Airlines, as he puts it) and has written seven books, including one novel as well as nonfiction explorations of worlds including NASCAR (in 2002’s Men and Speed) and Hasbro, the Rhode Island-based toy company that brought us G.I. Joe and Mr. Potato Head (in 1998’s Toy Wars). He still works at the Providence Journal, but has two more film projects in mind: a documentary on old-money Newport and one on Catholic nuns. (The second “is a story about spirituality in the age of celebrity,” he says, confiding that on a visit to a convent, he heard nuns talking about Tom Brady and Jamie Lynn Spears.)

Wallum Lake (later named Zambarano Hospital after Ubaldo Zambarano, one-time head of the TB sanatorium) closed its last TB ward in 1982, but the disease, also known as consumption and the “white plague,” is still the world’s number-two cause of death by infection (the first is AIDS). TB causes an estimated 1.6 million deaths a year and is believed to infect a third of the world’s current population, although most of these cases do not blossom into active disease (see “A Plague Reborn,” July-August 2008, page 38). Miller and Bettencourt tried to emphasize this point as well, in hopes of raising awareness of the need for relief funds and medical research. Their publicity materials include a quotation from Presley professor of social medicine Paul Farmer, founder of the nonprofit Partners in Health, which treats TB patients in Haiti, Rwanda, Peru, Russia, Lesotho, and Malawi: “We can hope greater understanding of how this dreadful illness affected our neighbors in New England might stir greater compassion—and more helpful action—on behalf of the millions who still suffer and die each year from tuberculosis around the world.”

Screenings of On the Lake are being scheduled at venues nationwide and on some PBS affiliates. For more information, visit www.onthelakemovie.com or www.gwaynemiller.com.

Richard van Frank asks who wrote: “Though children may darken your hours /With their shoutings and their fights,/ They also brighten up the house—/ They never turn out the lights.”

“telescope of mind” (January-February). Dan Rosenberg was the first to identify this stanza, which begins the prologue to John Howard Payne’s 1818 play Brutus; or The Fall of Tarquin. The author of the prologue may have been one of Payne’s friends, the Reverend George Croly.

“ambassador’s nose” (January-February). Graeme Wood identified this variant of an incident between a footman and child in Gogol’s Dead Souls, chapter two.

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