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LETTERS 6
NOTEBOOK
Four lessons from the U.S. midterm elections; why New Delhi is shutting down thousands of small businesses; turnover at the top for European automakers; are low-carb diets really safe?9
MILESTONES: Hong Kong's Margaret Chan named head of World Health Organization; journalist Ed Bradley, former East German spy boss Markus Wolf and Oscar-winning actor Jack Palance die
10 QUESTIONS: Author Gore Vidal on American empire, the case against gay marriage, and why novelists get no respect 17
COVER STORY
GETTING REAL: The Democratic takeover of Congress signals a profound shift in U.S. foreign policy as realpolitik begins to displace the Bush Administration's go-it-alone idealism. Plus, a look at the post-Burnsfeld advisory team that will try to guide the President and America out of Iraq
MIDDLE EAST
CRIME AND PUNISHMENT: Saddam's sentencing shows Iraqis support the death penalty, but a rash of crude hangings raises questions about the country's justice system
BUSINESS
OPENING UP: Vietnam's entry into the World Trade Organization could supercharge the eountry's booming economy, if the government can earry out much-needed reforms
ARTS
BUFF BOND: The new 007 looks great with his shirt off, but can <i>Casino Royale</i> sustain the superspy film franchise? 64
MOVIES AND MORE: The best DVDs offer more than films alone. Here are five picks for comprehensive entertainment 65
REBEL WRITER: Alice Munro's latest book is a master elass in great fiction. First lesson: ignore the rules
TIME GLOBAL ADVISER
An Indian singing legend is set for a rare curtain call in Brussels; stumbling upon a Central Asian oasis of Soviet-era abstract art; Koh Samui cuisine goes upmarket
PEOPLE: Britney Spears and Kevin Federline call it quits71
ESSAY: Michael Kinsley explains why those who pushed the

COVER: Illustration for Time by Arthur Hochstein



20

U.S. voters cleaned house—and Senate—in a sharp rebuke of Republicans and President Bush's faltering policies



best inventions 2006

From a cat engineered to keep you from sneezing to espresso in solid form and a robot that rides a bike—plus, of course, the Invention of the Year—TIME brings you a guide to this year's most fascinating innovations



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