



WAYS OF IMPACT: TRACTS

ATHOME

Scheme Uses Religion to Target Innocent Victims An illegal pyramid scheme with a religious angle is growing quickly in Wisconsin. Telemarketers invite prospective victims to join a Christian "gifting" club, telling them that they can get as much as \$48,000 by giving \$2,000 and encouraging others to do the same. Authorities say the "club" is a scam. "We can't put it any clearer: This is an illegal pyramid scheme," Bill Oemichen of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection told the *Milwaukee Sentinel*.

AT&T Faces Protests Regarding Partnership with Porn Company Religious and socially concerned investors controlling more than 2.8 million shares of AT&T stock are

urging the telecommunications giant to reverse its decision to partner with The Hot Network, a cable television pornography company. The coalition of 27 institutional investors is led by Mennonite Mutual Aid, which recently sent AT&T a letter saying, "What management missteps are behind a situation where AT&T must turn to strategies appealing to the basest elements of our culture—violating a corporate tradition of positive social behavior?"

Tracts Become Popular Again Motivated by the work of Thomas Paine some 200 years ago, a modern-day pamphleteer from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, is using the printed word to bring about a different kind of revolution—a spiritual one. Roscoe Barnes III works as a journalist, but it's his work in writing and

distributing gospel tracts that has earned him the name "tractster." "This is a proven way to effect lasting change and offer hope to people the world over," says Barnes. "Readers may ignore a large book because of a lack of time or intimidation. But practically anyone will read a short tract." He adds, "Despite the onslaught of today's technology, I believe we can do today—with tracts—what Paine did with 'Common Sense.' It is commonly believed that Paine's pamphlet led to the signing of the Declaration of Independence."

CAMPUSNEWS

Crown College Experiences Significant Growth This year, again, Crown College (in St. Bonifacius, Minnesota) is experiencing significant growth in the student body.

from the traditional, adult and graduate studies programs, enrollment is over 1,000. This fall, the new Steven K. and Cheryl K. Wild Athletic Center was completed, and the dedication will be held the first weekend in October as part of the homecoming celebration.

ABROAD



Russian Population Shrinking Due Partly to Abortion Abortion, smoking and alcohol indulgence are shrinking the population of Russia at a rate "unheard of in the modern era," according to the Associated Press. Russia currently has a population of 145 million, but that number could shrink to well below 125 million in two decades if current trends continue. Russia's abortion rate is the highest in the world with two out of every three pregnancies ending in abortion. That rate, coupled with an epidemic of fertility problems caused by poverty, environmental pollution and poor health care, have greatly reduced the number of births in Russia.

Persecuted Refugee Is Allowed to Leave Country A Somali refugee sentenced by a Yemeni judge on July 5 to either recant Christianity or die, will instead be allowed to leave the country with his family. Mohammed Omer Haji, a



Are you sure we followed all the steps in Matthew 18 for the offending brother?