

'What America believes'

Author reveals thoughts on religion

NEW YORK (AP) — Most Americans think there is no such thing as absolute truth and believe that people of different religions all worship the same God, a new survey says.

George Barna, whose Barna Research Group of Glendale, Calif., conducted the survey, has produced a book from it called "What Americans Believe." His findings show that Americans are interested in religion. However, "If there is a revival going on," it "must be viewed as a religious revival, not a Christian revival."

Barna, a marketing research professional who has done work for Billy Graham and Pat Robertson, says a "massive realignment of thinking is taking place in which people are transferring many elements formerly deemed 'necessary' into the realm of the 'optional,'" such as Bible reading, prayer and involvement in church.

While most people say religion is important to them, they're increas-

ingly likely "to feel that being part of a local church is not a necessity," a summary of the findings says. "Traditional Christian beliefs are eroding, too."

For instance, the report says, 82 percent of adults think that "God helps those who help themselves," and 56 percent mistakenly think the idea comes directly from the Bible.

Actually, the saying is attributed to Benjamin Franklin. The report says it runs counter to Christian teaching that people cannot attain wholeness by their own deeds, but only through God's forgiveness of their failings.

However, the self-sufficiency streak also shows up in another finding — that 82 percent of adults think that "every person has the power to determine his or her own destiny in life."

Economy still static

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans filing new unemployment claims remained frozen at 421,000 in late August, the government said Thursday in a sign that employers, skeptical about whether a recovery has taken hold, are still letting workers go.

In other weak economic news, the productivity of American workers rose a mediocre 0.5 percent, at an annual rate, in the second quarter — a much weaker performance than first believed — and business investment plans were at a five-year low.

Also, the nation's leading retailers reported that the consumer spending slump extended into the back-to-school shopping season, a time when the sales pace usually accelerates.

The numbers add up to an economy that has failed to make much headway toward recovering from the recession, analysts said.

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Jury selection begins for Noriega; biases, publicity hampers process

MIAMI (AP) — Jury selection began Thursday for former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega with one of the first potential jurors denouncing him as a human rights violator.

The juror's statement demonstrated the difficulties faced by both sides in finding an impartial jury as 96 candidates filed into the ornate courtroom in the federal courthouse to begin Noriega's long-delayed drug and racketeering trial.

The defense, after reviewing 1,200 questionnaires sent out by the court, had predicted an uphill battle to seat an impartial jury. One juror illustrated that difficulty when the judge asked if anyone knew Noriega.

"I know him as a violation of human rights," said Lesbia Reyna, standing up and looking directly at the seated Noriega. She admitted she did not know him personally.

Her husband, Dr. Roberto Rey-

na, was director of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee in Miami, he later told The Associated Press.

"I was very much involved in denouncing Mr. Noriega, so we were very surprised when she was called," he said. "I guess it was just coincidence."

Mrs. Reyna was one of more than 30 Hispanics on the 96-member panel from which the court will try to select a jury of 12, along with six alternates.

Grand jury asks for indictment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran-Contra prosecutors plan to ask a grand jury on Friday to issue an indictment against retired CIA official Clair George that will accuse him of trying to cover up the CIA's role in the Iran-Contra scandal, three sources close to the case said Thursday night.

If such an indictment is approved, it likely will say that George concealed his knowledge of the diversion of Iran arms sale profits to the Contra rebels of Nicaragua and hid Oliver North's secret contra aid network from Congress in October 1986, said the sources.

The three non-government sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they could not say what sections of federal law would be alleged to have been violated.

Mary Belcher, a spokeswoman for the office of in-

dependent counsel Lawrence Walsh, the chief prosecutor, declined to comment. George's lawyer, Richard Hibel, could not be reached for comment. Several messages left for him were not immediately returned.

An indictment now of a former CIA official would come at a particularly difficult time for the agency and for the Bush administration.

Robert Gates, President Bush's nominee to be CIA director, will undergo confirmation hearings starting Sept. 16 before the Senate Intelligence Committee. He is expected to face tough questioning about his role in the Iran-Contra scandal. Gates served as the CIA's deputy director for intelligence in 1985 and was elevated to the No. 2 slot of deputy director in 1986.

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Art suppliers ignore labeling law on toxic products, report says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Many makers of toxic art supplies are ignoring federal law on warning consumers of long-term health hazards, a consumer group said Thursday, warning parents of schoolchildren to take special care with such things as rubber cement and permanent markers.

The U.S. Public Interest Research Group said 44 percent of the toxic art products it surveyed omitted labels warning of health hazards such as cancer, nerve or reproductive damage or blood disorders.

"What we found was shocking," said Lucinda Sikes, a staff attorney for PIRG, a consumer and environmental advocacy group.

She said 23 of 52 commonly used art and craft supplies bought at hardware and drugstores earlier this summer didn't comply with

the 1988 Labeling of Hazardous Art Materials Act requiring information on health hazards and guidelines for safe use.

The 23 included several products, such as permanent markers, rubber cement and water-based spray paint, that often are used by schoolchildren.

Others include supplies such as turpentine, spray adhesive, anti-aging solution and aerosol cleaner that are common among artists and hobbyists.

For example, Sikes said, a glitter product used by children to decorate T-shirts and shoes warns that it contains toluene and that its vapors should not be breathed.

But the product doesn't tell consumers toluene is associated with liver and kidney damage and possible brain damage.

Bid-rigging of milk contracts Inquiry totals 16 states

ATLANTA (AP) — A federal investigation of bid-rigging on school milk contracts has spread to 16 states in a scandal that has victimized school children and cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

In the latest turn of events, Pet Inc. pleaded guilty Wednesday to violations of the Sherman Antitrust Act for fixing bids for milk contracts in South Carolina.

"In the short run, the kids at school are the victims. If you're having to spend more on milk, you don't have as much to spend on other food for them," said Paul McElwain, chief of school nutrition in Kentucky. "In the long run, the taxpayers are the victims."

Since the investigation began in 1988, the Justice Department has filed 40 criminal cases against

some 50 dairy companies and executives, including some of the nation's biggest dairies.

Thirty-eight dairy companies and executives have entered guilty pleas, and 18 people have been sentenced to prison. Seven companies and executives have been acquitted; charges have been dismissed against two others.

Dairy companies have been slapped with almost \$19 million in fines and damages, and the Justice Department was seeking another \$6.1 million in damages, a spokeswoman said.

The investigation began when federal officials learned that dairy marketers were fixing milk prices in Florida schools to undercut competition.

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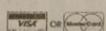
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Part-time Service Station attendant wanted. Experience preferred, not required. Apply at Villa Maria Chevron at 29th St. and Villa Maria Rd. Bryan, 776-1261.

Now hiring part-time cooks. Will pay top dollars for top cooks. Apply in person. Wings 'N More, 1045 Texas Avenue South.

Help wanted. Apply in person Piper's Chevron Texas at University.

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Part-time delivery person, must have own air-conditioned vehicle. Delivers twice daily and once on Sundays 764-1828.

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Delta Upsilon

Date	Activity	Location	Time
Thurs. September 5	Spice a fire with Delta Upsilon "Brewing Night"	Wolf Pen Bowling Center	TBA
Sat. September 7	D.U. Games "Sports and Casino"	Southwood Valley Park	1-4 p.m.
Mon. September 9	A Touch of Class "Picnic with the Boys"	Yemassee	7-9 p.m.
Thurs. September 12	Spice & Fish at the Chicken Club	Chicken Club Co.	7-9 p.m.

Fall Rush 1991

For More Information: Call Derek Davis: Rush Chairman 764-1913
Derek Tubbs: President 696-6666