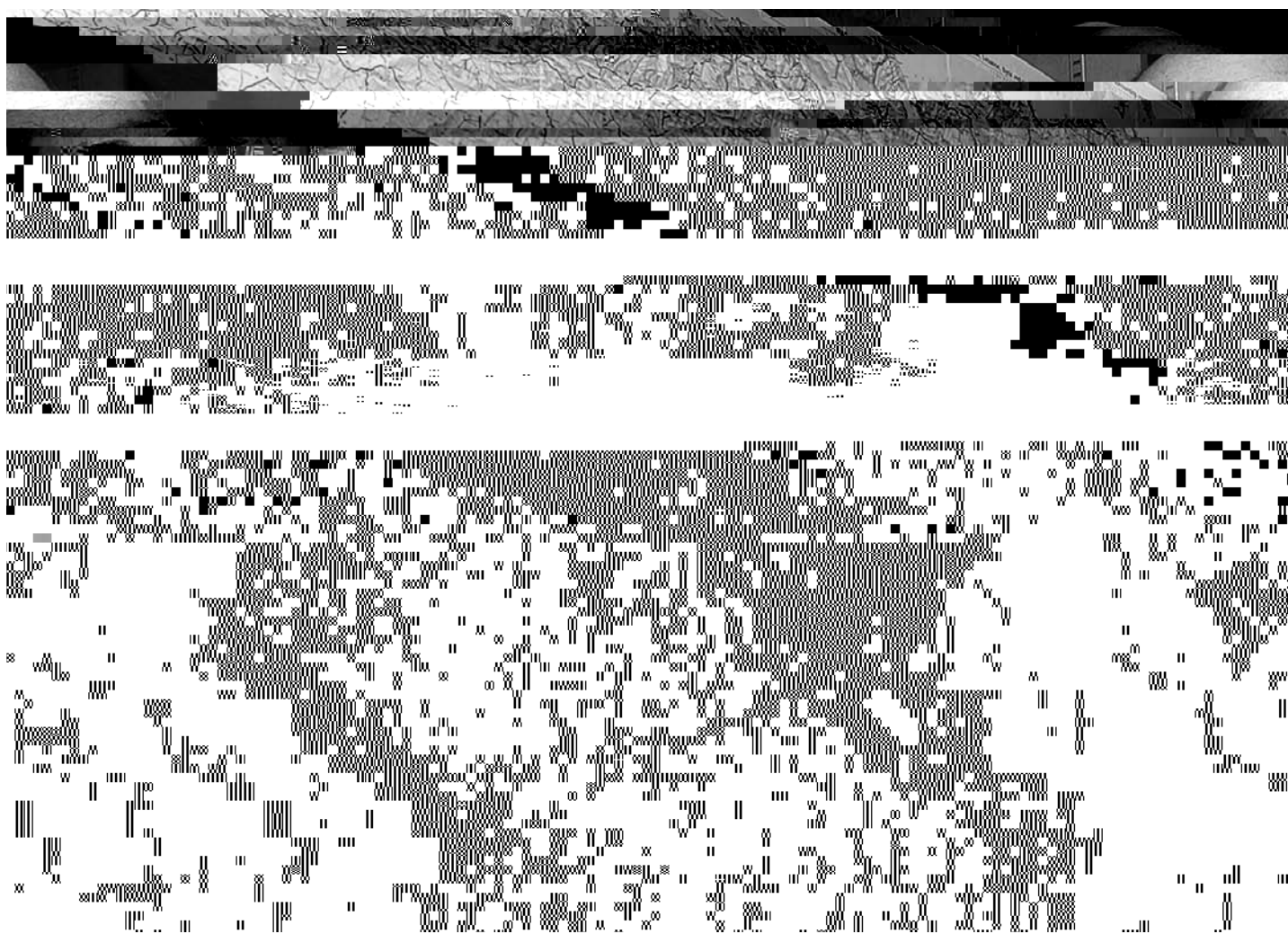


# LIFE

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## Willcuts' Small World



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JEROME HART

*No matter where a crisis occurs, help is never far away. Air Serv President Stu Willcuts ('72) leads a non-profit air force that delivers humanitarian aid to some of the world's most dangerous locations.*

In the small, small world that Stu Willcuts inhabits, Sioux Falls isn't all that far from Baghdad. So it was quite normal, driving in the South Dakota city, to veer around a plastic bag in the road.

"Almost hit the curb," says Willcuts, president of Air Serv International. "It was instinct, you know. You just don't run over stuff like that in Iraq or Afghanistan, because you'd probably hit a bomb."

Willcuts had just returned from another trip to the Middle East, where his organization provides air transportation for the personnel of other humanitarian agencies assisting in the reconstruction of Iraq. Since May 1, Air Serv International has been flying into and out of Baghdad and other cities, delivering medical supplies, water sanitation equipment, communications equipment, and other essential cargo.

When a truck bomb blew up the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad in August, Air Serv flew out the wounded. Willcuts, who lost friends among the 20 dead, is accustomed to danger. In his 30 years of relief and development service with several organizations in Vietnam, Liberia, Bosnia, and other countries, he's never run away.

### "People Depend on Us"

Days after the United Nations bombing, Willcuts was on the telephone with the directors of three large humanitarian organizations who wanted to know, "Is Air Serv staying? Because if you're not, we're going to cut our programs significantly." They wanted assurance that Air Serv would be there if they needed medical or security evacuations.

"That tells me we are an integral part of their ability to perform their own missions, and if we leave, they leave," Willcuts says. "If we're not there, people aren't being helped."

"At the end of the day we went to Iraq because our humanitarian mandate demanded it. Because without us — perhaps I'm arrogant enough to think that the 145 other humanitarian agencies who are using our services would not be able to do what their humanitarian mandate demands of them, as effectively, as efficiently, or at all. So we're there, and we will continue to be there because people depend on us."

Willcuts was born in La Paz, Bolivia, where his parents were missionaries. His father, Jack, later was pastor of Friends churches in Oregon and superintendent of

Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends — the evangelical Quakers of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

"George Fox has always been a part of the family heritage," Willcuts says. "Dad was on the board of trustees, and an aunt, Helen Willcuts Street, was a professor for years. My uncle, George Moore, was professor of psychology. My cousin was head librarian for 20 years or more. Lots of cousins went to school there."

### "The Call" to Serve

Stu graduated in 1972. About a year later the president of World Relief called him and asked if he would direct the organization's work in South Vietnam.

"There was a feeling that went through me — physical, spiritual, emotional, psychological, all of it: 'This is exactly what I should do.' It was a very mystical kind of experience that would set the course for the rest of my life."

In 1975, World Vision called, looking for a director in Latin America. "Again there was this feeling that this is the right thing to do. Quakers call it 'the call.' I didn't

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would live and some would die, as they had throughout their history, and our outside intervention was only a postponement of the inevitable.

“That was a lesson about choices and

- Current home: Sellwood/Moreland neighborhood of Portland
- Children: Sylvain, 25; Luc, 23; Aimee and Zachary, 16; Erin, 12; Matthew, 10; two grandchil-

**Maurice Chandler** (G60) is retiring as president of Barclay College in Haviland, Kan. He has served as president since July 1998, as well as resident consultant 1997-1998. Chandler will remain associated with the college, and will provide counsel for an indefinite period at the request of Barclay's new president, Dr. David Hietala.

**Richard Edmundson** (G67) was quoted in the April 1, 2003, *Camas-Washougal Record* in a piece titled "Locals share views on the conflict in Iraq."

**Cheryl Gribskow** (n68) is the executive director of the Oregon Travel Information Council in Salem, Ore. The council is the only completely self-sufficient state motorist information program in the nation. Funding comes from sign fees, grants, and donations.

**Judi (Birch) Magee** (G70) was awarded the adoption advocate award in November 2002 by Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne. A person must be nominated by coworkers in order to be considered for this award. Judi has served in the adoption field for almost 32 years.

**Glenn Ludtke** (G71) is the band and choir director for Roosevelt High School in Portland.

**Mark Williams** (G77) has purchased Turn-Around Books in downtown Mc gs -Or7Schoard.

**Pamela (Inman)** (G93) and **Scott Robinson**, a boy, Trevor Scott, May 29, 2003, Hillsboro, Ore.

**Christine (Peterson)** (G93) and **Tim (G95) Brandt**, a boy, Luke Charles, April 21, 2003, Tualatin, Ore.

**Michelle (Brown)** (G94) and **Scott Roberts**, a girl, Makenna Elizabeth, April 28, 2003, Coos Bay, Ore.

**Greg** (G94) and **Beth (McDonough)** (G94) **Woolsey**, a boy, Ian David, born Nov. 22, 1999, and his sister, Gloria Aden, born Jan. 12, 2002, both adopted May 4, 2003, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

**Jason** (G95) and **Jennifer (Dawson)** (G95) **Carpenter**

Minutes after winning the college men's basketball national championship, Duke University coach Mike Krzyzewski stood on a podium at center court and looked out into the cheering frenzy around him. He spotted Eric Lautenbach, made eye contact, and acknowledged him with a triumphant raised fist.

Just a few days before, the two sat in Coach K's hotel room reviewing game tape. They even joked about what plays Lautenbach's George Fox team would have run against Duke. "Lautenbach's plays only work if someone like Michael Jordan is running them," quips Krzyzewski.

Welcome to the sports fantasy world of Eric Lautenbach, director of college basketball sports marketing for

Nike. Here world-famous coaches become family friends and trips to big games often end with locker-room celebrations.

Nike pays Lautenbach to help sell shoes and other athletic apparel. Because kids and adults often buy what they see their sports heroes wearing, Lautenbach makes sure the best teams in college basketball are wearing the Nike "swoosh." That means negotiating equipment and licensing deals, making sure the players have the "right" shoes at the right times, and maintaining friendly relationships with the famous and the up-and-comers in the basketball world. Lautenbach can't discuss contract details, but he does negotiate portions of the multi-sport, multimillion-dollar deals Nike negotiates with big-time athletic programs. The most famous coaches are reported to receive contracts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

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