

08/18/06 Fri – Oh, wow!

You may wonder where this is heading. It does tie to scripture at the end. I have included the verses that this brought to mind at the end. – Okay. Here goes. –

We were watching the Travel channel last night. – Extravagant Yachts. Mega-yachts. Ya know – “lives of the rich and famous” stuff.

Onasis bought a frigate, a battleship, and spent millions of \$\$ to convert it into a yacht. Fabulous. When he died, they gave it to the Greek (?) government for the President to use. It was too much for them to use and maintain and it just sat, or I should say floated, and deteriorated. – Gee. That goes back to the other day and the Second Law of Thermodynamics... If you leave it alone, over time, it doesn't improve to a higher state, it deteriorates and breaks down.

And a Berger yacht. They only deliver a maximum of three a year. Cost? Between eight and thirty million. It takes a hired crew of eight to operate and maintain. Eight employees. These things require a licensed Captain. You don't get to even drive your own toy. You just get to go for a ride. It has to be washed down three times a week to prevent the salt from eating at the chrome and finishes. – Another example of the Second Law.

And here's the one I thought was really, really cool, and extreme. – He wanted a FAST yacht. All the boat builders thought he was nuts and wouldn't do it. So he started his own boat-building company to build his extreme toy. How extreme? How about ... 140' length, 25' beam, sleeps 10 guests and a crew of 8, 2 diesel engines plus 2 turbine engines for a total of 20,000 horsepower!!! On the sea-trials they have only had the turbines up to 75% power and ... picture this ... a 140 foot luxury yacht, smoothly running through the waves at ... get this ... 64 knots! That's 74 miles-per-hour!!! ... Cost to build? \$30,000,000!! And that's not including the annual operating budget.

That's enough to fund the Crimson & White for 3,333 years. That's 50 times our church's annual budget with a staff of 5 for 50 years.

Operations... One item – transport. Ahhh, Rich. The boats float and have their own engines. You were just talking about 20,000 hp. ... No, to avoid hurricane season in Florida, these guys hire a special ship that partly “sinks,” pulls a dozen yachts over it, then empties the ballast tanks and rises up, and carries them to like the Mediterranean for the summer. To transport a 100' yacht is \$1000/foot; that's \$100,000 bus

fare, each way, \$200,000 each year. – It's been said, “The difference between men and boys is the price of their toys.” We went to Target with the grandchildren yesterday and for under \$20 we bought Gabe a pack of four new tractors and Lauren a new Little Pets accessory set with 2 pets. – It took Julie a year to find enough people to pledge enough for her to be able to go to Mozambique to help orphans.

There are ultra-rich people that give away lots of money. – Get this article – USA Today, August 1, 2006. I have the whole article, here's just one short excerpt.

Alice Cooper... “the gender-bending shock-rock legend of American music, opening a center where kids can learn to play guitar, shoot hoops and find Jesus?”

The 58-year-old musician says he is teaming up with Grand Canyon University in Phoenix to establish a \$3 million youth haven featuring a “school of rock,” a concert hall and sporting attractions.

“It's a sanctuary where they don't get shot, they don't get stabbed, they don't have to worry about somebody trying to sell them drugs,” says Cooper,

He concedes that some parents might view him as unlikely, if not objectionable, in the role of a philanthropist bringing morality and religion to America's young people.

“It's a great juxtaposition,” he says. “Trust me, I walk that tightrope every day. Part of the fun is the edge of it.”

[Alice Cooper](#) 's band was renowned for debauchery. Its revolutionary rock theater — snakes, guillotines, mock executions and all sorts of ghoulishness — was condemned by the likes of Tipper Gore and Ann Landers.

But Cooper says those who understand his shtick recognize that the show has always been a blend of farce and satire. [*I was never a fan of his back then. Just not my style at all. I was into like Elvis and “Love Me Tender.”*] They also know that he became a born-again Christian 16 years ago when he quit drinking. [*Underline is my emphasis.*]

Since 1995, Cooper has operated the Solid Rock Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides money to children's causes and college scholarships to Christian students.

I'm not opposed to you becoming wealthy. Jesus didn't speak against being rich or against money. It takes money to pay pastors and send

Julie to Mozambique and Jennifer to Afghanistan and staff a Pregnancy Center. It's what you DO with your money. Or as it has been said, "Do you have money or does your money have you?"

Find some part of God's work that calls to your heart and give to it from your pocket. Whether it is Samaritan's Purse and their Christmas Shoebox program (plus a lot of other things they do like Jennifer is doing in Afghanistan), or Julie with orphans in Mozambique, or Greensboro Pregnancy Center helping women make a choice to avoid an abortion, or the C&WC, or something through your church (like one on-going project at our church is support of the NC Baptist Children's Homes).

Are you "into" the "Solid Rock" like Alice Cooper? –The "Solid Rock" (capitalized) is Jesus.

Have a blessed day.

Rich

Matthew 19: 24-26 (also see Mark 10:25-27 and Luke 18:25-27)

TMSG:

²⁴Let me tell you, it's easier to gallop a camel through a needle's eye than for the rich to enter God's kingdom."

²⁵The disciples were staggered. "Then who has any chance at all?"

²⁶Jesus looked hard at them and said, "No chance at all if you think you can pull it off yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it."

NIV:

²⁴Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁵When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?"

²⁶Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

NCV:

²⁴Yes, I tell you that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁵When Jesus' followers heard this, they were very surprised and asked, "Then who can be saved?"

²⁶Jesus looked at them and said, "This is something people cannot do, but God can do all things."

1 Timothy 6:10

TMSG:

¹⁰Lust for money brings trouble and nothing but trouble. Going down that path, some lose their footing in the faith completely and live to regret it bitterly ever after.

NIV:

¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

KJV:

¹⁰For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Matthew 6: 19-21

TMSG:

¹⁹"Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. ²⁰Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. ²¹It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

NIV:

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*** Just for fun, I remembered these from Clean Laughs – 60's music ... ***

----- Guaranteed to Roll Your Eyes -----

At a wedding I recently attended, the priest called for a moment of silence to remember the faithful dead...

As the church grew quiet, a little boy sitting in front of me turned to his father and said excitedly, "Dad, you have some of their albums!"

While listening to an oldies radio station, my six-year-old evidently got the 60's mixed up with the 21st century. Instead of singing along, "Goin' to the chapel/ And we're gonna get married," I heard him sing, "Goin' to the chat room/ And we're gonna get married."

<http://philanthropy.com/news/monthly/2006/08>

[Alice Cooper to Build Youth Center](#)

The shock-rock musician Alice Cooper plans to build a \$3-million center for troubled kids, with a basketball court, concert hall, game rooms, recording studios, and a rock-climbing wall, reports *USA Today*.

Mr. Cooper's nonprofit organization, the Solid Rock Foundation, will work with Grand Canyon University, in Phoenix, to create the Rock, a 20,000-square-foot haven for children and teenagers. The center will have a Christian focus, and alcohol and tobacco will be banned.

"Even kids who grow up in gangs have a creative place in their body," said Mr. Cooper. "They have a choice between a 9 millimeter and a nine-iron."

<http://www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?ID=18997>

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--"

CULTURE DIGEST: 'Passion' DVD tops 4 million on first day

Sep 1, 2004
By Erin Curry
Baptist Press

ALICE COOPER CALLS PRO-KERRY ROCKERS TRAITORS -- Rock legend Alice Cooper has said he was disgusted to learn that musicians such as Bruce Springsteen, John Mellencamp, R.E.M, Sheryl Crow, James Taylor and Dave Matthews were organizing a series of concerts aimed at stopping President Bush's re-election.

"To me, that's treason," Cooper told the Canadian Press, according to WorldNetDaily.com Aug. 24. "I call it treason against rock 'n' roll because rock is the antithesis of politics. Rock should never be in bed with politics."

Cooper, who says he is a born-again Christian and recently received an honorary doctorate from a Christian university in Phoenix, also said rock stars should not be

regarded as authorities on politics.

"If you're listening to a rock star in order to get your information on who to vote for, you're a bigger moron than they are," he said. "Why are we rock stars? Because we're morons. We sleep all day, we play music at night and very rarely do we sit around reading the Washington Journal.

"Besides," Cooper added, "when I read the list of people who are supporting Kerry, if I wasn't already a Bush supporter, I would have immediately switched. Linda Ronstadt? Don Henley? Geez, that's a good reason right there to vote for Bush."

<http://www.hartford.edu/daily/media.asp?id=1811>

Alice Cooper, 58, the gender-bending shock-rock legend of American music, says he is teaming up with Grand Canyon University in Phoenix to establish a \$3 million youth haven featuring a "school of rock," a concert hall and sporting attractions. (*USA Today*, Aug. 4)

http://www.usatoday.com/life/people/2006-07-31-alice-cooper_x.htm

School's in for Cooper

ALL ABOUT ALICE

Childhood: Born Vincent Furnier, Feb. 4, 1948, in Detroit. Legally changed his name in 1973.

Home: Phoenix.

Early bands: The Wigs (1962), The Spiders, The Nazz. The Alice Cooper group was formed in 1968.

Music: 28 albums, and hits including *Eighteen*, *School's Out*, *Only Women Bleed*, *Billion Dollar Babies*, *Elected*, *No More Mr. Nice Guy*, *Welcome to My Nightmare*, *Department of Youth*.

Other endeavors: Talk-radio host of *Nights with Alice Cooper*, restaurateur (Alice Cooper's Town in Phoenix); philanthropist.

Family: Wife, Sheryl, a ballet instructor/choreographer; daughter, Calico, 25, performs in Alice Cooper shows; son, Dash, 21, an Arizona State University student with his own band; daughter, Sonora, 13.

Solid Rock Foundation: A non-profit Christian organization founded in 1995 by Cooper and his friend Chuck Savale. It raises money through a celebrity golf tournament and Alice Cooper's Christmas Pudding, a musical comedy show.

http://news.aol.com/entertainment/music/articles/_a/schools-in-for-alice-cooper/20060801065709990001
Updated:2006-08-01 07:51:08

School's In for Alice Cooper

By Dennis Wagner

USA Today

PHOENIX (Aug. 1) — "Welcome to my nightmare

I think you're gonna like it

I think you're gonna feel that you belong..."

—Alice Cooper, Welcome to My Nightmare

Lots More Mr. Nice Guy



Getty Images

Cooper's youth haven will be a place where kids 'don't get shot, they don't get stabbed, they don't have to worry about somebody trying to sell them drugs.'

Watch Vintage Alice

[Feed Alice's 'Frankenstein'](#)

[Take His 'Poison'](#)

Rock the Cooler: ["The Alice Cooper Center for Kids Who Can't Rock Good"](#)

Talk About It: [Post Thoughts](#)

[Alice Cooper](#), the gender-bending shock-rock legend of American music, opening a center where kids can learn to play guitar, shoot hoops and find Jesus?

The 58-year-old musician says he is teaming up with Grand Canyon University in Phoenix to establish a \$3 million youth haven featuring a "school of rock," a concert hall and sporting attractions.

"It's a sanctuary where they don't get shot, they don't get stabbed, they don't have to worry about somebody trying to sell them drugs," says Cooper, who plans to announce the project Tuesday.

He concedes that some parents might view him as unlikely, if not objectionable, in the role of a philanthropist bringing morality and religion to America's young people.

"It's a great juxtaposition," he says. "Trust me, I walk that tightrope every day. Part of the fun is the edge of it."

[Alice Cooper](#)'s band was renowned for debauchery. Its revolutionary rock theater — snakes, guillotines, mock executions and all sorts of ghoulishness — was condemned by the likes of Tipper Gore and Ann Landers.

But Cooper says those who understand his shtick recognize that the show has always been a blend of farce and satire. They also know that he became a born-again Christian 16 years ago when he quit drinking.

Since 1995, Cooper has operated the Solid Rock Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides money to children's causes and college scholarships to Christian students.

Cooper insists that his stage persona is a polar opposite to his personal life: He has been married 30 years "without cheating" on his wife, and they have raised three children.

The son of a minister and grandson of an evangelist, Cooper says America "needs a good hypodermic needle shot of morality."

That will be one goal for his 20,000-square-foot recreational hall, to be known as The Rock, on the urban campus of Grand Canyon University. It will be open to children 12 to 18 at no charge;

the prime target is at-risk teens, whose parents may be in jail or on drugs, and whose brothers are thugs.

"Even kids who grow up in gangs have a creative place in their body," Cooper says. "They have a choice between a 9mm and a nine-iron."

Cooper, who still tours with his band five months each year, says alcohol and tobacco will be banned at The Rock. There won't be a chapel, but counselors will proselytize by example and offer religious guidance to kids who want to learn about the faith.

"We are overtly Christian," he says, "but we're not going to beat you over the head with a Bible."

The project, still in design stages and not fully financed, is scheduled to break ground next year. An artist's rendering shows a concert hall, recording studios, game rooms, a basketball court and a rock-climbing wall.

Cooper says he's seeking corporate sponsors to provide everything from guitars to construction materials. In the meantime, his foundation will raise money with an annual golf tournament and a Christmas music show.

Grand Canyon University will provide the land, security and some of the financing, says Brent Richardson, CEO of the non-denominational Christian school. Richardson concedes that some of the university's patrons and its 10,000 students may be leery of the shock-rock image.

But he says Cooper has an honorary degree from the university and has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships through his Solid Rock Foundation.

"Look at his actions," Richardson says. "I think it's a great thing, and I don't worry about it at all."

Even in the early years, Cooper says, his shows featured no foul language, nudity or satanic glorification. In fact, he says, more than 30 of his songs assail devil worship.

On the other hand, there were songs about necrophilia, sadomasochism and hedonism; his theme was "Nothing in moderation."

Born Vincent Furnier, Cooper started out with a garage band in Phoenix in the late 1960s and recognized that he needed a gimmick to succeed — and that other groups were not exploiting the showmanship potential of the stage.

So he invented a mascara-slathered, evil, leering stage persona, mimicking the hyperbolic bad guys of professional wrestling.

"I said, 'Where's the villain?' " Cooper says. "I created Alice to be rock's Moriarity. Nobody in the band was gay. But we slapped on this makeup and made this gigantic music and I did become rock's villain.

"All of the stuff that goes on with [Alice Cooper](#) — if you're not laughing, there's something wrong."

Cooper says he and his family will be regulars at The Rock, working with children and helping to produce shows.

He says no decision has been made on an emblem for the school, but he would prefer that it not have anything to do with [Alice Cooper](#) . Then, with a mischievous grin, he suggests, "How about a cross through my heart?"

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2006-08-01 06:57:40