hugo is a Ph.D. candidate in Hispanic linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley, and he holds a master's degree in Spanish from Brigham Young University and a degree in Letters from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata in Argentina. He and John-Charles Duffy are currently developing an encyclopedia of Mormon Studies to be published by Signature Books in 2003.

Thanks to Hugo, we now have a specific email account for news tips and story suggestions: <sunstonenews@atbi.com>. Please note it, and use it! We'd also be very interested in knowing what types of stories you want SUNSTONE to cover or other ideas you have for this section.

EDITING THIS ISSUE

I HAVE A great job. As I write this, I have been with Sunstone for nearly a year. What a whirlwind! But most of all, what a blessing it has been to meet and work with so many wonderful people in furthering the foundation's important missions. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly and for your support and feedback about our efforts.

Although with each magazine issue I have been gaining confidence as an editor, I never imagined I'd be called upon to put together a tribute issue to Eugene England. It is still very difficult to believe that he is gone from among us. How could we even dare begin a project like this?

Well, we found the courage by following the lead of Gene's family. In concert with them, we simply plowed ahead, not always certain where we were heading, but knowing we had to try. (For an example of faithfully moving forward, read the section about Gene's work on the Food for Poland campaign.) While working with the Englands, we had days when the pain from losing Gene made it just too hard to make our way through the tasks before us, but we'd always regroup and move ahead.

I can't express the privilege it has been to work with Charlotte in preparing this issue. Before coming to Sunstone, I had never met her. While reading her "Pillars of My Faith" essay for the July 2001 issue, I began to sense what a special person she is. But my admiration for her has grown immensely through this latest experience. She's the real deal. No wonder Gene always felt like the luckiest man alive.

All the England children are likewise talented, supportive, and unique, and each has contributed something important to this issue. About a month after Gene's passing, I met with Charlotte and daughters Jennifer and Jane to begin planning what we might include. Charlotte then contacted the people on our list of possible contributors. All responded enthusiastically (and some even by our deadlines!).

Daughters Katherine and Jody each contributed touching pieces. Jody's husband, Mike Hansen, provided a disk containing nearly two hundred photos of Gene and the England gang that made photo management for this issue a breeze. Son Mark provided the small line drawings representing a few of the things Gene loved most. You'll find them sprinkled throughout various articles and essays. Jane returned from several weeks overseas in time to help with final editing. But most of all, we have had Rebecca. She has

helped with everything from selecting pictures, to carefully reading of each essay and remembrance (she's a former managing editor of *Dialogue*), to calling me on my many late evenings at the office to make sure I wasn't working too hard. One night, she even had her husband Jordan Kimball bring us much-welcomed sandwiches. What a great friend! What a talented and unique family! Thank you for allowing me to work with you on this special project.

GETTING GENE

HERE'S a fun motif in the film *As Good As It Gets*. The dysfunctional protagonist, Melvin Udall, a writer played by Jack Nicholson, is smitten by Carol Connelly, a waitress played by Helen Hunt. Each time they begin to draw closer to each other, Melvin accidentally offends Carol with an unwitting comment. In order to help repair the hurt, Carol insists that Melvin pay her a compliment "and really mean it."

The best compliment comes in the movie's final scene when Melvin tells Carol:

I might be the only person on the face of the earth that knows you're the greatest woman on earth. I might be the only one who appreciates how amazing you are in everything that you do, and

how . . . in every single thought that you have and how you say what you mean and how you almost always mean something that's all about being straight and good. I think most people miss that about you. And I watch them wondering how they can watch you bring them their food and clear their tables and never get that they have just met the greatest woman alive. And the fact that I get it makes me feel good about me.

Among fellow Church members, some of us often feel like oddballs. We wonder why we are wired the way we are. We ask why we aren't content to accept things solely on others' authority or to follow only well-worn trails. In some ways, we're Melvin Udalls.

But, like Melvin, we also have our moments of clarity, when we see things others may miss. I believe this is the case with our feelings of deep appreciation for the life and example of Gene England. Many of his peers at BYU and elsewhere maybe did not *get* Gene, but we understand that in him, we have encountered a great soul, one who was all about saying what he meant, and one who always meant something "all about being straight and good." Thank you, Gene. To borrow from Melvin Udall, the fact we *get* your life makes us feel good about ourselves. ☺



CARTOON BY JEFF HALE

“. . . and I love my mommy and daddy and my brother and all my friends.
My favorite foods are psghetti and macaroni and cheese and . . .”