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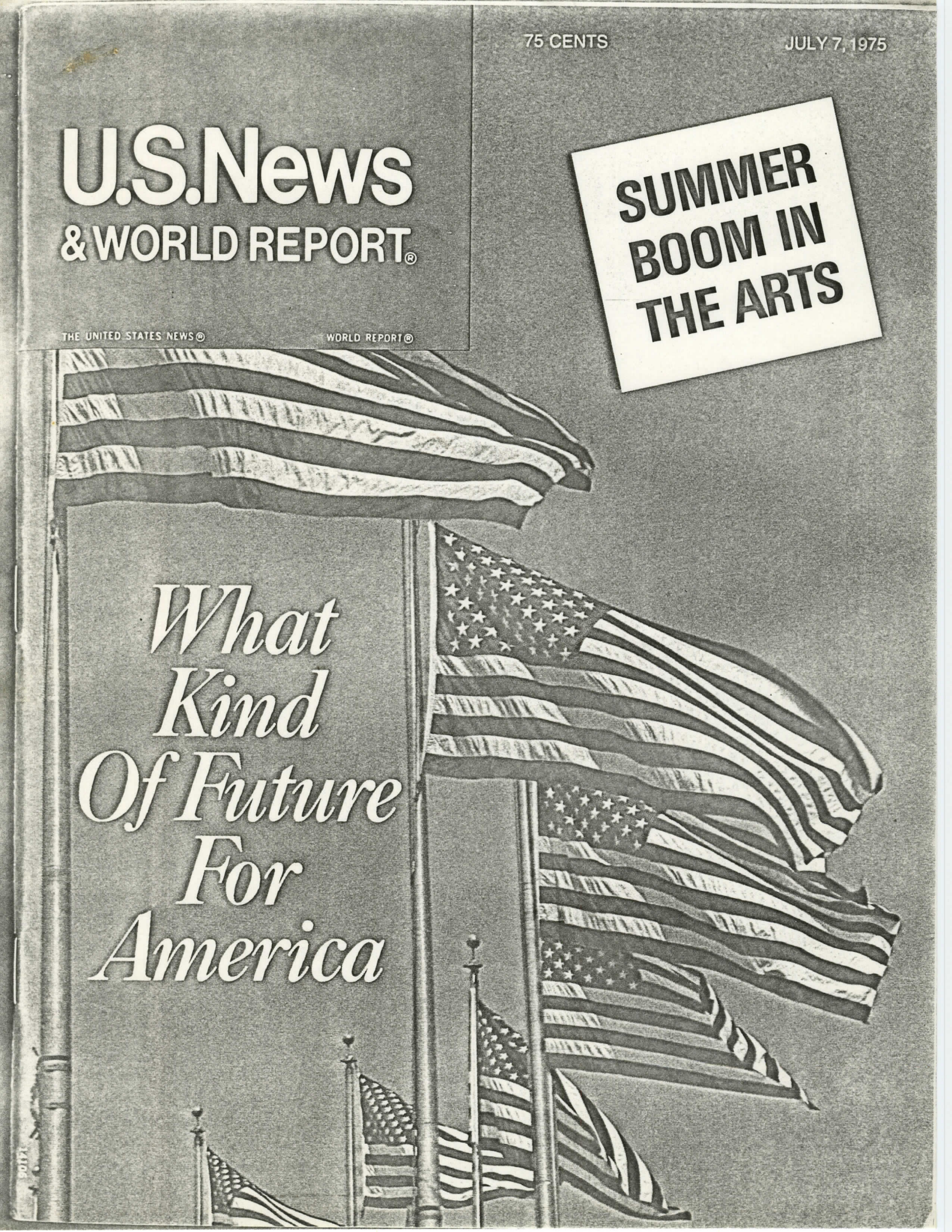
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**SUMMER
BOOM IN
THE ARTS**

*What
Kind
Of Future
For
America*



replace the old imperative of the patriarchal nuclear family—father, mother and children—with a new imperative, because any single system would be wrong for many people. There must be a variety of options—so that it becomes an honorable solution to remain single, to live with a group of people, to live with another person, to have children or not to have children, and so on.

Q Will children gain or lose by this process?

A I don't see how they could lose. First of all, they would be wanted, not just thought of as something "everybody does." And right now, in addition to being tracked along masculine or feminine or racial lines, kids rarely have any community of their own until they get to school.

In the future, there will be more communal situations in which children will be around a variety of adults, as well as other nonrelated "family" members who are children of various ages. After all, a 3-year-old learns more easily from a 5-year-old than from a 30-year-old.

At present there's no real understanding that kids also need their own peers in addition to adults in their lives, before they get to school and in their living situations. We badly need more communal situations and less isolation and ghettoization of people according to age or class or sex. We create lonely individuals—and artificial groups.

Q How will the lives of women change?

A In every way. Autonomy—the ability to control our own bodies and work identities and futures—is a revolution for women. We're only just beginning to understand what it might be like.

Many may go on for more education. Even now, women are going back to school after they've had kids. The campus is no longer an "age ghetto" of people from 17 to 22—and that makes it more possible for men to go back, too. Education may become a lifelong process for all of us, not just one intense time of preparation.

Responsibility for children won't be exclusively the woman's any more, but shared equally by men—and shared by the community, too. That means that work patterns will change for both women and men, and women can enter all fields just as men can.

It used to be said that women couldn't succeed in work because they didn't have wives. In the future, men won't have "wives" either—not in the traditional, subservient sense.

Q What will be the effect on men of these changes?

A Hopefully, men will also have the whole human range of characteristics, emotions and possibilities opened up for them, too. Now, men are cut off from less of these possibilities than women are—it's as if 25 per cent of human qualities were generally regarded as "feminine," while 75 per cent were marked off as "masculine." The male prison is much bigger and more luxurious—but it's a prison nonetheless.

Q Will there be a woman President in the next 100 years?

A I don't know. That may happen, but only after all the other male "outs" are elected—a Jewish President, a black President, a Spanish-speaking President.

If we can judge from history, sex-based prejudice is the most intimate and deep-rooted; the last to go. Even now in corporate board rooms, minority men are usually invited to join the board before women of any race. White men affirm their masculinity by having a minority man on the board—providing, of course, that there are only one or two and can't outvote them. But to have a woman enjoying the same position, especially at upper levels, just devalues the work. Why should a man be honored by a job that "even a woman" can do?

If there is a woman President, it obviously won't change everything magically overnight. Still, it would be a major change, because at least we would have before us the image

of a female person being honored in authority. At a minimum, it would set the dreams of our children free. Girls could then dream of becoming President. And boys could see that human talent comes in all forms.

Women in decision-making positions may also be important in creating a more peaceful society—at least until both sex roles are more humanized, and men feel less need to prove their masculinity with confrontation, toughness and even mass violence.

In fact, the false cultural division into "masculine" and "feminine" may itself be a root cause of violence. The one common characteristic of the few peaceful societies in the world is just that. The sex roles are not polarized. Boys are not made to feel they have to be aggressive or violent, and girls are not made to feel they have to be passive and do the supportive or cheap-labor functions only. It's fundamentally crazy that we are made to feel we have to "earn" our gender anyway.

Feminism brings something else to the political scene that's very important: a sense that change must start at the bottom, organically. It may be attached to theory, of course, but radical or revolutionary theories are meaningless unless they have some effect on an individual's daily life. Women realize this especially because the many supposedly revolutionary schemes have left us out entirely. Our lives remain unchanged.

As an actress friend of mine once explained, she had been married to one Marxist and one conservative—and neither one took the garbage out. That's a populist way of putting it, but it's the truth. A revolution that doesn't change heads as well as institutions, that doesn't start from the bottom up, just can't be feminist and therefore humanist.

Revolutionary feminism can hook up our daily lives and our philosophy in a very healthy way.

"Many Americans Will Live Into the Hundreds"

DR. CHARLES A. BERRY

Formerly chief of medical programs of NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center, he was widely known as "the astronaut's doctor." He now is head of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.



Q Dr. Berry, will Americans be healthier and live longer in the future?

A There's no question about it. Health is a much broader term than medical care. It doesn't only mean the absence of disease, it means a lot of other things which require social action, too.

For instance, health would mean that the individual is not going to be exposed to so many hazards from the environment which are going to cause him trouble, whether it's lead in pipes or air pollutants. It also means that he's going to have adequate nutrition and adequate housing. In all those areas, Americans definitely will be healthier.

Q Will life spans be much longer 100 years from now?

A It's very difficult to say, but I think many Americans will live well into the hundreds. We already have increased the average life span of individuals born very recently. But we have not increased the life span very much of people who are now 40 or 50 years old.

Q What medical breakthroughs do you foresee?

WHAT KIND OF FUTURE FOR AMERICA

[interviews continued from preceding page]

A For one thing, there has been a tremendous amount of federal money funneled into cancer research. I can't believe that we can put as much effort as we are putting into the cancer problem and not find an answer to that problem. Study and great strides in immunology, with the possibility of immunizing people against cancer, may provide a tremendous part of the answer. There are great advances occurring in this area today. If we look at the next 100 years or so, I think we will have conquered cancer by that time. That doesn't say that there still won't be occasional cases of cancer, but not so many as now.

The same thing is true in heart disease. We don't really understand the mechanism of atherosclerosis—a common form of hardening of the arteries—which is the big, big problem in heart disease today, along with the associated problem of hypertension. But we understand a great deal more about it. We've identified the risk factors, and can do something about prevention. I think we will have more and more activity going toward preventing heart disease.

It is possible to conquer both cancer and heart disease certainly within the next 100 years.

Other advances also are going to occur. There has been a lot of experimentation with so-called "living banks," where we have living tissues that are preserved for transplant. These tissues range from kidneys to corneas for the eye. There has been some work done in this area with hearts. The use of living tissue replacements will be fairly commonplace in the future. Also, there will be artificial organs developed in this time period. I firmly feel that there will be an artificial pancreas developed.

There will be all sorts of artificial assists. We have a lot of assisting devices now with hearts. Technology will advance to the point where we'll be able to have a lot of things which can be implanted as artificial organs.

We tend to think of aging today as being automatically associated with heart disease and high blood pressure and all that sort of thing. That's not necessarily so at all. Those things can be controlled. We're going to learn a great deal more about the aging process as we continue to whittle away at the things that tend to help "age" us.

Q How will space research be applied to our daily lives?

A Already we are benefiting from space research with such devices as multispectral sensors. With them you can look carefully at large swaths of the earth, thereby making it possible to use our resources better. We use these sensors to recognize water sources, for example. They also allow us to recognize petroleum sources. They give us a better over-all view of what's happening with pollution and help us to solve such problems. Sensors also can be used to spot such things as breeding places for disease-carrying mosquitoes. These reservoirs of disease can be cleaned up and the sources of disease eliminated.

In the future, there will be even more enormous benefits. Technology will make it possible to do more and more things at home or near our homes, instead of traveling long distances.

A lot of things, for example, will be accomplished over television hookups. A lot of business will be done that way. We may even get to the point where you can do shopping that way. Certainly it's feasible, perfectly feasible.

Q But what is the connection with medicine?

A That has direct application to medicine, because we have a lot of remote areas in our own country where there are very few physicians. Therefore, medicine practiced by a doctor in one place consulting with patients in front of TV cameras may become a reality. That is coming as a direct

result of some of the things I did in trying to look at man 240,000 miles away on the surface of the moon. I had to evaluate, diagnose and treat him at that distance.

The judgment factor of the physician and the patient contact is still here, of course, and will remain so. With the use of this technology as we come into this next 100 years, the physician is going to get some time to utilize all sorts of tools—such as computers, TV and the transmission of electrocardiograms. The physician will have all kinds of data in a very rapid fashion for his analysis. Thus, he will be able to make a much more intelligent, educated and scientific decision as to diagnosis much more rapidly.

We're not at that point today, because a lot of physicians don't believe that technology is the answer, and a lot of patients certainly don't. We've all experienced getting tied up with the computer in the billing process, with the result that you spend months trying to clear up its mistakes.

People envision that same sort of thing in medicine, and they don't want to get their health tied up in a system like that. But those things are going to be worked out. In the next 100 years, these machines will make the lives of Americans much better, still retaining the all-important human contact—a real renaissance in medicine.

"There Is Real Danger Of Dictatorial Power"

ROBERT PENN WARREN

Novelist, poet and educator. His works include "All the King's Men" and "Meet Me in the Green Glen." He is the winner of two Pulitzer Prizes and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.



Q Mr. Warren, your novel "All the King's Men" was based on the career of a potential dictator. In years ahead, could this country be taken over by a dictator?

A Yes, "All the King's Men" did get its suggestion—suggestion, mind you—from Huey Long's career. [Huey Pierce Long, a U.S. Senator from Louisiana, was assassinated in 1935.] And, yes, I do think that there is real and increasing danger of dictatorial power in the future. But my guess is that in the future such concentrations of power are less apt to come in America in the form of a Mussolini, Hitler or Stalin.

One idea that seems painfully persuasive is that in a world of massive population and exfoliating technology—in the technetronic age, as they call it—the boys who handle the postcomputer mechanisms, or who find themselves in charge of "conditioning" programs, will inevitably be in control—perhaps very high-minded control—with a vast, functionless pampered and ultimately powerless population of nonexperts living on free time, unemployed and unemployable.

Can we beat that game? There are forces that now want participatory democracy, a democracy based on both individual need and individual responsibility—a community of mutual respect instead of a mechanistic society. Will they resist or co-operate with the forces that push, sometime quite high-mindedly, toward the dehumanization of society and the centralization of control?

I am inclined to agree—and how modestly I use the word—with the philosopher Martin Buber when he says that something new is "slowly evolving in the human soul, which he describes as "the most intimate of all resistances—resistance to mass or collective loneliness." We see around u