Colson’s Triumph

A notorious Watergate figure wins $1 million for his religious work

THE OBJECT OF HIS FAITH USED TO BE RICHARD NIXON. But prison, where he was sent for his role in the Watergate scandal, triggered a religious conversion in former White House aide Charles Colson. “Born again,” Colson transformed his zeal for Republican politics (he once said he would walk over his own grandmother for Nixon) into a devotion to Jesus. He founded the Prison Fellowship, an organization designed to change the lives of convicts through a combination of practical assistance and relentless evangelism. Colson’s two decades of commitment have worn down most of the skeptics who questioned the sincerity of his conversion, and last week he was awarded the most lucrative religious prize on the face of the earth: the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, which carries a $1 million-plus award, previously granted to Mother Teresa and Billy Graham. “Twenty years later,” says Colson, “I see how God has used my life. Sometimes the greatest adversities turn out to be the greatest blessings.”

END OF THE LINE For only the second time since it was enacted in 1958, a federal statute has been invoked to permit capital punishment for violent drug traffickers. In this case, the sentencing came against a trio of brutal Richmond, Virginia, cocaine dealers who murdered 11 people over a two-month period while running a lucrative crack gang called the New York Boys. In one instance the gang burst into the house of a woman who owed them a few hundred dollars and shot her dead.

About-Face

A plucky female challenges the all-male Citadel

THE CITADEL, SOUTH CAROLINA’S VENERABLE ALL-male military college, was more than happy to accept Shannon Faulkner among its latest recruits—and why not? Faulkner had a 3.7 grade-point average and actively participated in sports. Then, after sending the 18-year-old from Powdersville a letter of acceptance, the school discovered another detail: Shannon Faulkner is a she. The Citadel retracted its offer. Faulkner, who legally requested that her high school delete references to her sex on her application, is suing, challenging the school’s sexual segregation of the student body.

Last year female Navy veterans sought admission to the Citadel’s day program for veterans. The Citadel responded by killing the program.

HEALTH & SCIENCE

AIDS Triple Play

Researchers hit on a new chemical combination to combat the virus

IT IS NOT A CURE. IT IS NOT EVEN A TREATMENT YET. But preliminary research, revealed in Nature, points to a new way to attack the AIDS virus. By targeting a single phase in the virus’ life cycle with three drugs, Yung-Kang Chow and his colleagues at Massachusettes General Hospital found that they could stop the infection cold—in the test tube anyway.

Operating alone, each of the three drugs—AZT, ddF and pyridinone—merely slows down the virus’