

"Just because I pray aloud in the street for the earth to open and swallow Washington, D.C., in one roaring gulp, small-minded people are always labeling me 'right-wing'."

Columnist Joseph Sobran
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"It is fantastic that scientists have developed a genetically engineered tomato that is slow to rot. But it would be even more wonderful if they could develop a genetically engineered politician with the same characteristic."

Edward Grimsley, ©1994 Creators Syndicate

Church out to collect pledges

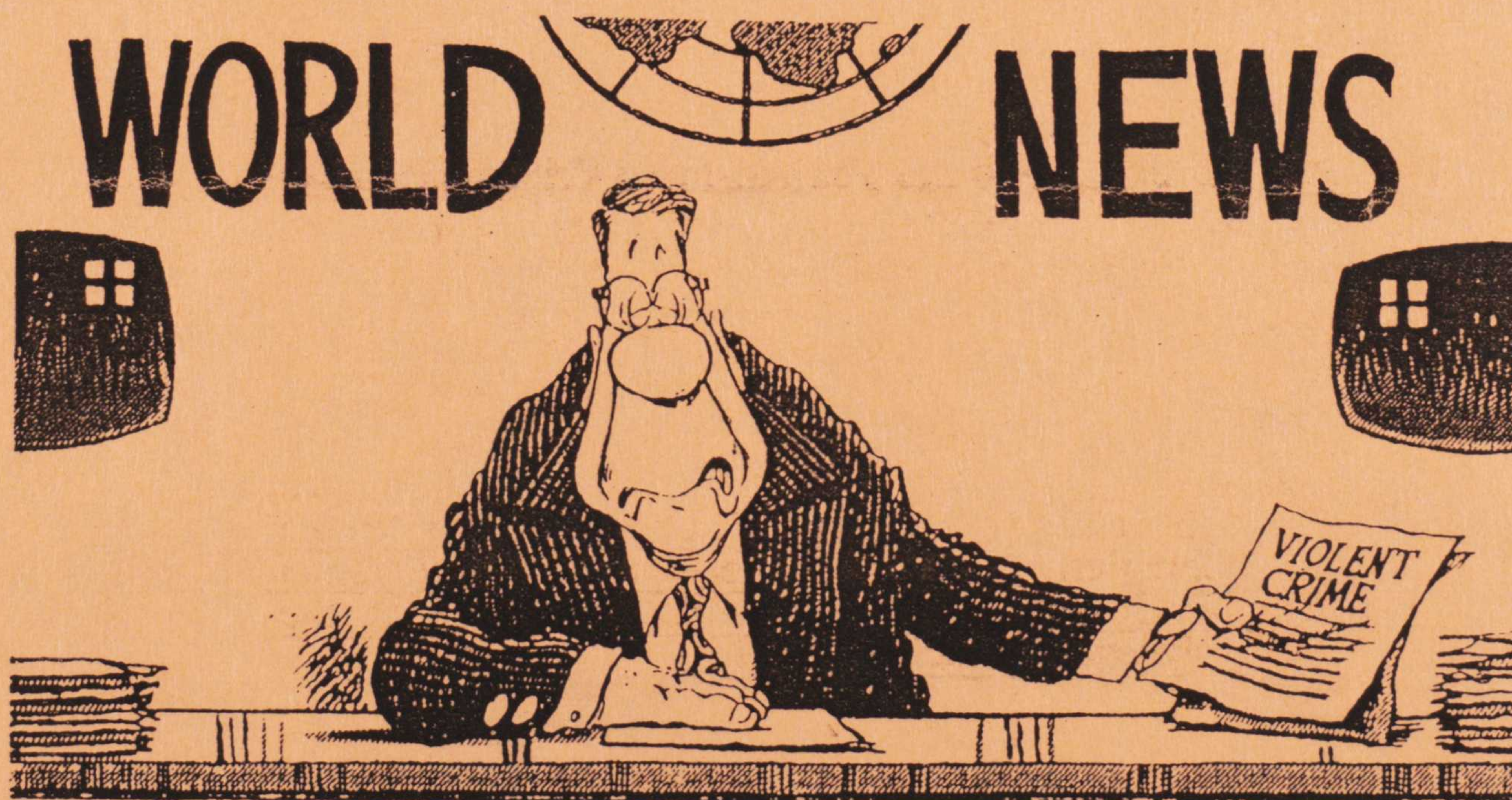
PORTSMOUTH, Va. — The message to parishioners was simple: Pay up or find another church.

Nearly 200 people, about one-fourth of the members of Noble Street Baptist Church, received a form letter recently warning them that they would lose their membership if they did not make good on pledges.

Members deleted from the church rolls are still allowed to worship at the church, but cannot vote at church meetings. If they want to have a wedding or funeral in the church, they must pay to rent it.

At least one family, long a member of the church, is looking for a new place to worship.

"It's like you have a credit card or something," said Kathy Chambliss, a 32-year-old secretary who has attended Noble Street for 16 years. "I'm so glad God is not that way."



"In an effort to stem the rising tide of bloodshed, the United Nations today announced its deployment of a multinational peacekeeping force to the United States of America!"