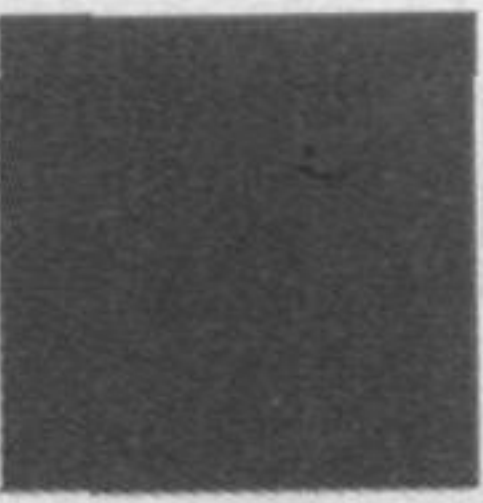


BUSINESS IS BACK!

AFTER YEARS OF SCANDALS AND SETBACKS,
CORPORATE AMERICA IS FINALLY COMING OUT OF ITS SHELL.
PROFITS ARE BOOMING, TECH COMPANIES ARE RESURGENT,
AND CEOs ARE EVEN TAKING A STAND ON THE BIG ISSUES OF THE DAY.
THE STORY OF AN AMAZING COMEBACK.

BY GEOFF COLVIN

 NO CEO DARES SAY IT, yet it must be said: The shaming is over. The 5½-year humiliation of American business following the tech bubble's burst and the Lay-Skilling-Fastow-Ebbers-Kozlowski-Scrushy perp walks that will forever define an era has run its course. After the pounding and the ridicule, penance has finally been done. No longer despised by the public, increasingly speaking up and taking stands, beloved again by investors, chastened and much changed—business is back.