

TIME

December 19, 2005

Vol. 166, No. 25

LETTERS	6
NOTEBOOK	9
MILESTONES	18

UNITED STATES

POLITICS: After a very rough beginning to his second term, President George W. Bush is rearming his Administration. He must now overcome formidable obstacles both inside and outside Washington..... **20**

WORLD

TERROR: The Jordanian-born militant Abu Mousab al-Zarqawi, al-Qaeda's aggressive leader in violence-wracked Iraq, is starting to eclipse his own boss, Osama bin Laden..... **25**

IRAQ: An in-depth TIME poll of Iraqis shows a desire for democracy and security—but little faith that the U.S. can deliver either..... **28**

COVER: *Photo-illustration for TIME by Arthur Hochstein. Camera by Ted Thai for TIME. Photograph in the camera lens by Thomas Dworzak—Magnum for TIME*

COVER STORY

In Our Images It was a year that saw mass tragedy and courage to match. TIME's selection of the indelible pictures of 2005..... **47**

ASIA

EARTHQUAKES: A team of international scientists studying seismic disturbances near the Indonesian island of Sumatra fear that the worst is yet to come..... **32**

CHINA: The people are leaving their proletarian past behind, but their manners have yet to catch up..... **39**

SOCIETY

RELIGION: Christian theologians are rediscovering the role and symbolism of long-neglected Joseph..... **40**

ARTS

MOVIES: The delightful *Perhaps Love*, the first musical from China in years, could herald a new kind of Asian film..... **72**

Desperate housewife Felicity Huffman switches genders in *Transamerica*..... **75**

20 Bush is desperate to revive his flagging popularity

JOHN STANMEYER—VII FOR TIME



32 ▲ Sieh is one of the seismologists who warn that a huge quake could hit Sumatra

TIME Asia publishes four double issues a year. Each counts as two of 54 issues in an annual subscription. TIME Asia may also publish occasional extra issues. Principal office: Time & Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, N.Y. 10020-1393, U.S. TIME Asia principal editorial and business office: Oxford House 30th floor, Taikoo Place, 979 King's Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong. © 2005 Time Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. TIME and the Red Border Design are protected through trademark registration in the U.S. and in the countries where TIME magazine circulates. Subscribers: if the postal services alert us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within two years. Customer service and subscriptions: for 24-7 service, please use our website timeasia.com/customer_service. You may also contact our Customer Services Center at (852) 3128-5688 or e-mail enquiries@timeinc.com or write Oxford House 30th floor, Taikoo Place, 979 King's Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong. (In Japan enquiries can be made to 0120-666-236 or custservjapan@timeinc.com or Roppongi Hills P.O. Box 58, Minato-ku Tokyo 106-6134.) Mailing list: we make a portion of our mailing list available to reputable firms. If you would prefer that we not include your name, please contact our Customer Services Center. TIME Asia is edited in Hong Kong and printed in Singapore. Singapore MICA (P) No. 119/10/2005. Malaysia KDN permit PP(s) 676/11/2005. Worldwide publisher: Ed McCarrick.