RELIGION/The Charlotte Bost

Tuesday, November 22, 2005

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London bombings during World War II. They find Narnia through a walk-in wardrobe and help overthrow a tyrannical white witch, whose spells have turned innocent victims to stone and frozen the landscape in per-

petual winter. The seven-part Narnia series has enthralled generations of readers. Many regard the books as Christian allegories and the heroic lion, Aslan, as a symbol of Jesus.

Lewis' stepson, Doug Gresham, a co-producer of the movie, was at the Focus on the Family book store to sign copies of his new book about Lewis, "Jack's Life." He has

said viewers can draw their conclusions about own whether the film has religious overtones

"We will be attacked for being too Christian by secularists and atheists but will be attacked by Christians for not being Christian enough. We're right in the middle," Gresham said.

Some moviegoers said they see the story's themes of good vs. evil and sacrifice as important messages for Christians.

Christianna Fogler, head of St. Stephen's Episcopal Day School in Colorado Springs, said she hopes parents will organize groups to go see the movie and that children will

be inspired to read the book. "It's really good for kids to read and see and learn how to work out these hard situations," she said.

Screening of films at Focus on the Family has become more common as more filmmakers attempt to tap Christian audiences.

Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" was shown there before its release in 2004. Focus on the Family will also host a viewing of "The End of the Spear," a movie about the slayings of missionaries in Ecuador in 1956 due out in January, Lisa Anderson, Focus' publicity director, said.

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The Charlotte B

Unbelievers find their voice for what they believe in – or don't

Continued from page 7B in. We're out of step with most other Western nations."

The Geniuses of Diversity is a University of Arizona club led by 19-year-old Christopher Bischof, a sophomore, history major and atheist who is organizing a living-will event on campus. He says he wants to give students an alternative to the myriad religious groups on campus. Bischof and fellow student Nick Borst, also 19, came up with the idea of a club for nonbelievers during the nationwide Terry Schiavo controversy about end-of-life issues.

"Chris and I felt like there wasn't enough representation on campus for people who didn't buy into the whole orga-nized religion thing," Borst said. "I see us bringing broader debate to campus.

When the group held its first meeting last month, the topic that sparked the most passionate discussion was how nonbelievers can get along with parents and other relatives who are religious. Some had tips; others shared painful stories of alienation from religious relatives.

"We want to let students know it's OK if you don't follow organized religion, as long as you have some sort of values and try to be a good person in life," Borst said.

Protest to remove God from money

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Three sign-carrying protesters, tracked by an equal number of news media, staked out the house Saturday of an atheist whose latest effort seeks to ban "In God We Trust" from U.S. currency.

'It looks like it's going to be kind of low-key," said Dick Otterstad, who organized the protest on behalf of the Church of the Divide. The small. Bible-based church meets in homes near Georgetown, east of Sacramento.

Michael Newdow was not at home, but Otterstad said

protesters hoped to persuade neighbors to pressure New-dow over his efforts to take God out of the classroom and off the nation's cash.

"We want to begin to put pressure at ground zero, at the foundation of this attack on the country," Otterstad said. 'It's a culture war. It's not just the courts.'

Newdow has spent the last four years trying to ban the Pledge of Allegiance from being recited in public schools, an effort that reached the U.S. Supreme Court once and is headed there again. On Thursday, he

filed a federal lawsuit contending the motto on coins and paper money is also an unconstitutional endorsement of religion.

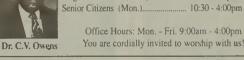
Protester Alex Pop of Roseville was not surprised by the small turnout protesting what he sees as an effort to rewrite history.

"They wait and they wait until it's too late," he said, referring to fellow Newdow Neighbors of Newdow were

mostly indifferent.

Please see PROTEST/5B

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