

Date and Time: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:32:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223447068

Documents (96)

1. <u>BRITAIN 'S LEAST WANTED From the 'Aryan Barbarian' to Slav skinhead leaders, they stand accused of</u> fostering hate. Jerome Taylor profiles the first Government list of people not welcome in the UK

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

2. How the West lost Sri Lanka

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

3. FOUND GUILTY BY THE COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

4. <u>From Scotland he can see all the way to Gaza The war artist Peter Howson didn't travel to the Middle East during the recent conflict. But in his imagination he was there every day, recording the despair, he tells Mike Wade</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

5. Emotional outpouring shows sportsmanship YOUR LETTERS Tell us what you think about the news

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

6. Iran resurgent, Persia redux

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

7. Obama's Arabian dreams

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

8. The Europe of our dreams

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

9. WHAT A MESS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

10. Time for change

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

11. And the fog thickens

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

12. MARCH OF THE TERMINATORS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

13. Nations prosper with God on their side

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

14. Once Reviled, Black Hebrews Now Fêted African-American Group in Dimona Faced Down IDF in '86, Now

Celebrates First Member To Become Israeli Citizen letter from dimona

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

15. No money? We can still save DESALINATION

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

16. A sick footnote in history World Holocaust Day reminds us that the lessons of Auschwitz are grimly relevant today, writes Peter Bills

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

17. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

18. Inside the Times

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

19. INSIDE THE TIMES

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

20. Inside the Times

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

21. THE 100 BEST blogs PART 2.0

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

22. THE 100 BEST blogs From health to hip-hop, the second part of our guide to the blogosphere unearths the

net's gems PART 2.0
Client/Matter: -NoneSearch Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

23. Golliwog-gate, the big freeze and an Old Master saved TOP STORIES FROM THE UK

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

24. A fallen star, a tycoon's death and a sea of wood TOP STORIES FROM THE UK AND IRELAND

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

25. Golliwog-gate, the big freeze and an Old Master saved TOP STORIES FROM THE UK

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

Narrowed by

26. Inside the Times

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

27. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

28. INSIDE THE TIMES

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

29. A fallen star, a tycoon's death and a sea of wood TOP STORIES FROM THE UK

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

30. They've got the money...

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

31. Horowitz: Campus radicals a threat

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

32. INSIDE THE TIMES: January 28, 2009

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

33. BECOMING JULIA

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

34. Pump up the volumes PREVIEW

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

35. PRETTY DANGEROUS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

36. The Palestinian Terrorist And Me



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

37. Program Sydney Writers' Festival www.swf.org.au

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

38. TRADER TALK

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

39. Hamas

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

40. Eliminating Hezbollah, Hamas will bring peace

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

41. Council didn't condemn Hamas shelling

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

42. Hamas to blame for injuries to Gaza people

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

43. Provoking Israel

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

44. Self defence

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

45. Israel presses into Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

46. Inflated figures You Say

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

47. Letter: Inflated figures

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

48. Middle East Nightmare Dan Dolteast Lampeter Township

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

49. Shocking scene

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

50. Final Gaza toll: 1,434 people, says rights group

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

51. ISRAEL BATTERS GAZA AS TROOPS ENTER SUBURBS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

52. Palestinians made their own misery

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

53. Letters - Israel 's actions are indefensible

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

54. <u>Letter: Your Say - ONCE again the BBC is on a hiding to nothingregarding its decision not to broadcast the</u> appeal for aid in Gaza. regarding its decision not to broadcast the appeal for aid in Gaza.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

55. Grab a bride . . .

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

56. Grab a bride . . .

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

57. Letter: Gaza invasion was avoidable

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

58. No-one fighting for our freedom

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

59._No-one fighting for our freedom

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

60. Letter: Falklands facts

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

61. Letter: You Say - Reversal of roles

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

62. Moderates and extremists

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

63. Reversal of roles You Say Email:letters@liverpoolecho.co.uk

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

64._UN chief's heartbreaking visit to Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

65. Letter: Relieve suffering

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

66. Gaza is already under siege by Israel

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

67. Israeli aggression

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

68._`Palestinians willing to sacrifice their lives'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

69. Israeli probe clears army of killings

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

70. NT and BEYOND

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

71. Great news for London - the Evening Standard

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

72. LETTERS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

73. Letter: Shocked by Gaza analogy

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

74. Give peace a chance

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

75. Letter: Is anyone ever going to be held responsible for warcrimes? crimes?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

76. Hamás ofrece 2.250 eurospor casarse con una viuda SECUELAS EN GAZA

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

77. Hamás ofrece hasta 2.250 por casarse con una viuda SECUELAS EN GAZA

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009



78. Hamás ofrece hasta 2.250 por casarse con una viuda SECUELAS EN GAZA

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

79. Hamás ofrece hasta 2.250 € por casarse con una viuda SECUELAS EN GAZA

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

80. <u>Hamás ofrece hasta 2.250 euros porcasarseconunaviudadeGaza SECUELAS DE LA OFENSIVA DEL</u> EJÉRCITO ISRAELÍ "Queremos ayudarlas <u>a rehacer sus vidas", dice el presidente de la Asociación Islámica</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

81. Hamàs ofereix fins a 2.250 € per casar-se amb una viuda de Gaza SEQÜELES DE L'OFENSIVA DE L'EXÈRCIT ISRAELIÀ "Volem ajudar-les a refer les seves vides", diu el president de l'Associació Islàmica

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

82. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

83. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

84. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

85. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

86. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

87. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

88. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

89. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

90. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

91. Naivität darf ruhig dazugehören Die Palästinenserin Sumaya Farhat-Naser setzt sich für die Aussöhnung mit

<u>den Israeli ein</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

92. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

93. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

94. proche-orient Les dunes de sable où s'installèrent en 1909 quelques dizaines de familles juives ont vu naître une mégapole de deux millions d'habitants à l'atmosphère californienne. Tel-Aviv, l'« autre Israël », fête ses cent ans

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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95. proche-orient Les dunes de sable où s'installèrent en 1909 quelques dizaines de familles juives ont vu naître une mégapole de deux millions d'habitants à l'atmosphère californienne. Tel-Aviv, l'« autre Israël », fête ses cent ans

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 14, 2009 to

Jun 30, 2009

96. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Jun 30, 2009



BRITAIN'S LEAST WANTED; From the 'Aryan Barbarian' to Slav skinhead leaders, they stand accused of fostering hate. Jerome Taylor profiles the first Government list of people not welcome in the UK

The Independent (London)

May 6, 2009 Wednesday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 1712 words **Byline:** Jerome Taylor

Body

Islamist preachers, white supremacists, a radio shock- jock, an Arab terrorist and two anti-gay evangelicals are just some of the people to have been banned from entering Britain recently, it emerged yesterday.

In a bid to regain the initiative after weeks of negative publicity and fears that anti-immigration parties will sweep the board at the forthcoming European elections, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith took the unprecedented step of "naming and shaming" 16 individuals who were barred from coming to the UK between November and March.

Most of those on the list are foreign Muslim preachers whom the Home Office believes would incite hatred or glorify terrorism if they were allowed in. But the list also includes a number of white supremacists, homophobic preachers and an anti-Arab Jewish militant. Two Slav supremacists on the list have been incarcerated in a Russian jail since October 2007.

American shock jock Michael Savage (real name Michael Weiner) typically spends his three-hour show railing against liberals, homosexuals, Muslims, and illegal immigrants. The author of several best-selling books, he defines his politics as being to the right of the Republican Party, but "to the left of God". News of his inclusion on the Home Office blacklist sparked outrage among listeners and fellow radio hosts, who bombarded the airwaves calling for an organised boycott of Britain because of its "Marxist" attitude towards free speech.

It also prompted Mr Savage to announce that he intended to sue the Home Secretary for defamation. "Darn! And I was just planning a trip to England for their superior dental work and cuisine," he told the right-leaning news website WorldNetDaily yesterday. "Then it sank in ... She's linking me with mass murderers who are in prison for killing Jewish children on buses? For my speech? The country where the Magna Carta was created?"

Noting that UK boasts draconian libel laws in comparison to the US, he said: [I want to sue her] for linking me up with murderers because of my opinions, my writings, my speaking - none of which has advocated any violence, ever." Mr Savage added that he hadn't visited Britain for 20 years, and had no plans to do so. Neither had he

recently applied to visit, suggesting that Ms Smith's hypothetical list was published as part of a PR offensive rather than to address any pressing threat.

Under a new law introduced in 2005, Britain is able to pre-emptively ban anyone who promotes hatred, terrorism or serious criminal activity. Since the measure was introduced, 101 people have been refused entry. In the five months to March, 22 were excluded; the Home Office refused to name six of the people, citing national security reasons. Critics argue that the orders are a form of pre-emptive policing that stifles free speech and, in the age of the internet, have little effect on halting hateful remarks.

Additional reporting by Guy Adams

SAMIR AL QUNTAR

LEBANESE MILITANT

The former fighter with the Palestinian Liberation Front took part in the attempted kidnapping of an Israeli family in Nehariya in 1979 which resulted in the deaths of five people, including two children.

He was imprisoned by the Israelis in 1980 but released last year as part of a prisoner swap between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hizbollah. He is considered a national hero in Lebanon but is reviled as an unrepentant terrorist in Israel.

Since his release, he has given a number of interviews calling for further attacks on Israel.

NASR JAVED

MILITANT LEADER

Believed to be a Kashmiri nationalist involved with Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pakistan-based Kashmiri terrorist organisation thought to be behind the recent attacks in Mumbai and Lahore. India has accused Javed of being a mid-ranking Lashkar operative who helps train their suicidal fedayeen fighters. After the Mumbai attacks, Javed was widely quoted by the Indian and Pakistani press as promising more assaults by Lashkar militants.

AMIR SIDDIQUE

PREACHER

Siddique is said to be deputy prayer leader at Islamabad's Red Mosque, a notorious stronghold for Islamic militants. The army laid siege to the mosque in 2007 after militants kidnapped foreigners and imposed strict rules on shopkeepers. Hundreds of people, including the mosque's leader, were killed. It is supposedly back under Pakistani government control but many survivors of the siege have gone on to fight for the Taliban in the Swat Valley.

FRED WALDON PHELPS SNR

SHIRLEY PHELPS-ROPER

ANTI-GAY EVANGELICALS

Fred Waldron Phelps founded the Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church, a highly controversial but small sect of evangelicals who believe God is punishing the world for tolerating homosexuality. The church is primarily made up of members of Phelps's family and its followers have caused outrage in the US by picketing the funerals of Aids victims and soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Phelps's daughter Shirley Phelps-Roper is the pastor and senior leader of the Westboro Baptists. The Home Office banned her from entering the UK after she threatened to picket a school play in Basingstoke, Hampshire, about an anti-gay murder.

The Westboro Baptists regularly claim that they will picket events outside North America but they have yet to do so. They are largely ignored by the American media, which treats them as an insignificant congregation of radical believers who hold little sway beyond their families.

STEPHEN DONALD BLACK

WHITE SUPREMACIST

Don Black, photographed above with the British National Party chairman Nick Griffin at a conference in New Orleans in 2005, is one of America's most prominent white supremacists.

A former grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, he went on to set up Stormfront, one of the most popular white power websites in the US. In 1981, he led a farcical KKK attempt to take over the island nation of Dominica to create a white supremacist state and was later jailed. Mr Griffin and the BNP's deputy leader, Simon Darby, have met Black on numerous occasions.

Yesterday, Mr Darby said: "Just because the BNP shares a platform with someone doesn't mean we agree with what they say."

But a spokesperson for the anti-racism group Searchlight, said: "The fact that Nick Griffin is prepared to embrace someone as vile as Don Black says everything you need to know about Griffin and his party.

"The European election campaign has only just started and already the BNP's mask of moderation has been torn away."

ABDULLAN QADRI AL AHDAL

PREACHER

An extremist who is banned because he is considered to be engaging in unacceptable behaviour, including justifying or glorifying terrorist violence.

MICHAEL WEINER

SHOCK JOCK

Better known as Michael Savage, this conservative commentator and "shock jock" DJ's regular rants on US radio are as controversial as they are popular. A best-selling author who once called the Koran a "book of hate" and said an autistic child was "a brat who hasn't been told to cut the act out", he also once suggested the US let its immigrants starve to death in order to ease overcrowding.

WAGDY GHONEIM

ISLAMIC WRITER

A prolific writer and Islamic scholar who has frequently called for jihad against Jews, Ghoneim was thrown out of the US in 2004 after serving as an imam in a California mosque. The Americans accused the Egyptian of raising funds for terror groups, but expelled him because they did not have enough evidence to prosecute. Ghoneim denies any terrorist links and says he is just an Islamic scholar.

YUNIS AL ASTAL

A preacher with a sizeable following among the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip, Al Astal is a <u>Hamas</u> member of the Palestinian parliament.

He has described Jews as "the brothers of apes and pigs" and in a sermon last year called for a jihad, or holy war, to conquer Europe and the US. Last April, he declared that Rome, "the capital of the Catholics", would soon be overtaken by Islam.

ABDUL ALI MUSA

ISLAMIC WRITER

A controversial US-born Muslim convert who heads the Institute of Contemporary Islamic Thought in Washington, a global Islamic think-tank that promotes orthodox Sunni Islam. The Anti-Defamation League has accused Musa of regularly making anti-Semitic statements. He believes the 11 September attacks were a Jewish conspiracy and has previously praised Palestinian suicide bombers.

MIKE GUZOFSKY

JEWISH SUPREMACIST

A militant Jewish leader and follower of Kahanism, an ideology which critics say is quasi-fascist.

The US government says Guzofsky has links to Kahane Chai, a group named after the extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane. A fundamental tenet of Kahanist ideology is that the state of Israel should defend itself against Arab and Nazi enemies, and give full citizenship only to Jews.

ARTUR RYNO

SLAV SUPREMACIST

The former Moscow art student-turned-supremacist led a gang of skinheads which carried out 20 racist murders and 12 attempted murders. At his trial, the 19-year-old claimed he wanted to cleanse Russia of non-ethnic Russians. At his sentencing in December, he shouted: "For faith, tsar and fatherland." It is unlikely he ever applied to come to the UK: he has been in custody since October 2007.

PATEL SKACHEVSKY

SLAV SUPREMACIST

Pavel Skachevsky acted as Ryno's right-hand man and was found guilty of murder at the same trial. Little is known about him because the hearing was held behind closed doors. Their gang is thought to have carried out at least 20 racist murders between August 2006 and October 2007. Their victims included Tajik labourers, Chinese migrants and a chess master from Russia's far east.

SAFWAT HIJAZI

TELEVANGELIST

This popular Egyptian preacher appears regularly on Al-Nas [The People] TV - an Arabic-language satellite channel which promotes a hardline Salafi interpretation of Islam. In 2006, the station dismissed all of its *female* staff. Israel wanted the station shut down after Hijazi issued a fatwa allegedly permitting the killing of Israeli Jews in Arab countries and the Palestinian territories.

ERIC GLIEBE

NEO-NAZI

A former professional boxer who fought as the "Aryan Barbarian", Gliebe is chairman of the Nationalist Alliance, America's best organised and most effective white supremacist group, based in West Virginia. His activity in racial

nationalism was inspired by his father, who served in the German army in the Second World War. Gliebe has also helped to pioneer the white supremacist music scene.

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How the West lost Sri Lanka

Daily News (Sri Lanka)
May 8, 2009 Friday

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Length: 1699 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 8 -- Ever since gaining independence in 1948, this island state in the Indian Ocean has been playing an active role in international affairs well beyond its size. It has been a committed member of the United Nations contributing to its activities including peace keeping, a senior member of the Commonwealth, and an active player in the non-aligned movement, SAARC and many others.

Literacy It has signed up to all the key United Nations conventions ranging from the conventions on restrictions on the use of certain excessively injurious weapons, to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. With a high level of literacy Sri Lanka is among the few functioning democracies in the region. These factors, along with its strategic location in the world's busiest sea route, make Sri Lanka a useful ally for any country. But historically, Sri Lanka has been identifying itself closely with the Western world following four centuries of colonial rule starting with the Portuguese and ending with the British. It was a mutually beneficial relationship cemented by generous economic assistance provided to the country. In time, with recurrent fluctuations in the price of its commodity exports and sharp increases in the price of essential imports such as oil, the dependence on Western aid increased. Aid came in many forms: some bilateral, and much of it multilateral, mainly from agencies such as the World Bank. Eventually aid constituted an indispensable part of balancing the annual budget and meeting the gap in external balance of payments. The heavy reliance on aid allowed the donor community, initially, to impose conditions which were ostensibly to promote economic growth. It was such an effective tool for donors that the choices for recipients were severely limited - accept the conditions or go without aid. With no other alternatives, almost always countries opted to grin and bear the pain, sometimes with severe domestic repercussions. In time, donors realised the immense potential of this tool to extend their influence beyond the economy to political, social and other spheres. Recent years also mark the upsurge in blatant disregard for human rights in many parts of the world and addressing it has become a top priority for W Estern Governments. Trying to capitalise on this concern were the INGOs scouring the globe for 'investment' opportunities. Sri Lanka's efforts to deal with a terrorist group which had ravaged the country for three decades turned out to be a fertile ground for them. It was a soft touch compared with Iraq or Afghanistan or Darfur and a pleasant place to live. 'Human rights' was the issue. The only missing link, however, was information to back up a campaign. And that was provided by the LTTE through cooked up data and doctored photos broadcast to the world through their websites, television channels and print media. LTTE trap Not only the gullible Governments, but organisations such as the United Nations, the BBC and respected newspapers such as the New York Times fell into the LTTE trap. It also became a haven for INGOs feeding on each other. Everyone was happy, except the Sri Lankans who felt they were hard done by. However, their protests did not cut much ice since the well tailored information dispensed by the LTTE fitted the human rights abuse model like a glove. Why allow facts to spoil a perfect story, especially when it came neatly packaged without having to do any hard work and catered well to your needs? The irony is this has been going on for over three decades and continues to flourish even today unquestioned. Only a handful of journalists took the time and effort to venture

How the West lost Sri Lanka

beyond the LTTE propaganda. Eliminate terrorism With the first serious attempt by the Rajapaksa Government to eliminate terrorism all the conditions were ripe for Western states to clamp down the screws on Sri Lanka. And they did. The series of demands concomitant to aid included coming up immediately with a political solution, release of those held under the prevention of Terrorism Act, devolution of power and the latest, a ceasefire to allow the civilian hostages held by the LTTE to leave. The Government has clearly spelt out its commitment to a political solution underlining the fact that it was premature to negotiate until the terrorist threat was eliminated. With regard to a ceasefire it has pointed out over and over that the lull in fighting will be used by the LTTE to rearm. That is exactly what happened during the ceasefire agreement of 2002-2006 when the LTTE used it to build its military infrastructure including, adding four new battalions, expanding naval capability - the Sea Tigers, and establishing the nascent air force. During the period it also built up its arsenal and established modern communication systems all in preparation for war. During this period the two parties met six times but the discussions were limited to administrative matters and the LTTE walked out on flimsiest of excuses. Negotiations were merely a cover for military build up. Any new ceasefire would have ended the same way, the Government advised. But in April, at the behest of the international community President Rajapaksa allowed a 48-hour cessation of hostilities to allow the LTTE to release civilians held hostage. The only thing that happened was the LTTE shot at those who attempted to leave and killed two soldiers. Only 28 people managed to escape. So where is the logic for a ceasefire again? It is true that for ages ceasefire has been used by warring parties as the mechanism to evacuate innocent civilians caught up in the fighting. But in the case of Sri Lanka these civilians are purposely held hostage by the LTTE as a human shield to prevent the Armed Forces from attacking them. Ceasefire In fact the 160,000 that escaped from the clutches of the LTTE did so not during a ceasefire: it was through combat operations of the Government soldiers who pushed the LTTE cadres back facilitating the civilians to leave. The only purpose a ceasefire could serve in the circumstances is to help LTTE to buy time to regroup and prolong the agony of those held in captivity. In spite of this, the persistence of Western Governments and INGOs on a ceasefire shows either a surprising lack of understanding of the ground situation or a deliberate decision to ignore it. During the past week Gordon Brown sent his Foreign Minister along with the French counterpart to press the Government and another delegation of British MPs followed immediately after. Canada has followed suit. Demands Hillary Clinton keeps on firing from a distance. Their mantra is ceasefire. It is not surprising that the Sri Lankan Government has not acceded to these demands. No sane Government on the verge of eliminating the terrorists would. It may also come as a surprise to these do-gooders that the representatives from within the region, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee of India, a country which has a greater stake in the issue than any other, and Yasushi Akashi, Japan's Special Envoy to the island, who also visited the country around the same time did not make such demands. Akashi stressed at the end of his three-day visit that there was no link between the aid provided by Japan and progress in peace efforts. An important factor Western countries have overlooked in their manipulations is that unlike in those days, when there was no alternative to Western aid, now there are other donors who are willing and able to step into the breach. As Jeremy Page of the Times noted China's aid to Sri Lanka jumped from a few million dollars in 2005 to almost \$1 billion last year, replacing Japan as the biggest foreign donor. By comparison, the United States gave \$7.4 million last year and Britain just 1.25 million. Beijing also appears to have increased arms sales significantly to Sri Lanka since 2007, when the US suspended military aid over the same human rights issues. According to Jane's Defence Weekly in April 2007 Sri Lanka signed a classified \$37.6 million deal to buy Chinese ammunition and ordnance for its army and navy. It is not China alone that helps Sri Lanka: there is Japan, Russia, Iran, Libya and Vietnam in addition to India and Pakistan. There were rumours of Obama and Brown along with some INGOs urging the IMF not to provide the standby arrangement of \$1.9 billion to Sri Lanka. What the West needs to realise is that the more they attempt to clamp down the more they push Sri Lanka into the fold of China and other friendly nations. Suicide bombers The duplicity of the West does not end there. By all accounts the LTTE led by Prabhakaran is far more deadly than Al Qaeda. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has described it as the "most dangerous and deadly extremists" in the world and ranked it ahead of Al Qaeda and Hamas. According to the agency advisory, the LTTE has perfected the use of suicide bombers; invented the suicide belt; pioneered the use of **women** in suicide attacks and murdered some 4,000 people in the past two years alone. It goes on to say that the LTTE's "ruthless tactics have inspired terrorist networks worldwide, including Al Qaeda in Iraq." The FBI also notes that the LTTE operatives have assassinated two world leaders, the only terrorist organisation to do so. This is only a part of its resume. Drug dealing, credit card fraud, human trafficking and recruitment of child soldiers are in addition. For the 70,000 deaths he was responsible for, the New York Times called Prabhakaran the Pol Pot of South Asia. And now Prabhakaran and his top leaders are trapped in a five kilometre stretch of land surrounded

How the West lost Sri Lanka

by Sri Lankan Armed Forces. If it was Osama bin Laden who was cornered like this, will the US and UK still call for a ceasefire? It is this deceit in applying double standards that is a further factor in the West losing Sri Lanka. Having come this far there is no doubt the Sri Lankan Government will soon complete the task of eliminating the terrorist group. Simultaneously the window of opportunity for the West to rethink its strategy is rapidly dwindling. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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DAILY MAIL (London)

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Byline: BY RICHARD LITTLEJOHN

Body

HAVING discovered that the Government can't legally strip disgraced banker Fred Goodwin of his 6 693,000- a-year pension, Harriet Harman announces an appeal to the 'court of public opinion'.

Labour's deputy leader says she is determined Fred the Shred won't see a penny of his retirement fund, whatever the law says.

Ministers have been told that any attempt to stop his pension would fall foul of their own precious yuman rites legislation. But that won't stop Hattie. She declared: 'It might be enforceable in a court of law, but it's not enforceable in the court of public opinion and that's where the Government steps in.'

This is an intriguing development. In most other circumstances, this Government fights tooth and nail not to give in to public opinion. When they force through unpopular measures, ministers pride themselves on resisting the wishes of the people who pay their wages. In those cases, the 'court of public opinion' is dismissed as 'mob rule'.

If this is indeed a sincere change of heart then, frankly, I'm all for it.

In the court of public opinion, for instance, Jacqui Smith would be convicted of stealing, for fraudulently misrepresenting her sister's back bedroom as her 'main' residence for parliamentary expenses purposes.

In the court of public opinion, Peter Mandelson would have been banged up for dishonestly obtaining a mortgage by lying to his building society. He certainly wouldn't have been handed a first-class return on the gravy train, elevated to the peerage and appointed to a key role in government.

In the court of public opinion, Tony Blair would find himself accused of war crimes after sending troops to Iraq on the basis of a dodgy dossier cooked up by his co-conspirator Alastair Campbell. The court of public opinion would have convicted him of selling honours and taking bribes from Formula One.

In the court of public opinion, Two Jags would have been found guilty of assault after punching a punter on the campaign trail.

In the court of public opinion, Gordon Brown would be convicted of criminal negligence for selling off Britain's gold reserves at car-boot-sale prices. He could always ask for a separate count of stealing 6100 billion from private pensions to be taken into account, sentences to run consecutively.

Most of the time, ministers are so contemptuous of public opinion that they ignore it completely. They're even prepared to renege on election promises, as in flatly refusing to hold a referendum on the EU constitution sell-out.

Left to the court of public opinion, we'd bring back hanging, restore the grammar schools, end immigration and force councils to empty the dustbins once a week, every week.

We'd pull out of Europe, scrap the yuman rites act and put every foreign criminal and terrorist on the first plane to Timbuktu.

There'd be police stations open day and night in every High Street and bobbies on the beat. Serial burglars, car thieves and anyone carrying an offensive weapon in public would face automatic, exemplary prison sentences.

Ludicrous elf'n'safety laws would be scrapped and the legions of five-a-day co-ordinators and diversity managers would have their contracts torn up and be told to get a proper job.

Those preposterous windmills scarring the landscape would be torn down; speed cameras would be dismantled, except in genuine accident blackspots, and traffic humps would be bulldozed flat.

In the court of public opinion, the Prime Minister would have resigned months ago, instead of clinging to office by what remains of his fingernails until the last possible moment.

Harriet Harman's ruthless, vindictive attempts at social engineering would be laughed out of the court of public opinion. And, yes, Fred the Shred would lose his pension and would probably end up swinging from a hastily erected gibbet outside the Bank of England.

Once ministers start resorting to the court of public opinion to get their own way, they're on dangerous ground.

Soon we'll get round to asking why we need politicians at all. Why not just pass laws by pressing a button on our Sky remote?

Most politicians, and Hattie in particular, wouldn't last five minutes in the court of public opinion.

Guilty as charged. Take them down.

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MANDY'S PEERLESS HYPOCRISY

LEAST welcome intervention in the Fred the Shred pension row came from that odious creep Mandelson, criticising Goodwin's lack of shame and selfawareness.

Given that Mandy has built a career being rewarded for failure -- twice paid off after being forced to resign in disgrace, profiting from a dodgy property deal to the tune of hundreds of thousands of pounds at taxpayers' expense, collecting a slew of pensions, an EU parachute payment worth a small fortune and an ermine-clad meal ticket for life in the Lords -- you might have thought that, for once, he'd have kept his mouth shut. But then shame and self-awareness have never been Mandelson's strong suits.

IN THE latest assault on the traditional family, the Government has decided that single <u>women</u> will be able to nominate anyone they like as the 'father' on their baby's birth certificate.

The 'dad' doesn't have to be the biological father, or even in a romantic relationship with the mother. It could be another woman.

I can't help being reminded of Trigger's birth certificate on Only Fools And Horses. Under 'father's name' was written: 'Some soldiers.'

I'VE BEEN sent further correspondence on the acronym 'Chimps', used by proper coppers to describe their police community support colleagues.

Mail reader Tony Nicholls tells me the correct version is: 'Completely hopeless in most policing situations.'

IS IT A BIRD? IS IT A PLANE? NO, IT'S NORMAN BROWN

GORDON BROWN today becomes the first European leader granted an audience with President Barack Obama. With excitement mounting, we tune in once again to Eyewitness News, Palm Beach, for a special preview of this historic meeting.

Good morning, America, how are you? This is your favourite son, Chad Hanging, back with another three hours of news you can use. Our top story this hour is the arrival of the President of Englandland in our nation's capital. Joining me now live from London is our special correspondent, Brit Limey.

Good morning, Chad. I'm standing outside Buckingham Palace, the world-famous home of soccer star David Buckingham and his wife, Queen Victoria.

Great to see, you, Brit. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I thought President Tony Blair had already met with President Obama at the National Prayer Breakfast a coupla weeks back.

That's affirmative, Chad. But President Blair isn't President of Englandland any more.

He's not? Then what was he doing in Washington?

Beats me, Chad. Perhaps it was something to do with his new role bringing peace to the Mid East.

How's that going?

Pretty good, Chad, if you don't count the war between <u>Hamas</u> and Israel, Hezbollah firing rockets at civilians and the crazies in Iran going nuclear.

So who's the new guy?

He's called President Norman Brown. This isn't his first visit, Chad, he met with President George W. Bush last year.

I must've been watching baseball that day. Funny, I don't remember seeing any coverage of an election in Englandland.

There wasn't any, Chad.

No coverage?

No election, Chad.

How did this Norman Brown get to be President, then?

Some kind of a coup, I guess. There certainly seem to be more armed policemen around these days, and there are surveillance cameras everywhere.

Jeez-o, sounds like a Commie dictatorship.

Feels like it some days, too, Chad.

So why is Norman Brown in Washington today?

He's come to tell President Obama to join his crusade to save the world. He thinks he's Superman and has all the answers to the economic crisis.

Englandland has to be doing real good if this guy thinks he can fix the credit crunch.

Not so, Chad. The IMF says Englandland is worst placed of all developed economies to cope. The currency has collapsed, unemployment is headed towards three million and the country is saddled with 62 trillion of debt, which it will take generations to pay off.

So who's responsible for that?

Norman Brown.

Brown's the guy who got Englandland into this mess in the first place?

Affirmative, Chad. When he was Treasury Secretary he encouraged the banks to go on a reckless lending spree which has bankrupted the country, he let public spending rip right out of control, and destroyed Englandland's private pension system, which was once the envy of the world.

Does he admit he screwed up?

Far from it, Chad. He blames America.

Blames America, Chad, for selling sub-prime mortgages, which were then bought by banks in Englandland and turned out not to be worth the paper they were printed on.

No one forced these banks to buy them.

No one stopped them, either, Chad. Ten years ago, Englandland tore up the rules designed to stop banks getting into trouble.

Who was the genius behind that cockamayme scheme?

He does what?

Norman Brown.

So let me get this straight. This Norman Brown guy wrecks Englandland then flies to Washington to tell us that he's saved the world. And he blames America for his own incompetence?

America and a guy called Sir Fred Goodwin.

Who's he?

Ran the Royal Bank of Scotlandland into the ground.

And they made him a 'sir'? Whose idea was that?

Norman Brown. Now he wants Goodwin to lose his pension.

Can he do that?

No, but seeing as Brown's stolen everyone else's pension in Englandland, it won't stop him trying.

So what's happening in Washington today?

There's a formal meeting at the White House, followed by lunch.

Better tell President Obama to count the spoons.

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From Scotland he can see all the way to Gaza; The war artist Peter Howson didn't travel to the Middle East during the recent conflict. But in his imagination he was there every day, recording the despair, he tells Mike

Wade

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Length: 1506 words **Byline:** Mike Wade

Body

luster bombs are preoccupying Peter Howson. "I'm obsessed with cluster bombs right now," he growls. "And this picture - you even have the mosque in there, with the bombs going off all around it." The artist stands by the window in his study.

Behind him, the Ayrshire hills shimmer on a crisp winter's morning, a beautiful, tranquil prospect. But Howson's attention is entirely focussed on his work, scattered over the floor, images of desolation that he has pulled from the 20 or so sketchbooks piled on his desk.

Each one is more terrifying than the last. A line drawing of a figure in agonising pain. Children f leeing some unseen horror. A couple embracing - they seem lost in a moment of sexual ecstasy, until you look closer. "It's actually a dying pregnant woman," Howson says in his slow, resonant voice.

"Oh Peter, I've not seen this one before. That's beautiful," cries his fiancée, Annie McKay, who has her coat on, ready to go out on some errand for him. She is pointing at a Pietà, a figure sorrowfully carrying a broken body.

Howson picks it up and places it next to another, a skeleton on its haunches leering out of a pattern of explosions and death. "I have spoken to people who have been in Gaza since the ceasefire," Howson says gruffly. "It is like the aftermath in an earthquake zone." To those who know his work, it is almost logical that Howson should have reached this point, working manically during the recent Israeli invasion to pour out his rage over a war that has cost more than 1,300 lives. For the best part of 30 years he has visited many other scenes of despair, from the dossers of Glasgow recorded in his early work to the corpses of Kosovo, which he conjured up as an official war artist in Bosnia.

Along the way he has endured all sorts of personal nightmares.

From Scotland he can see all the way to Gaza The war artist Peter Howson didn't travel to the Middle East during the recent conflict. But in his imagination he

He has Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism sometimes associated with intelligent people, but which often blights their relationships with others. Its influence on him is unknowable, but at different moments, marital breakdown, drug addiction, alcoholism, and religious conversion have overwhelmed his life.

Through all this his prodigious output has rarely diminished, but - even by his own obsessive standards - the period since Christmas was immense. In just a matter of days, hundreds of these Sketches of Gaza appeared, as the artist was swept up in what he calls the "ecstasy" of creativity. His routine is daunting. Rising at three every morning, he prays for half an hour in a tiny chapel beside his rambling Victorian house. Then, inspired by the visions that fill up his mind, he starts sketching again. The aim, eventually, is to create a series of oil paintings and mount a show to rival his Bosnia exhibition, sponsored by The Times, which ran at the Imperial War Museum.

"Images come to me, like you wouldn't believe," he says. "I've got millions inside my head, it's like I ask and they come pouring out. I know that the strength, whatever it is, doesn't come directly from me. It can't do. It's like keying into something much more powerful, into the pulse of the Universe in a way. I know it sounds a bit flowery. But it is stunning."

Howson has made three pilgrimages to Jerusalem in four years and most recently was in the Holy Land in the weeks before the Israeli offensive. There he listened to a Mass that moved him to tears, and met George Sa'adeh, the Christian Deputy Mayor of Bethlehem, whose 12-year-old daughter was shot dead by an Israeli soldier.

"He is the most courageous man I've met. He wants to forgive, and I don't know how he can. He was the perfect embodiment of all the people I met over there, of Christianity, of any kind of religion, in action," he says.

Speaking on the eve of yesterday's general election in Israel, though, he is pessimistic. It hardly matters who wins, he says, "they are all as bad as each other", but Binyamin Netanyahu - whose brother Yonatan was killed in the raid on Entebbe in 1976 - has a dark side that Howson fears. "Netanyahu's brother was a hero, and he himself has become the ultimate anti-*Hamas*, anti- Palestinian leader. He is likely to get in narrowly, and when he gets in, it will be apocalyptic. " Howson's only embarrassment is that these new images are works of his imagination.

He wanted to be in Gaza "at the eye of the storm". He even talked of being smuggled into the conflict zone, this pale, 6ft 4in former bodybuilder, crawling through a tunnel to get to the other side. He snorts. The image would be funny if it wasn't so tragic.

Howson was born in London in 1948, but moved to Prestwick when he was 4.

He started at Glasgow School of Art, but in his first year, signed up for the Army, in which he served for nine months. He hated the experience. When he finally graduated, he emerged in the 1980s alongside Ken Currie and Steven Campbell, his work quickly finding its way into the Tate in London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art and MoMA in New York. His marriage, to Teri, was short-lived, but he has a daughter, 20-year-old Lucie, a blast of energy in the house today, who suffers from Asperger's and epilepsy. His early success brought celebrity, drugs and drink. For a while Howson hung out with David Bowie, Bob Geldof and Robbie Coltrane.

He was even mates with Madonna, until he disobeyed her wishes and painted her nude; with that, Madge stopped ringing. But Howson was that rare thing, a modern British artist with rock-star appeal before anyone had heard of Tracey Emin and Damien Hirst. And by the way, he says, their work is elitist rubbish.

By 2000 he believes his addictions had brought him close to death and he checked himself into a clinic. It was there, that he saw the light and felt "this overwhelming sense of peace and love come into my life". That was the start of his new journey, he says, when he became a Christian.

"I'm not saying I turned into a saint, but I am trying to do the right thing. I haven't betrayed Annie, or anyone." But it is a hard God he serves. He keeps a full bottle of Captain Morgan rum by his desk, a reminder of the bad old days, and lets his work emerge between the poles of absolute excess and utter self-denial. Simply finding the middle way

From Scotland he can see all the way to Gaza The war artist Peter Howson didn't travel to the Middle East during the recent conflict. But in his imagination he

appears to require a huge effort. He can be "15 different people", and for the platoon of friends and helpers who surround him, he is, he admits, a nightmare.

Howson survives only on a rigorous, self-imposed schedule.

Sleeping is "a waste of time" and he habitually rises early to sketch in his study and listens to Bach, whose work he "obsessively" collects. At 7am, he is driven to his studio, 30 miles away in Glasgow, where he paints all day, or talks to Frank, the artist and heroin addict who shares his studio space. He travels home on the coast road, to give him time to relax and talk to John, his driver and helper.

And then there's Annie, who has left the house to let us talk.

She is the art teacher who Howson ran into six years ago at a gallery opening at Gourock on the Clyde. For a while they lived in adjoining flats in Glasgow, until Annie found the pile they have been living in for the past 18 months. A tiny photograph of the pair of them is stuck on the wall near the fireplace, and Howson already wears her wedding ring, though they are only engaged to be married.

"We don't have what you might call a normal relationship," he says. "We stay in different parts of the house. She takes care of me a lot of the time, I take care of her in some ways. Sometimes we get a bit confused, but not really. I know we are a couple who love each other very much and care for each other. We're just not a proper couple in that we don't have a physical relationship." We're way off topic now, Howson complains.

His message is clear: "The people who are suffering here are the innocents, that's what we are saying. The innocents are suffering and Israel cannot get away from that. These aren't people who want war." What should he call his exhibition of these Gaza paintings, he wonders. "Unholy Land"? "Samson in Gaza"? "David and Goliath"? Then he pulls himself round to his domestic circumstances again.

He meets Annie in the evenings, he says, for a hour or so, when they sit in front of the television. When their programmes are finished, they go their separate ways to bed.

But how can such a passionate man resist a beautiful woman such as Annie? "I love women, I do," he pleads.

"Probably that's one of my big dangers. I'm a visual person, I love beauty. There's comes a point in life ... Beauty can lead you to God, in the way that Dante was led through Beatrice.

You have to sanctify it at some point." He moved to this house for Annie, but he misses the city.

"But then I don't really like being anywhere, apart from work. The idea of happiness doesn't really come into it for me. It's a different feeling, part of the Asperger's. I don't really feel here. It's like watching the world through a television.

Even talking to you is strange." www.peterhowson.net

"What should he call his exhibition, he wonders. "Unholy Land? Samson in Gaza? David and Goliath?"

Graphic

Sketches by Peter Howson based on the recent war in Gaza, above and including a pregnant woman dying. Right, the artist at his Ayrshire studio

ASHLEY COOMBES

From Scotland he can see all the way to Gaza The war artist Peter Howson didn't travel to the Middle East during the recent conflict. But in his imagination he

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Emotional outpouring shows sportsmanship; YOUR LETTERS Tell us what you think about the news

The Chronicle (Toowoomba, Queensland)
February 14, 2009 Saturday

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The Chronicle

Section: Pg. 35

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Body

I WAS shocked and angry when I read the Merryl Miller interpretation (TC 05/02/09) of Roger Federer's performance at the trophy presentation for the Australian Open Men's final tennis match.

Although he was visibly disappointed, he was not in tears after the defeat.

In my opinion, the real reason for the tears was the tumultuous show of appreciation and affection shown by the crowd for his performance as a tennis great and a gentleman, even though he had lost this match.

The standing ovation, acclamation and adulation was loud, sustained and deserved.

It was enough to make any sensitive person highly emotional.

True peace will rely upon the Prince

PERHAPS Greg Rawkins (TC 03/02/09) is unaware of the fact that all Israeli settlers were forcibly removed from the Gaza strip.

When modern Israel was reformed in 1948, there were approximately 700,000 Palestinians living in poverty but by the 1970s multitudes were streaming in from nearby countries to enjoy the increasing prosperity and employment opportunities.

Peace prevailed until the rise of Faith and *Hamas* whose aim is to takeover the whole country.

There will never be true peace until they stop rejecting the Prince of Peace.

Historical facts prove party's successes

WHILE I am sure Chris McGaw can reply to your email regarding Labor governments' many successes, I would also like to answer your SMS.

Historically, Labor governments have been voted in during hard times.

Emotional outpouring shows sportsmanship YOUR LETTERS Tell us what you think about the news

Labor has successfully taken Australia through two world wars and the Great Depression and will bring us through this very difficult period.

Labor established Medicare, was responsible for the increase in financial assistance to families to help meet the cost of raising children, took the very decisive step to float the Australian dollar, introduced policies to increase efficiency and competitiveness of Australian industry, introduced enterprise bargaining into industrial relations and equal pay for <u>women</u>, established the prices and incomes accord, extensively reformed the taxation system and introduced the native title act.

These are just a few of many successes.

In contrast, at the end of the Bjelke-Petersen era, Queensland was in a sorry state.

Of 18 key economic indicators released in Australia in October 1987, Queensland had the worst result in six, second worst in five and was below the national average in 13.

The budget papers at the time gave no indication of Queensland's total public debt but a study revealed the debt to be about \$11.2 billion which, at the time, was about a third of Queensland's gross domestic product.

Is this sufficient information for you?

Fire protection rests with land owners

SUCCESSFUL bush fire control will never be obtained with glossy, red fire trucks.

Prevention is simple and not expensive.

Little stick rakes can be fitted to bobcats, and the dead bark, leaves, grass and branches raked into heaps in June, July, August and burnt at night.

If the fuel load on the ground is removed, fire will not reach the tree tops.

On the open Mitchell grass plains in the Central West, I put two grader tracks 100 metres apart, and burnt that strip at night.

The property resembled a chess board from the air, cut up into blocks of a square mile each.

When lightning struck, which is common, just one block would be burnt, and the sheep would race to safety.

I have seen a block burnt out in ten minutes — what could a fire truck do?

The other part is to build fire proof homes.

This means no pine!

Steel, brick concrete, glass and gyprock, none of which will burn.

Politicians breach the constitution

IN A recent newspaper article about a phone conversation between President Obama and Prime Minister Rudd, it was reported: "They talked about the importance they give to nuclear non-proliferation and agreed they would cooperate in efforts to reinforce the international non-proliferation regime".

No-one in our Federal Government nor any Governor- General has attended properly to a "slight" by our government against the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty, (NPT) committed in our Parliament in 1995.

That "slight" also amounted to a breach of the Australian Constitution.

Emotional outpouring shows sportsmanship YOUR LETTERS Tell us what you think about the news

In 1995 at a NPT conference in New York, an agreement was reached by the 188 countries present to permit French nuclear testing in the East Pacific.

The Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr G. Evans voted in favour.

In fact the vote in favour of French nuclear testing was unanimous.

Some months after that NPT conference, the French Government announced that in accordance to the NPT agreement, they will proceed with nuclear testing.

Afterwards in our parliament, the Prime Minister Mr Keating and Opposition Leader Mr Howard objected vehemently to the French Government because of the intention to proceed with nuclear testing.

The problem there of course was that Mr Evans, on behalf of the Australian Government, had previously agreed to French nuclear testing at the NPT conference.

The Australian Constitution clearly states, "Government should abide by treaty agreements".

Therefore, in our Parliament the two leaders breached the constitution.

Water tops the list of priorities

BEING a former Toowoomba business person, the question needed to be asked is:

What do Australians need?

The answer is water.

There are my thoughts on the family stimulus payment package and the \$42 billion dollar spending package proposed by Mr Rudd.

I am not advocating we do not spend, but to prioritise spending on what we need.

The effects of this proposal will be on-going for all communities.

Spending monies on housing insulation and solar hot water grants are all fine, but gone within 12 to 18 months.

My thought of this spending is something that we all need.

Water grows money.

By constructing a huge aqueduct, channelling the water from north to south with pipelines connecting (for economising costs) the Burdekin, the Cairns Dam, Tinaroo, Fairbairn Dam en route, and others, and possibly the Ord River by aqueduct at a later date.

This will create thousands of jobs for five to 10 years, with massive benefits to support infrastructure, being transport, food services, accommodation, small business etcetera along the route.

Included in this would be booming small cropping industries, as we have the soils, the climate but no water to sustain this type of agriculture.

This project would go well to drought-proofing substantial areas along the eastern states and have seasonal flow-on to the Murray Darling Basin.

Local dams along the route could be used as reservoirs, as to minimise the cost again.

A project such as this was the Snowy River Hydro Scheme, completed in the 1950s. This supplies water to the Riverina.

Emotional outpouring shows sportsmanship YOUR LETTERS Tell us what you think about the news

We could use solar panels to our advantage, as there is no shortage of sun in this country.

These panels could pump and lift the water levels for thousands of kilometres, when and where necessary, as already seen being successfully done in the Riverina districts.

These districts support dozens of towns with this water which would have been previously wasteland without it.

This is being done successfully in California, US, which receives an annual rainfall of about five inches (120 mls) supporting a population of approximately 40 million.

This water would not be being used by all the communities all the time as we do have seasonal rains which supplies most of our needs.

But we do experience dry times and would be needful of accessing this supply when necessary.

This system would keep our reservoirs' at high levels for ever.

The Hoover Dam was built in the 1930s which lead America out of the Depression.

Earth experiences variety of cycles

IN REPLY to Rick Highman (T/C 9/2), "Debate is nothing but alarmism".

Truly well said.

I and very many totally agree.

Many scientists and others have been saying for ages that our planet goes through these heating and cooling cycles, naturally.

It has been so since day dot.

Governments have jumped on to it, created a fear factor and thus given themselves another way to introduce more taxes.

Remember, 20 odd years ago, our Great Barrier Reef, was not going to be here for our children to see.

It would be wiped out, gone.

Doubters head north after the floods and take a look see.

Hospital offers top service and care

I AM writing to express my thanks.

On arriving at the Toowoomba Hospital Emergency Department with a letter from my private GP stating a heart block, the nurses at the station, went into action.

They were so unreal.

They then took me through to the treating room, where nurses and Dr Joanne Butterfield monitored my heart problems.

I have nothing but praise for all the attention given to me by all staff concerned.

They are to be congratulated, after I was given the all clear and Dr Butterfield put me on the right treatment, I was given a lovely meal and allowed to go home.

Page 5 of 5

Emotional outpouring shows sportsmanship YOUR LETTERS Tell us what you think about the news

So I say many thanks to all and to keep up the good work you all do up at the Toowoomba Hospital Emergency Department. Congratulations.

Irrational drivers take over footpaths

IT'S shocking when innocent people are run over by ratbag drivers on the road.

I was almost run over by an idiot driving out of a car park in Herries Street.

The speed of the vehicle was breath-taking.

There's no fence along the driveway and the house next door is set back from the front alignment. In two paces, the vehicle rushed passed me as though driven on the open road.

The driver was looking west along Herries Street and didn't even glance in my direction.

The car missed me by 30 centimetres and I slapped my hand on the boot lid as it passed.

It hesitated at the edge of the road then sped off west along Herries Street.

She glanced back at me and gave me a mouthful of abuse, as I pointed to the footpath.

It is a chronic state of affairs when we are not even safe on the footpath from irrational drivers.

Car parks and driveways are not gazetted roadways and pedestrians have right of way.

Had this fool hit me she'd have lost more than her temper, I can tell you.

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Iran resurgent, Persia redux

The Jerusalem Post January 16, 2009 Friday

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Byline: STEPHEN SHAINWALD

Highlight: Impressions from a recent trip to Teheran

Body

A visitor to the Islamic Republic of Iran is constantly reminded that this Middle Eastern country is unique in the region, part-Persian, part-Islamic and part- Western - and not Arab.

In 1935 the Persian ambassador to Berlin wrote to Hitler, "We are Aryans," and the country's name was changed from Persia to Iran, "land of the Aryans" in Farsi.

The illustrious history of ancient Persia still resonates strongly. If anything, there has been a revival of interest in its scope and grandeur, and the Islamic Revolution of 1979 with its oppressive, Arabizing policies is sometimes referred to scornfully as "the second Arab invasion." Modern Iranians are proud that it took the seventh-century Arab invaders 200 years to subdue Persia and Zoroastrianism; that Persians later asserted their individuality by adopting Shi'ite rather than Sunni Islam; and that the Farsi language stubbornly survived even though Arabic script was imposed upon it.

Many cultural norms remain distinctly Persian. "Do Iranians have four wives?" "No, that's the Arab mentality!" The rich tradition of Persian poetry, full of love and wine, roses and nightingales, permeates language and culture. Iranians like to stroll in the elegant, traditional gardens of the mausoleums of their famous poets - Hafez, Sa'di, Rumi and others - whose works are a part of the school curriculum that the Islamist regime was unable to stamp out. Concepts of freedom, truth and human rights have deep roots here.

The world heritage, but pre-Islamic, ruins of Persepolis were barely saved from bulldozing ordered by zealous clerics. "But now," writes one blogger, "even religious conservatives are reconciling themselves with the past, with who we are." The tomb of Cyrus, a lone ziggurat amid the windswept ruins of his capital city, Pasargadae, is being carefully restored.

One of the most powerful drivers of the nuclear program is this resurgent nationalism, fueled not only by the confidence of oil bounty, but by long-standing resentment of foreign intervention in Iran's internal affairs, and by a sense that Iran is at last taking its proper place in the region and the world. Support for a nuclear Iran is fervent. Why India, Pakistan and Israel, and not us?

Since its uranium enrichment was revealed, the Natanz nuclear facility has been ringed by electronic surveillance and anti-aircraft guns. From the road, the above-ground buildings look like any other industrial plant dotted across the flat Isfahan hinterland - petrochemicals, steel, concrete, oil refining.

Photos are strictly forbidden.

We stare hard as we pass by, stopping only at one of the shabby wayside gas stations and snack bars. The pace is steady. Intercity buses have their speed controlled by GPS checked against a digital tachygraph that the driver has to produce at police checkpoints, with his ID.

While the average Iranian undoubtedly opposes Israel as an oppressive occupier of Palestinian land, anti-Israelism is not a defining element of Iranian-Persian identity. There are no specific quarrels, no disputed borders. Educated Iranians cite historical associations with Jews, and are aware that Teheranis such as Moshe Katsav and Shaul Mofaz became prominent Israelis. They laugh at the thought of Iran attacking Israel - unless Israel attacks first.

The ruling regime, of course, remains implacably hostile. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's "annihilate Israel" comments were not original, but repeated Ayatollah Khomeini's mantras of some years before. Former president Muhammad Khatami spoke of Israel as "a plague," a "terrorist racist Zionist regime."

The newest twist, in Iranian TV's documentary The Secrets of Armageddon, is that international Zionism aims not only to take over the world, but to turn Iran into a location for Armageddon.

Iranians readily admit that they help to train and supply Hizbullah and <u>Hamas</u>. "There is a balance," said one. "We support these two groups against a strong Israel. That's fine so long as the balance doesn't change." What Teheran thinks about the balance in view of Israel's attack on Gaza remains to be seen.

Yet the preoccupations of most Iranians are not about conquest, destroying Israel, raising the flag of jihad or retrieving Muslim land for Allah. The parlous state of the economy - 25 percent to 30% inflation and 20% unemployment - dominates conversations and already overshadows the May 2009 elections. Iranians are daily reminded of their devalued currency: Thick green wads of 20,000-rial notes, each worth about \$1, are needed for every transaction.

The labor force is swollen by two million illegal foreign workers, mostly from Afghanistan, and thousands of Iraqi refugees. Some Iranians find work in the black market that flourishes across porous borders for all kinds of goods, including large quantities of drugs and alcohol - liquor is readily available from car trunks if you know a clandestine dealer's cellphone number. But many unemployed graduates emigrate, voting with their feet in a large and damaging brain drain.

Everywhere, one hears complaints about Ahmadinejad. A former mayor of Teheran, he had no national standing before becoming president. Elected by only 10 million of the 17 million who bothered to vote, he is derided for his economically unsound policies, financial mismanagement and embarrassing behavior on the international stage. "He has attracted enemies unnecessarily," said one Iranian.

By some estimates, only 15% of the population supports Ahmadinejad's rigid fundamentalism. A devout believer in the reappearance of Shi'ite Islam's 12th imam, who will restore justice to the world (and hopefully to Iran), the president keeps an empty chair beside him at cabinet meetings, which many regard as extreme. There are new claims of cronyism. The interior minister being impeached for his fake Oxford PhD certificate is a friend of Ahmadinejad, who, it is said, must have known.

Although the regime's grip has diminished since the 1980s - partly to avoid antagonizing the country's huge youth population, partly because of more pressing concerns - criticism is quickly stifled. Newspapers critical of the government are closed down, most recently the popular weekly Shahravande Emrouz, for "publishing baseless news about President Ahmadinejad's administration..."

Activists in the 1-million-signature campaign to change discriminatory laws against <u>women</u> are being harassed, arrested and even imprisoned. Under Iranian law no woman can retain custody of children older than seven, and a woman's testimony is worth half that of a man's.

The overriding political problem is that there is no organized or national opposition, and the numerous individuals and groups who privately oppose the regime have no shared forum. Dissident students are not allowed a voice.

Iran resurgent, Persia redux

This is no 1979, when a broad-based anti-shah opposition including communists, republicans, intellectuals and Islamists delivered a revolution.

Yet there is considerable restiveness. Seventy percent of the population is younger than 30, beneficiaries of the government's pro-baby policy after the massive death toll of the Iran-Iraq War.

Many are avid Internet users and bloggers, and plugged into illegal satellite TV. They are internationally aware, curious, lively, unfailingly courteous, more secular, but very nationalistic.

"We lead a double life," several explained. "What was public before the revolution [alcohol consumption, freedom of dress] is now private, and what was private [religious observance] is now public. When we close the doors of our homes, we are in a different world."

Here and there, hijabs are brighter colored and pushed back to reveal hair, and <u>women</u>'s garments more figure-hugging, often worn over jeans. The vigilantes who once barged unannounced into private homes to check on religious observance are now rarely seen except at public events.

In the republic's early years, the ruling clerics tried to run the economy along strict Islamic lines, with disastrous results. Attempts to diversify under the moderately reformist Khatami (1997-2005) were sabotaged by powerful clerical cadres.

Thirty years after the revolution the economy remains heavily oil-dependent, incompetently managed and now stricken by a plunging oil price that also puts at risk Ahmadinejad's expensive populist commitments. The International Monetary Fund has calculated that Iran needs an oil price of \$95 a barrel just to balance its budget.

The economic malaise has reached crisis point. In November a conference on international investment in tourism was held in Teheran with the express aims of job creation and diversifying the economy away from oil. A 20- year plan is targeting 20 million tourists. Tax and land use incentives were offered, along with an extensive list of historic sites requiring development from cultural heritage to accommodation, eco-tourism and handicraft villages.

The main participants were Turks - scoffed at as minor players by one Teherani businessman who has felt the bite of US-led financial sanctions as he failed to secure overseas contracts. Government interference in Iran's private sector has long made it a high-risk investment. But the recently stepped-up sanctions on banks that do business with Iran have cut far deeper than the UN measures. Many foreign banks are refusing loans to Iranians, creating difficulties for trade financing and payments - and for major sectoral development such as tourism.

Those calling for Khatami to stand again in May do so knowing that the regime's control of the Majlis, and the powers of the shadowy Guardian Council, are unlikely to change. The council's strict vetting of all parliamentary candidates disqualified hundreds from the 2005 election. "It doesn't matter who is elected president next year," said one Iranian grimly, "the system remains the same."

In the background, however, is the relentless demographic surge, a groundswell for change. Yet the change wanted by many Iranians is not more Westernization or imposed solutions. Some say that what may emerge is a religious democracy with its own norms and values, but it will be novel, and quintessentially Iranian.

The US presidential election aroused some excitement. "Forty years is a special number," exclaimed one young Teherani. "[Barack] Obama has become president 40 years after Bobby Kennedy said that a black man would do this. It will soon be 40 years since our revolution, and we have a new young generation that does not share the values of the present regime. I can feel the winds of change coming."

Graphic

Iran resurgent, Persia redux

5 photos: The tomb of Cyrus, a lone ziggurat amid the windswept ruins of his capital city, Pasargadae, is being carefully restored. Downtown Teheran. Memories of greater times. Under Iranian law no woman can retain custody of children older than seven, and a woman's testimony is worth half that of a man's. Seventy percent of the population is younger than 30, beneficiaries of the government's pro-baby policy after the massive death toll of the Iran-Iraq War. (Credit: STEPHEN SHAINWALD)

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Obama's Arabian dreams

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Byline: CAROLINE B. GLICK **Highlight:** COLUMN ONE

Body

US President Barack Obama claims to be a big fan of telling the truth. In media interviews ahead of his trip to Saudi Arabia and Egypt and during his big speech in Cairo on Thursday, he claimed that the centerpiece of his Middle East policy is his willingness to tell people hard truths.

Indeed, Obama made three references to the need to tell the truth in his so-called address to the Muslim world.

Unfortunately, for a speech billed as an exercise in truth telling, Obama's address fell short. Far from reflecting hard truths, Obama's speech reflected political convenience.

Obama's so-called hard truths for the Islamic world included statements about the need to fight so-called extremists; give equal rights to <u>women</u>; provide freedom of religion; and foster democracy. Unfortunately, all of his statements on these issues were nothing more than abstract, theoretical declarations devoid of policy prescriptions.

He spoke of the need to fight Islamic terrorists without mentioning that their intellectual, political and monetary foundations and support come from the very mosques, politicians and regimes in Saudi Arabia and Egypt that Obama extols as moderate and responsible.

He spoke of the need to grant equality to <u>women</u> without making mention of common Islamic practices like so-called honor killings, and <u>female</u> genital mutilation. He ignored the fact that throughout the lands of Islam <u>women</u> are denied basic legal and human rights. And then he qualified his statement by mendaciously claiming that <u>women</u> in the US similarly suffer from an equality deficit. In so discussing this issue, Obama sent the message that he couldn't care less about the plight of <u>women</u> in the Islamic world.

So, too, Obama spoke about the need for religious freedom but ignored Saudi Arabian religious apartheid. He talked about the blessings of democracy but ignored the problems of tyranny.

In short, Obama's "straight talk" to the Arab world, which began with his disingenuous claim that like America, Islam is committed to "justice and progress, tolerance and the dignity of all human beings," was consciously and fundamentally fraudulent. And this fraud was advanced to facilitate his goal of placing the Islamic world on equal moral footing with the free world.

In a like manner, Obama's tough "truths" about Israel were marked by factual and moral dishonesty in the service of political ends.

Obama's Arabian dreams

On the surface, Obama seemed to scold the Muslim world for its all-pervasive Holocaust denial and craven Jew hatred. By asserting that Holocaust denial and anti- Semitism are wrong, he seemed to be upholding his earlier claim that America's ties to Israel are "unbreakable."

Unfortunately, a careful study of his statements shows that Obama was actually accepting the Arab view that Israel is a foreign - and therefore unjustifiable - intruder in the Arab world. Indeed, far from attacking their rejection of Israel, Obama legitimized it.

The basic Arab argument against Israel is that the only reason Israel was established was to sooth the guilty consciences of Europeans who were embarrassed about the Holocaust. By their telling, the Jews have no legal, historic or moral rights to the Land of Israel.

This argument is completely false. The international community recognized the legal, historic and moral rights of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel long before anyone had ever heard of Adolf Hitler. In 1922, the League of Nations mandated the "reconstitution" - not the creation - of the Jewish commonwealth in the Land of Israel in its historic borders on both sides of the Jordan River.

But in his self-described exercise in truth telling, Obama ignored this basic truth in favor of the Arab lie. He gave credence to this lie by stating wrongly that "the aspiration for a Jewish homeland is rooted in a tragic history."

He then explicitly tied Israel's establishment to the Holocaust by moving to a self-serving history lesson about the genocide of European Jewry.

Even worse than his willful blindness to the historic, legal and moral justifications for Israel's rebirth, was Obama's characterization of Israel itself. Obama blithely, falsely and obnoxiously compared Israel's treatment of Palestinians to white American slave owners' treatment of their black slaves. He similarly cast Palestinian terrorists in the same morally pure category as slaves. Perhaps most repulsively, Obama elevated Palestinian terrorism to the moral heights of slave rebellions and the US civil rights movement by referring to it by its Arab euphemism, "resistance."

BUT AS disappointing and frankly obscene as Obama's rhetoric was, the policies he outlined were much worse. While prattling about how Islam and America are two sides of the same coin, Obama managed to spell out two clear policies. First, he announced that he will compel Israel to completely end all building for Jews in Judea, Samaria, and eastern, northern and southern Jerusalem. Second, he said that he will strive to convince Iran to substitute its nuclear weapons program with a nuclear energy program.

Obama argued that the first policy will facilitate peace and the second policy will prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Upon reflection, however, it is clear that neither of his policies can possibly achieve his stated aims. Indeed, their inability to accomplish the ends he claims he has adopted them to advance is so obvious, that it is worth considering what his actual rationale for adopting them may be.

The administration's policy toward Jewish building in Israel's heartland and capital city expose a massive level of hostility toward Israel. Not only does it fly in the face of explicit US commitments to Israel undertaken by the Bush administration, it contradicts a longstanding agreement between successive Israeli and American governments not to embarrass each other.

Moreover, the fact that the administration cannot stop attacking Israel about Jewish construction in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, but has nothing to say about Hizbullah's projected democratic takeover of Lebanon next week, <u>Hamas</u>'s genocidal political platform, Fatah's involvement in terrorism, or North Korean ties to Iran and Syria, has egregious consequences for the prospects for peace in the region.

As Fatah leader Mahmoud Abbas made clear in his interview last week with The Washington Post, in light of the administration's hostility toward Israel, the Palestinian Authority no longer feels it is necessary to make any concessions whatsoever to Israel. It needn't accept Israel's identity as a Jewish state. It needn't minimize in any way its demand that Israel commit demographic suicide by accepting millions of foreign, hostile Arabs as full citizens. And it needn't curtail its territorial demand that Israel contract to within indefensible borders.

Obama's Arabian dreams

In short, by attacking Israel and claiming that Israel is responsible for the absence of peace, the administration is encouraging the Palestinians and the Arab world as a whole to continue to reject Israel and to refuse to make peace with the Jewish state.

The Netanyahu government reportedly fears that Obama and his advisers have made such an issue of settlements because they seek to overthrow Israel's government and replace it with the more pliable Kadima party. Government sources note that White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel played a central role in destabilizing Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's first government in 1999, when he served as an adviser to then president Bill Clinton. They also note that Emmanuel is currently working with leftist Israelis and American Jews associated with Kadima and the Democratic Party to discredit the government.

While there is little reason to doubt that the Obama administration would prefer a leftist government in Jerusalem, it is unlikely that the White House is attacking Israel primarily to advance this aim. This is first of all the case because today there is little danger that Netanyahu's coalition partners will abandon him.

Moreover, the Americans have no reason to believe that prospects for a peace deal would improve with a leftist government at the helm in Jerusalem. After all, despite its best efforts, the Kadima government was unable to make peace with the Palestinians, as was the Labor government before it. What the Palestinians have shown consistently since the failed 2000 Camp David summit is that there is no deal that Israel can offer them that they are willing to accept.

So if the aim of the administration in attacking Israel is neither to foster peace nor to bring down the Netanyahu government, what can explain its behavior?

The only reasonable explanation is that the administration is baiting Israel because it wishes to abandon the Jewish state as an ally in favor of warmer ties with the Arabs. It has chosen to attack Israel on the issue of Jewish construction because it believes that by concentrating on this issue, it will minimize the political price it will be forced to pay at home for jettisoning America's alliance with Israel. By claiming that he is only pressuring Israel to enable a peaceful "two-state solution," Obama assumes that he will be able to maintain his support base among American Jews who will overlook the underlying hostility his "pro-peace" stance papers over.

OBAMA'S POLICY toward Iran is a logical complement of his policy toward Israel. Just as there is no chance that he will bring Middle East peace closer by attacking Israel, so he will not prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons by offering the mullahs nuclear energy. The deal Obama is now proposing has been on the table since 2003, when Iran's nuclear program was first exposed. Over the past six years, the Iranians have repeatedly rejected it. Indeed, just last week they again announced that they reject it.

Here, too, to understand the president's actual goal it is necessary to search for the answers closer to home. Since Obama's policy has no chance of preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, it is apparent that he has come to terms with the prospect of a nuclear armed Iran. In light of this, the most rational explanation for his policy of engagement is that he wishes to avoid being blamed when Iran emerges as a nuclear power in the coming months.

In reckoning with the Obama administration, it is imperative that the Netanyahu government and the public alike understand the true goals of its current policies. Happily, consistent polling data show that the overwhelming majority of Israelis realize that the White House is deeply hostile toward Israel. The data also show that the public approves of Netanyahu's handling of our relations with Washington.

Moving forward, the government must sustain this public awareness and support. By his words as well as by his deeds, not only has Obama shown that he is not a friend of Israel. He has shown that there is nothing that Israel can do to make him change his mind.

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The Europe of our dreams

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Body

Israelis are wild about Europe. A poll carried out by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation last month showed that a whopping 69 percent of Israelis, and 76% of Israeli Jews, would like for Israel to join the European Union. Sixty percent of Israelis have a favorable view of the EU.

This poll's most obvious message is that as far as Europe is concerned, Israelis suffer from unrequited love. A 2003 Pew survey of 15 EU countries showed that 59% of Europeans consider Israel the greatest threat to world peace. A poll taken in Germany the following year showed that 68% of Germans believe that Israel is pursuing a war of extermination against the Palestinians and 51% said that there is no difference in principle between Israel's treatment of the Palestinians and German treatment of Jews during the Holocaust.

And it isn't simply Israel that they hate. They don't like Jews very much either. In an empirical study published in 2006, Professors Edward Kaplan and Charles Small of Yale University demonstrated a direct link between hatred for Jews and extreme anti-Israel positions. A recent poll bears out the fact that levels of hostility toward Israel rise with levels of anti-Semitism.

According to a 2008 Pew survey, anti-Semitic feelings in five EU countries - Spain, Britain, France, Germany and Poland - rose nearly 50% between 2005 and 2008. Whereas in 2005, some 21% of people polled acknowledged they harbor negative feelings toward Jews, by last year the proportion of self-proclaimed anti-Semites in these countries had risen to 30%. In Spain levels of anti-Semitism more than doubled, from 21% in 2005 to 46% in 2008.

Not surprisingly, increased hatred of Jews has been accompanied by increased violence against Jews. Just last week, for instance, three men assaulted Israel's ambassador in Spain Rafi Shotz as he and his wife walked home from a soccer game. They followed after him and called out, "dirty Jew," "Jew bastard," and "Jew murderer." A crowd witnessed the assault, but no one rose to their defense.

Shotz was lucky. As Israel's ambassador he had two policemen escorting him and so he was not physically threatened. The same was not the fate of Holocaust survivors who assembled at Mauthausen death camp in Austria last week to commemorate the 64th anniversary of the camp's liberation by American forces.

As Jewish survivors of the camp where 340,000 people were murdered mourned the dead, a gang of Austrian teenagers wearing masks taunted them, screaming "Heil Hitler," and "This way for the gas!" They opened fire with plastic rifles at French Jewish survivors, wounding one in the head and another in the neck.

The Europe of our dreams

And Austria is not alone. From Germany to France, Belgium, Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and beyond, Jewish kindergartens and day schools, restaurants and groceries have been firebombed and vandalized. The desecration of Jewish cemeteries and synagogues has become an almost routine occurrence. Jewish leaders from Norway to Germany to Britain to France have warned community members not to wear kippot or Stars of David in public. Rabbis have been beaten all over the continent.

There is no state sanction for anti-Jewish violence in Europe. But in many places it is either brushed off as insignificant, or justified as a natural byproduct of the Palestinian conflict with Israel. In at least one case, the official downplaying of the significance of anti-Jewish sentiments and violence has had murderous consequences.

In January 2006 Ilan Halimi, a French Jew, was kidnapped by a gang of Muslim sadists. For an entire week, the police ignored the anti-Semitic nature of the attack - and hence the imminent danger to Halimi's life - in spite of the fact that his kidnappers made threatening phone calls to Halimi's parents where they recited verses from the Koran while Ilan was heard screaming in pain from his torture in the background.

In the end, Halimi was tortured continuously for 20 days before he was dumped at a railhead naked, with burns and cuts over 80% of his battered body and died of his wounds shortly after he was found.

SOME HAVE attributed the rise in European anti- Semitism to the rapid growth of Muslim minorities throughout the continent. This explanation has much to recommend it. Levels of anti-Semitism among most Muslim minority populations in Europe are exceedingly high. According to Kaplan and Small's study, European Muslims are eight times more likely than non-Muslims to be openly anti- Semitic. And Franco Frattini, the EU official responsible for combating anti-Semitism, told The Jerusalem Post last year that some 50% of anti-Jewish attacks in Europe are conducted by Muslims.

But while European Muslims are a major factor in the rise of anti-Jewish violence, they are a bit player when it comes to the overall prevalence of anti-Jewish attitudes. For example, with 46% of Spaniards negatively disposed toward Jews, and with Muslims making up only 3-5% of Spaniards, we learn that nearly half of Christian Spaniards are anti-Semitic. And as the 2008 Pew survey shows, European hatred of Jews is growing at a fast clip. Indeed, it is growing two and a half times faster than European hatred of Muslims.

In all likelihood, these negative trends for Jews are only going to escalate in the coming years. Politicians interested in being elected have already begun exploiting the rise in anti-Jewish sentiments to increase their electoral prospects. In the 2005 British elections, for instance, the Labor Party under Tony Blair depicted then Conservative Party leader Michael Howard as the hateful anti-Semitic icon Fagin from Oliver Twist in a campaign poster. Another Labor poster painted Howard and fellow politician Oliver Letwin as flying pigs.

This state of affairs bodes ill for Israel's future relations with Europe. In most cases, European politicians pander to the growing constituency of anti-Semites by adopting hostile policies toward Israel. These policies then serve to further justify anti-Semitic attitudes, and so the number of European anti-Semites continues to grow, and in turn, European hostility to Israel increases.

ALL OF this brings us back to Europhilic Israel. If the majority of Israelis were to get their way, and Israel joined the EU, we would find ourselves subsumed into a transnational political entity that increasingly rejects Israel's right to exist.

No doubt recognizing the political advantage to be garnered by attacking Israel, last year Spanish investigative magistrate Judge Fernando Andreu Merellesis decided to use a specious complaint submitted by the discredited Palestinian Center for Human Rights to launch a war crimes investigation against Israel's top political and military leaders. Against the stated will of Spain's state prosecution, Merellesis announced last week that he is proceeding with his investigation into claims that a dozen senior Israeli leaders committed a war crime when they approved the 2002 decision to target <u>Hamas</u> terror master Salah Shehadeh.

Since Israel is not a member of the EU, EU courts have no power to enforce their rulings against Israelis. Today the only thing Israelis need to worry about is that we will be arrested if we visit Europe. This is inconvenient, but not

The Europe of our dreams

impossible to live with. Were Israel to join the EU, however, EU laws would supersede Israeli laws. European courts could compel Israeli courts to enforce their rulings. Israel, in short, would find itself subsumed in a hostile political entity that could simply adjudicate and legislate it out of existence.

So what explains Israel's unrequited love affair with Europe?

There is no all-encompassing explanation for the EU's popularity in Israel. It is a function of a number of complementary causes. The most important among them is the abject failure of the Israeli media to examine European anti-Semitism and its implications for European policy toward Israel in any coherent fashion.

Rather than recognize that European anti-Semitism and its concomitant hostility toward Israel is the consequence of internal European dynamics, the Israeli media tend to cast both as a function of Israel's actions. Doing so certainly makes for neat, easily digestible news stories, but it also trivializes the situation. Moreover, by acting as though Israel's actual behavior is at all relevant to European treatment of Jews and the Jewish state, the local media effectively buy into cynical European moves to belittle the significance of anti-Jewish violence. They give credence to false European claims that the firebombing of synagogues is simply the regrettable consequence of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Then there is the issue of Israel's constant quest to end its international isolation. For many Israelis, it is tantalizing to think that we can end our international isolation by joining the EU. The EU is seen as a club of rich and cultured countries with which Israel would benefit from merging. This view again is nurtured by the media, which have failed to report on the failure of the European welfare state model.

In light of the media's refusal to tell the story of Europe's hostility toward Jews and the Jewish state, or the story of the EU's severe economic problems, it is not surprising that precious few Israeli politicians have a clear understanding of Europe. Successive foreign ministers - from Shimon Peres to Silvan Shalom to Tzipi Livni to Avigdor Lieberman - have all voiced varying degrees of support for Israeli membership in the EU. Their statements have never been challenged in debate.

Finally, there is the nostalgia that many Israelis feel toward the old pre-war Europe from their grandparents' stories. That long gone Europe, where young <u>women</u> and men would walk along the promenades in Berlin, Paris, Antwerp and Prague holding hands and eating ice cream, breathing in the air of Heinrich Heine and Franz Kafka, has been kept alive in the imaginations of generations of Israelis. Many of them work today as leading journalists, movie directors and actors. For many Israelis, then, the myth of Europe is more familiar than the real Europe.

Looking to a future of an increasingly Jew-hating Europe it is clear that Israel and Israelis must quickly divest ourselves of our delusions about Europe. For Israel to competently contend with Europe in the coming years, it will be essential that both our political leaders and society as a whole gain a firm grasp of where Europe stands in relation to both the Jewish people and the Jewish state.

With a burgeoning and deeply anti-Semitic Muslim minority, and with a Christian majority increasingly comfortable with flaunting traditional anti-Semitic attitudes, dispensing with anti-Jewish myths ranks low on the priority list for most European leaders. In contrast, for Israel, gazing at this unfolding European state of affairs, it is clear that abandoning our adoration for a mythological Europe is one of the most urgent items on our national agenda.

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Byline: Tony Walker WASHINGTON. Tony Walker is The Weekend AFR's International Editor

Body

Barack Obama's personal qualities may produce a genuinely new model for the presidency. The world needs him to succeed.

When Barack Obama, America's first black president, takes the oath of office on the steps of the Capitol on Wednesday, Australian time, he will be standing on stones laid by slaves. If he were to turn his gaze down Pennsylvania Avenue towards the White House - as he surely will - he will look down upon the Mall where his family's black forebears were bought and sold.

It goes without saying that this is an event of huge historical significance, not just in America, but in the world.

Weather permitting, Obama will take the oath with his hand resting on the bible used in 1861 by his great abolitionist hero, Abraham Lincoln. Sleet and snow would preclude use of the priceless historical relic.

When he delivers his inaugural address with the ornate domed Capitol in the background - one of the world's more compelling architectural statements - he will be treading a path traversed by his 43 predecessors, none with more distinction than Lincoln himself.

His words will owe much to the Republican Lincoln's legacy, but also to others among his Democratic predecessors, notably Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933) and John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1961). Expectations will be in the stratosphere.

"The inaugural address has got to soar," Reagan White House chief of staff Ken Duberstein told US News. "What America needs right now is inspiration. This is not about beginning a new chapter. This is about opening a new book."

Obama finds himself at this jagged moment of world history facing monumental challenges that are of an order of those confronting his earlier distinguished predecessors.

Lincoln may have grappled with the survival of the Union itself, Roosevelt may have contemplated the end of an American economic dream, and Kennedy may have been burdened by fears of losing the Cold War, but Obama's moment is hardly less confronting.

For it is hard to imagine a greater - and deeper - range of problems besetting a new president, bewildering in their complexity and potentially intractable.

He will inherit a federal budget deficit of \$US1.2 trillion (\$1.8 trillion) and will add to it to accommodate his own stimulus package of some \$US800 billion; he will assume responsibility for not one but two wars that are far from won; and he will find himself contemplating a world in a mess.

Take the two wars: Obama has committed himself to victory in Afghanistan, but it is not clear this is achievable in conventional terms. He has pledged to draw down American forces in Iraq within 16 months, but circumstances on the ground may not look favourably on such a timetable.

"The present calm [in Iraq] flatters to deceive," The Economist commented perceptively this week.

Then there is the global economy: the world is sliding into recession, whose downward drift is reinforced by a US retrenchment of unpredictable depth and duration.

Ominously, forecasters keep lowering their estimates for world economic growth.

Obama's stimulus is a conventional response to what is in all likelihood the sharpest recession since the 1930s. Worryingly, it represents not simply Plan A, but Plan B and Plan C, too.

With interest rates at historic lows there are few other remedies available. "It's much bigger than anything that's been tried in my lifetime, but this is scarier than anything we've seen in my lifetime," economics professor Alan Auerbach of Berkeley told The New York Times.

If all that were not testing enough, Obama faces immense pressures across a bewildering range of foreign policy challenges, including relations with an assertive Russia, the tinderbox that is Pakistan, an Iran determined to acquire nuclear capability and an Arab-Israel dispute that remains at the core of Middle East tensions.

Israel's onslaught against <u>Hamas</u>, played out on our television screens in the faces of <u>women</u> and children caught in the maelstrom, is a reminder of a failed Middle East policy. America and the world simply cannot stand by and allow this to go on.

Obama knows the Palestine deadlock presents an immediate challenge to an assertion of a new American foreign policy. Israel should not assume it can continue to rely on an indulgent White House.

"Everybody is going to have to give. Everybody is going to have to have some skin in this game," Obama told the ABC's George Stephanopoulos.

As we contemplate the prospect of a black man in the White House, and all that implies for a country whose history has been written in the blood of Obama's African American brothers and sisters, of an earlier period, it is not the past that will weigh most heavily, it is the present and future.

Somehow, Obama's predecessors - and possible role models - in the pantheon found the words to inspire: Lincoln called on Americans to heed their "better angels". Roosevelt exhorted his fellow citizens that the "only thing we have to fear is fear itself". And Kennedy asked Americans, in his most memorable utterance, not to ask what their country could do for them but what they could do for their country.

Obama, with his oratorical and literary skills, far beyond the ordinary, will no doubt find a phrase - or phrases - to match the occasion. But whatever verbal heights are scaled, an uncomfortable question will remain.

Are we witnessing the terminal decline of the world's hyperpower? Is the great experiment, which is fraying at the edges, capable of repair? Is American exceptionalism fading? Or are we about to witness the rebirth of a great country whose depth and dynamism will ultimately prevail?

As many have discovered to their cost, not least the Axis powers and, more recently, the Soviet Union, it is unwise to bet against America whose ability to reinvent itself and prevail has been a distinguishing characteristic from the War of Independence on.

Think of the mobilisation that followed Pearl Harbor, and before that the valiant collective effort employed to fight off the Great Depression that found expression in monumental projects such as the Hoover Dam.

Churchill, who had an American mother and thus an insight into the complex strands that distinguish a great country, got it as right as anyone when he observed that America invariably does the right thing when it has exhausted all other possibilities.

So, Barack Obama at the age of 47, the son of a Kenyan academic and a mother from Kansas, will inherit the presidency from a man whose reputation is in shreds and whose administration is a contender for the worst in the country's history. The family of James Buchanan (1857-1861), hitherto regarded as the country's most inept occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, is said to be much relieved.

George Bush will share the steps of the Capitol with Obama on inauguration day in America's tradition of emphasising a seamless transition from one administration to the next, but to the vast majority of Americans - and to much of the rest of the world - his presence will be a reminder not of America's strengths but of recent failures.

Historians, Bush says, will assess the success - or otherwise - of his term in office in the fullness of time, but preliminary judgements could hardly be more negative. Anyone who watched a bizarre valedictory press conference this week would have been hard put to avoid the conclusion that here was a man who should never have aspired to his country's highest office in the first place.

In a sense, the Bush presidency, in all its catastrophic dimensions, represents a failure of the system, but for his successor such failures also spell opportunity.

As he contemplates one of the most challenging first 100 days in presidential history - to rank with Roosevelt's own initial three months - Obama might console himself with the thought that his predecessor has lowered the bar to the point where it would be hard not to do better.

America's 44th president will begin his term in office with immense goodwill of Americans from both sides of politics who are willing him to succeed, such are the stakes involved. He can expect an outpouring of support from a world yearning for a restoration of American authority based not on bullying and threats, but on what incoming secretary of state Hillary Clinton described this week as "smart diplomacy".

What she was talking about was America leveraging its reputation and its military power, now shop-soiled by the Bush years, as a force for good in the world.

Obama brings enormous strengths to the office, including an intelligent and temperate personality.

He may also be in the process of inventing a new paradigm for the 21st century that enables American politics to free itself from the shackles of the corrosive partisanship that has made the country all but ungovernable in recent years.

The next president may not be simply the first of a new generation of post-baby boomer heads of state, he may also prove to be the first genuine post-partisan occupant of the White House in the modern era.

As Simon Rosenberg, head of the Democratic advocacy group, NDN, told New York magazine: "This really is the first presidency of the 21st century.

"Those who try to hold on to twentieth-century descriptions of politics are going to be disappointed and frustrated by what's about to emerge in the new administration, because American politics no longer fits into old boxes - and neither does Obama. For better or worse, what he is doing is building a new box."

The world should wish him well.

The Obama inauguration

ORGANISED BY: the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

HISTORY: First held on April 30, 1789, in New York City. Nowadays the swearing-in takes place at noon at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., with the Chief

Justice of the United States administering the oath.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS: Fifty-four addresses have been given by thirty-seven presidents. George Washington's second address was the shortest (135 words), and William Harrison delivered the longest (8,495 words).

SECURITY: provided by the Secret Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Office of Federal Protective Service, US Army, US Navy, US Airforce, US Marines, the

Capitol Police, the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Colombia

MUSIC: provided by the US Marine Band, children's choruses, Aretha Franklin, composer John Williams with violinist Itzhak Perlman and cellist Yo-Yo Ma, and the US Navy Band.

21 GUN SALUTE: fired by 'The Old Guard', the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment

PROGRAM: (Wednesday 21 Jan Sydney time)

2.00am: Festivities begin on the west front of the US Capitol

3.30am: Vice president-elect Joe Biden is sworn in.

4.00am: Obama takes the oath of office, gives inaugural address.

6.30am: The 56th Inaugural Parade travels down Pennsylvania Avenue Followed by 10 official inaugural balls

2.5 million people expected to attend

35,000 volunteer helpers

\$US15 million requested by organisers from Congress for the ceremony

\$US50 million actual cost to D.C. of mounting the ceremony

Inauguration firsts:

Obama will take the Oath on the Bible used by Abraham Lincoln for his inauguration in 1861, the first subsequent President to do so.

First ever Neighborhood Inaugural Ball, open to general public. Linked by interactive technology with other community balls across the nation.

Graphic

THREE PHOTOS: JOE BIDEN, THE OLD GUARD, ARETHA FRANKLIN

Load-Date: April 7, 2012

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The Courier Mail (Australia) January 17, 2009 Saturday

1 - First with the news Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 47

Length: 1753 words **Byline:** Dennis Atkins

Body

Facing even harder times, Americans will look to Barack Obama for fresh hope, writes Dennis Atkins

For this economic challenge the rest of the world will be looking to Obama, just as Obama will be looking to the rest of the world

FORTY years ago this year the American astronaut Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, providing an iconic image which marked an epoch.

In the coming week a young American politician will stand on the steps of the US Congress in Washington and take the oath of office as the 44th president of the world's dominant superpower.

That image will provide our 21st century ``man on the moon" moment, when Barack Obama becomes the first black American president.

It is 41 years since a gunman felled black spiritual and civil rights leader Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee, and, later that same year in San Francisco, Bobby Kennedy was shot dead -- the last national politician who campaigned on Obama's agenda of hope and change, uniting the poor, dispossessed and alienated and promising a new brand of politics.

Obama, born 47 years ago in Hawaii to a white mother from Kansas and a black father from Kenya, has travelled an extraordinary journey from a child raised mostly by his grandmother to a Harvard law student where he became the first black president of the law school's review; a community lawyer and organiser in Chicago and; finally, a political career that fast-tracked him through the Illinois legislature, the US Senate and now to the White House.

Growing up in an era with its toxic mix of an unpopular war in Vietnam and the increasingly violent civil rights movement, Obama was part of, but separate from, an America where in the late 1960s inner-city black ghettoes rioted and burnt across the nation.

Away from all this in Hawaii, Obama later reflected on his fortune to avoid the divisive and culture-twisting social upheaval.

"The opportunity that Hawaii offered -- to experience a variety of cultures in a climate of mutual respect -- became an integral part of my world view, and a basis for the values that I hold most dear," he wrote in his first of two published memoirs, Dreams From My Father.

These formative years shaped the man described by Time in its ``Man of the Year" cover story early this month in this way: ``His genome is global, his mind is innovative, his world is networked, and his spirit is democratic."

Obama comes to the US presidency at a time the moment and importance of which is impossible to escape.

He said in Chicago last November on the night of his election: ``As we celebrate tonight, we know the challenges that tomorrow will bring are the greatest of our lifetime -- two wars, a planet in peril, the worst financial crisis in a century."

With the unpopular George W. Bush sidelined by the glitz, glamour, energy and ideas of Obama's transition juggernaut, it has felt like the US has had a new president for the past two months, even though the President-elect has maintained that there was ``only one president at a time".

But the urgency of the financial crisis has ensured that the transition needed to be a period of preparation as the team of senior staff and Cabinet nominees was assembled with remarkable speed.

A deliberative and measured politician, Obama has persisted in the lead-up to his inauguration with his considered ``no drama" approach that characterised his campaign.

Drawing on history, he has steeped himself in the presidencies of two of the greatest American leaders, Abraham Lincoln, whose Bible he will use when he takes the oath next Wednesday morning Australian time, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The first abolished slavery and sought to heal a nation riven by civil war and the second steered the US through and out of the Great Depression and led the country during World War II.

Continued P48

Time for change

From P47

Obama said the books constantly by his side last year were Doris Kearns Goodwin's Team of Rivals and Jonathan Alter's The Defining Moment.

Goodwin's book charts the first presidency of Lincoln during which the Cabinet included three men who had run against the president for his party's nomination.

Obama will have three former rivals on his team: Vice-President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Tom Vilsack in Agriculture. A fourth rival, Bill Richardson, withdrew his nomination as Commerce Secretary because of a scandal.

Alter's book examines how Roosevelt dealt with the financial crisis and details how close the US came to sanctioning dictatorial powers at the height of the Depression.

As Obama settles into the Oval Office he will be surrounded by a personal staff that, on paper, deserves the title, "the best and the brightest".

The Wall Street Journal's Gerald F. Seib this week remarked that the Obama presidency will not be one which will delegate to Cabinet secretaries. "Instead, it is clear the centre of Barack Obama's administration will be Barack Obama himself," Seib wrote. "There will be more people with big feet on his White House staff than in a National Basketball Association locker room.

"Beyond that, he intends to be not just Commander-in-Chief but communicator-in-chief, handling both the substantive and the inspirational messages, taking advantage of new communications technologies, and likely mixing it up with the press more than his predecessor did."

Obama has been extraordinarily busy in his two months of transition, holding a series of news conferences to introduce his Cabinet team and senior staff, as well as outlining his economic priorities.

It is clear he will, starting with his inaugural address, seek to define America and what his aspirations and agenda mean for the country.

In an interview last weekend on the American ABC network, he described his communication strategy for that speech and his time in office: ``I think that the main task for me in an inauguration speech, and I think this is true for

my presidency generally, is to try to capture as best I can the moment that we are in.

"I think that when you have a successful presidential speech of any sort, it's because that president is able to say -is able to put their finger on 'Here's the moment we're in . . . this is the crossroad that we're at'. And then to project
confidence that if we take the right measures, that we can once again be that country, that beacon for the world.

"So, my focus is to try to be able to describe in simple, plain terms what are the challenges we face, but then also to let people know I have every intention of working with the American people so that we meet those challenges."

The ``challenges" Obama refers to are many, but two will be not just in his in-tray in the Oval Office -- they'll be on the desk blotter, marked ``Urgent".

The financial crisis which is still infecting the US banking system, demanding ever more injections of bail-out cash and poisoning the ``real economy", will not leave the front of Obama's mind for all of his first term. If he can get bipartisan majority support for his stimulus package he will go some way to helping to build confidence in the markets, although the systemic problems at the heart of the past year's crisis are far from fixed.

For this challenge the rest of the world will be looking to Obama, just as Obama will be looking to the rest of the world.

He will have to provide leadership on a global scale, but will also expect to get support from other major economies in providing their own new or additional stimulus packages and writing a new set of global financial rules.

Just as daunting will be the crisis in the Middle East. Obama has remained silent on what he expects from Israel and the Palestinians. However, Hillary Clinton told the Senate this week there would be no US dialogue with *Hamas* while that group sanctioned violence and refused to recognise Israeli sovereignty.

More broadly, Clinton, in her confirmation hearings, talked about a new era in diplomacy, breaking with eight years under Bush when force was a first option.

"I believe that American leadership has been wanting, but is still wanted," said Clinton. "We must use what has been called smart power, the full range of tools at our disposal -- diplomatic, economic, military, political, legal, and cultural -- picking the right tool or combination of tools for each situation.

"With 'smart power', diplomacy will be the vanguard of our foreign policy. This is not a radical idea. The ancient Roman poet Terence declared that 'in every endeavour, the seemly course for wise men is to try persuasion first'. The same truth binds wise **women** as well."

This ``smart power" approach will have its first -- possibly make-or-break -- test in Israel right away -- regardless of what progress, if any, is made on a ceasefire over the next four days.

It is clearly going to be an activist, adventurous and busy administration. But it will be tempered by reality.

Obama has signalled he might not be able to close the Guantanamo Bay prison during his first 100 days as promised, and his team has signalled in the media that achievable domestic measures on climate change -- such as promoting energy-efficiency and renewable resources -- will probably take precedent over signing up to a globally linked cap-and-trade emissions reduction scheme.

In his interview with Time for the ``Man of the Year" issue, Obama set out some goals for two years hence, measuring progress on dealing with the economic crisis, creating jobs, extending health-care coverage, energy-efficiency and self-reliance and revitalising public schools.

He said he wanted to reshape the way America operated in the world, reflecting the approach of Clinton.

On top of that, he set an ambitious target for how he hoped people would view his government at the beginning of 2011: ``(I want the American people to be able to say) `Government's not perfect; there are some things Obama does that get on my nerves. But you know what? I feel like the Government's working for me. I feel like it's accountable. I feel like it's transparent. I feel that I am well-informed about what government actions are being taken. I feel that this is a president and an administration that admits when it makes mistakes and adapts itself to new information, that believes in making decisions based on facts and on science as opposed to what is politically expedient.' "

The first steps on the next part of Barack Obama's audacious journey begin at 3am Wednesday (Brisbane time) when he takes up Lincoln's Bible and takes his oath of office.

Good as it gets P50

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The Jerusalem Post May 22, 2009 Friday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 13

Length: 1837 words

Byline: HERB KEINON

Highlight: On the Jewish-state issue, Obama agrees with Netanyahu. It's on the two-state one that there's a conflict. Meanwhile, the public still isn't sure what the prime minister's end-game actually is. DIPLOMACY

Body

On Sunday, the day before he met Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in the Oval Office, US President Barack Obama went to South Bend, Indiana, to receive an honorary doctorate and deliver a commencement address to the class of 2009.

It was an intriguing scene: an avowed pro-choice president addressing the country's pre-eminent Catholic (read anti-abortion) university. This was a classic case, as the old saying goes, of the illegitimate child speaking at the family reunion.

But, in a testament to his immense rhetorical powers and non-confrontational manner, Obama was able to pull it off.

Okay, he said, we can disagree on abortion, but "let us work together to reduce the number of <u>women</u> seeking abortions. Let's reduce unintended pregnancies. (Applause.) Let's make adoption more available. (Applause.) Let's provide care and support for <u>women</u> who do carry their children to term. (Applause.)" Ê Ê Ê

Only the pro-choice Obama could go to Notre Dame and earn applause when talking about abortion. And if he could do that, a senior correspondent for the Al Arabiya Arabic news station said, he should be able to tackle the Middle East. ÊOr, at least, he thinks he will be able to deal with the Middle East.

After meeting this week with Netanyahu in Washington - and following next week's meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas - Obama will travel to Cairo in early June, and deliver what is expected to be a major address on US relations with the Islamic world. In that setting (a la Notre Dame for his abortion address?) he will also touch on the Israeli-Arab conflict. Though not expected to unveil a full-blown plan, he is likely to raise, along with the need for a Palestinian state, the issue of the need for the Islamic world to begin making gestures toward Israel.

Both those elements - a Palestinian state and a determined effort to get the Arab world to begin developing ties with Israel at the beginning of the diplomatic process, not only at the end - have emerged as central pillars of the White House's Mideast plan.

But the details of this plan - and, more interestingly, the details of Netanyahu's diplomatic plan - still remain enigmatic, even after the latter's visit to Washington this week. Something rather odd happened when Netanyahu met Obama, after weeks of buildup and speculation, and after much talk of a vaunted "policy review" in Jerusalem:

The public is no wiser now about Netanyahu's end-game, of where he is headed, than it was before he set out for DC.

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, during his travels earlier this month to European capitals, said repeatedly that Netanyahu would present a plan in Washington, and the picture of where the Israeli leader was headed would become clear. Netanyahu may indeed have presented the broad outlines of a plan to Obama, but he didn't present anything publicly, and instead of the Israeli public's having an idea of what he intends to do, it is left grasping at straws: trying to read between the sentences, nourished on selective leaks to the media, trying to distinguish reality from spin.

Netanyahu's top adviser, Ron Dermer, the head of policy planning in the Prime Minister's Office, said that Netanyahu indeed has a plan, which he outlined for Obama. But, Dermer said, Netanyahu did not "lay a manila envelope" on the president's desk, as it is unwise to unveil each step, or say publicly what Israel is willing to give up, because that would only be an invitation for the other side to ask for more.

Whether this is actually the reason Netanyahu has not made public how he envisions his final agreement with the Palestinians, or whether it has more to do with his fear that revealing his diplomatic hand might chase some of his coalition partners out, one thing is certain: No grand Israeli plan emerged this week. Indeed, on three spring days in Washington, the fog over Israeli policy thickened.

WHAT DID emerge, however, was a completely different style of approaching negotiations with the Palestinians - a style that could be summed up by the mantra Netanyahu made famous during his first term: reciprocity - if they give, they will get; if they don't give, they won't get.

Netanyahu circa 2009 may be different from Netanyahu circa 1996 in many ways - in style, interpersonal relationships, even policy. But the prime minister still believes in that 1996 mantra.

The best example of this can be seen in his continued refusal to say he backs a two-state solution, even though Obama has said it time and time again, most recently in the public statements following their Monday meeting.

To much of the world, Netanyahu's failure to come around on this point is now an obstacle to peace. In Israel, many see his stubbornness as silly, and think he should just say the "T-S" word and be done with it, removing a source of friction and irritation in the critical ties with Obama.

But from Netanyahu's point of view, this is a cardinal issue: Why say Israel is willing to accept a state, before defining what the term "state" means, or before defining what powers a new Palestinian state would have? And why concede, without getting anything in return?

First define the term, Netanyahu argued in Washington, and then maybe Israel can agree to it. If, in the past, the idea was to provide a horizon - the idea of a state - and then fill in the substance, Netanyahu's approach is the exact opposite: ÊFirst decide on the substance, and then paint a well-defined horizon. And, in the whole two-state equation, where, exactly - Netanyahu asks - is the reciprocity?

If Netanyahu agrees to a Palestinian state, he wants the Palestinians to recognize that Israel is a Jewish state - something they have not yet been willing to do.

On the Jewish-state issue, Obama agrees with Netanyahu, as was evident by his comment: "It is in US national security interests to assure that Israel's security as an independent Jewish state is maintained."

But on the two-state issue, there is no agreement between the US and Israel. Israel understands it will be unlikely to get the Palestinians to voluntarily give up rights of sovereignty - such as the ability to muster an army, control of what goes in and out through the borders, the right to enter into treaties, and total control of their water and airspace. Jerusalem's hope, however, is that it will be able to reach an understanding on this with the US, which in turn will support its demand on the Palestinians.

The same give-get equation is apparent in Netanyahu's approach to a settlement freeze, another huge sticking point with Washington. Despite clear messages from Obama and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that the US expects an across-the-board end to settlement activity, Netanyahu is in no rush.

In a briefing with Israeli reporters after meeting Obama, Netanyahu said it was particularly ingenuous for the world to demand that Israel fulfill its road-map obligation calling for a complete freeze on settlements, while giving the Palestinians a pass on their major obligation to uproot the terrorist infrastructure.

Israel did more than just freeze settlements, as required under the road map, he said. Israel uprooted settlements. At the same time, he argued, not only did the Palestinians not uproot the terrorist infrastructure, but rather turned the Jewless Gaza into a terrorist base against Israel.

NETANYAHU'S UNSTATED subtext is clear: If the world expected Israeli concessions on settlements, as per the road map, it would have to ensure that the Palestinians fulfilled their part of the road map, including uprooting the terrorist infrastructure - something that right now seems impossible, considering <u>Hamas</u>'s control of Gaza. Fix that, Netanyahu is saying, and then talk to Jerusalem about a settlement freeze.

Indeed, Uzi Arad, a top Netanyahu aid and the head of the National Security Council, intimated as much, when he responded to a question about what confidence-building measure Israel would make toward the Palestinians. His reply: "What confidence-building measures are they willing to undertake?" Ê Ê Ê Ê

Israel not only wants to see confidence-building measures from the Palestinians, but even more so from the Arab states. And this, at least, is something that Netanyahu and Obama were able to agree on - that the Arab countries needed to begin making gestures toward Israel now, such as opening phone links, or air corridors, or interest sections, and not wait for the end of the process.

THIS APPROACH marks a major divergence from that of former prime minister Ehud Olmert. In 2006, an arrangement was worked out, whereby Olmert would meet a key Saudi personality, and in response would endorse the Saudi peace initiative.

As scripted, in September 2006 - soon after the Second Lebanon War - Olmert went to Amman and met with Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi Arabian National Security Adviser and former Saudi ambassador to Washington. Shortly after the meeting, Olmert - on a couple of occasions - praised the initiative.

These secret contacts continued, and in November 2008, at least according to former US State Department senior official William Burns, Saudi King Abdullah himself met with President Shimon Peres on the sidelines of a UN meeting in New York.

In the first few weeks of Netanyahu's term, the Saudis, according to Israeli sources involved in the matter, made clear to the Netanyahu government that they would be willing to continue these secret contacts, in exchange for a declaration of a settlement freeze. Netanyahu's government turned down the offer, signaling a different approach: The time for private meetings well off the radar screen was past; now Israel was demanding public gestures for all to see - gestures which could change public attitudes.

The Saudis, both Israel and American officials concur, are unlikely to leap at the opportunity, something made clear by the manner in which the Saudis unequivocally denied any Peres-Abdullah meeting last November. Still, that is what Netanyahu is after, and he - it appears - will not be endorsing the Saudi plan, until he gets something public in return.

While Peres recently praised the plan, saying at the AIPAC conference earlier this month, "The Saudis gave birth to a peace initiative" that marked "a serious U-turn" from previous Arab rejectionism, all Netanyahu would say publicly this week in Washington was that he supported Peres's position. And that the Saudi initiative was a far cry from the "three Arab nos" spelled out at the Khartoum conference following the Six day War: Ê"No peace with Israel; no recognition of Israel; no negotiations with Israel."

But if the Saudis want to hear more from Netanyahu, they will have to give more, something few expect will happen. Unless, of course, Obama can "pull a Notre Dame" in Cairo, and convince the Saudis there are different ways to view opening up to Israel, and that a willingness to look at creative ways to do this is not a complete sell-out of their values. That, however, may be beyond even Obama's considerable rhetorical skills.

Graphic

Photo: PRIME MINISTER Binyamin Netanyahu and US President Barack Obama. No grand Israeli plan emerged this week. (Credit: AP)

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Body

They can fly, they can swim, they can spit out 550 high-explosive shells a minute. And most terrifyingly of all, they'll soon be able to think for themselves. Robot warriors are no longer sci-fi but reality. So what happens when they go haywire -- or turn their guns on us?

A FEW minutes before nine in the morning, and the young soldiers have no idea of the horror that is about to strike them. They are taking part in a massive military training exercise, involving 5,000 troops, and are about to showcase the latest in robotic weapons technology. The MK5 anti-aircraft system, with two huge 35mm cannons, is essentially a vast robotic weapon, controlled by a computer. But while it's one thing when your laptop freezes up, it's quite another when it is controlling an auto-loading magazine containing 500 high-explosive rounds.

As the display begins, the South African troops sense quickly that something is terribly wrong. The system appears to jam -- but what happens next is truly chilling. 'There was nowhere to hide,' one witness stated in a report. 'The rogue gun began firing wildly, spraying highexplosive shells at a rate of 550 a minute, swinging around through 360 degrees like a high-pressure hose.'

One young *female* officer rushes forward to try to shut down the robotic gun -- but it is too late.

'She couldn't, because the computer gremlin had taken over,' the witness later said.

The rounds from the automated gun rip into her and she collapses to the ground. By the time the robot has emptied its magazine, nine soldiers lie dead (including the woman officer). Another 14 are seriously injured. The report will later blame the bloodbath on a 'software glitch'.

It sounds like a blood-spattered scene from the new blockbuster Terminator Salvation, in which a military computer takes over the world using an army of robot soldiers. But this bloodbath actually happened. And concern is mounting that it may happen again and again, as a growing number of military robots flood the battlefield.

Indeed, Pentagon insider Peter Singer believes that we are witnessing the dawn of the robot warrior age.

'Just look at the numbers,' he says. 'We went into Iraq in 2003 with zero robots. Now we have 12,000 on the ground. They come in all shapes and sizes, from tiny machines to robots bigger than an 18-wheeler truck. There are ones that fit on my little finger and ones with the wingspan of a football field.'

THE U.S. military is the biggest investor in robot soldiers. Its robot programme, dubbed Future Combat Systems, is budgeted to spend \$240 billion over the next 20 years.

But Singer is worried that in the rush to bring out ever more advanced systems, many lethal robots will be rolled out before they are ready. It is a terrifying prospect. 'Imagine a laptop armed with an M16 machine-gun,' one expert said.

According to Noel Sharkey, a professor of robotics and artificial intelligence at Sheffield University, one of the biggest concerns is that this growing army of robots could stray out of communication range. 'Just imagine a rogue robot roaming off the battlefield and into a nearby village,' he says. 'Without experts to shut it down, the results could be catastrophic.'

One of the most common, and fastest, military robots in service is the Talon. Weighing just 52kg, it has one long, mobile arm and is used primarily for bomb disposal. It can move through snow, sand and water.

There are 2,500 of these robots in Iraq and if they are damaged, they are flown to one of six dedicated 'robot hospitals' for repairs. They are then returned to combat within hours.

The Talon is unarmed, but can be disturbingly temperamental. Singer gives a worrying example of one sergeant just back from Iraq who described how his Talon robot acted 'erratically'. Another told how his robot would 'drive off the road, come back at you, spin around, stuff like that'.

I spoke to one soldier in the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry division, stationed at Forward Operating base Kalsu, 20 miles south of Baghdad, who works with Talons. 'They all have different personalities,' he says. 'The way they move, the way the arm doesn't move like it's supposed to. You have to learn their quirks.'

Which is fine -- until it is also lethally armed.

A deadlier version of the Talon is the SWORD -- and this is a killing machine. The SWORD is essentially a Talon robot mounted with either an M240 machine-gun, a grenade or rocket launcher. Boasting this kind of firepower, stories about 'quirks' and ' personalities' become far more alarming.

In his new book, Wired For War, Singer tells how a roboticist at a rival firm told of an incident in testing where a SWORD had spun around in circles, as if drunk.

The Marines Corps' Gladiator combat robot prototype, which is the size of a golf cart and heavily armed, had similar problems when tested, driving about in a circle that left those at the exercise not knowing 'whether to laugh or run away'.

The SWORD is also a keen marksman. It can shoot an apple from hundreds of metres using a machinegun with the accuracy of a sniper rifle. That is an incredible capability.

But it can't tell the difference between an apple and a tomato. This is a major cause for concern for many experts. If it can't tell an apple from a tomato, they ask, how can it tell the difference between an insurgent and an innocent child?

A spokesman at Qinetiq, which manufactures SWORD, denies the product's disturbing glitches, dismissing them as 'completely unsubstantiated'.

But even Qinetiq can't keep track of all their units once they are in service. 'Once those units are sold, we can't comment as they are with operational forces,' said a spokesman for the company. 'It would be like Ford trying to track all its cars.'

Qinetiq also emphasises, however, that its robots are 'saving lives every day in Iraq'. Indeed, Qinetiq is forging ahead with a whole array of new military robots, including a lightweight, solar-powered spy plane which can remain airborne for months.

But Singer also has the inside track on the Pentagon's plans for robot warfare. As well as working in America's military HQ, he coordinated Barack Obama's defence policy during his presidential campaign.

'There are various humanoid military robots in the pipeline,' he says. 'Some of the military's ideas are straight out of science fiction.'

In the forthcoming blockbuster Terminator Salvation, which is out on June 3, we are presented with a nightmarish scenario in which armies of machines roam a postapocalyptic landscape, destroying any remnants of human civilisation.

Huge 'Harvesters' hunt down humans en masse, while brutal, humanoid 'Terminators' round up the survivors. The bedraggled human resistance, whose leader is a character played by Christian Bale, even encounters vicious underwater robots which patrol the oceans.

Disturbingly, these terrifying creations are now inspiring the latest real-life innovations.

'One member of the military so liked the look of the Terminators that he asked the Pentagon to build one,' Singer says. 'There is nothing unusual in this. After all, the idea for the mobile phone came from Star Trek, while the tank was created after Winston Churchill read the science fiction of H.G. Wells.'

But the greatest fears concern what will happen when increasingly advanced military robots become 'autonomous' - that is, able to make their own decisions.

At present, most robot soldiers are operated by a human who controls their every move. But there are advanced plans to let robots fight on their own. Indeed, one U.S. military proposal clearly states: 'Fully autonomous engagement without human intervention should be considered -- both lethal and non-lethal.'

One of the world's leading roboticists, university professor Ron Arkin, who works with the Pentagon's technology arm, confirms that the Future Combat Systems programme is fast moving towards such autonomous systems.

'I envision them being used in allout war, for example,' he said. 'Ten to 20 years from now, robot warfare could be a very different story.'

This raises a whole new range of problems. Professor Sharkey, for example, claims the Pentagon is developing 'Multi-Robot Pursuit Systems' which will be used for house clearance. They will pursue people like a pack of wolves,' he said. 'But if you have several people running away, how will the robots decide who to shoot? A lot of innocent people will die.'

And what happens if terrorists get hold of the technology?

'These military robots are simply programmed to detect and shoot,' says Prof Sharkey. 'They are stupid, dumb. They don't ask questions and the hit rates are incredible. It would be easy for anyone to set one up on a rooftop and leave it to shoot an innocent crowd to pieces.'

The manufacturers admit that their robots could fall into enemy hands, but say that this is a risk with any conventional military weapon. Robots, however, are harder to destroy, don't feel fear and can't be interrogated if they are captured. In short, they can be used with far more devastating results.

'We already know that in the Middle East, <u>Hamas</u> is using remotecontrolled planes,' says Prof Sharkey. 'I can go on the internet today, buy a plane about 2ft long which cannot be detected by radar, connect it to a mobile phone and use the phone to guide it.'

FORTY-THREE countries are developing military robot programmes, including Russia and China. And it is fast becoming an arms race.

The Pentagon's technology wing is determined to stay ahead in the game -- and is creating ever more bizarre devices. There is the Wasp, a radio-controlled flying insect that weighs just 170g and can be used, quite literally, as a fly on the wall.

Then there is the Cormorant, a sealaunched robot which can swim to a depth of 150ft, and the PANDA, which stands for Predictive Analysis for Naval Deployment Activities, and which helps track down Somali pirates.

One new sentry robot, with a builtin 5mm light machine-gun, patrols the demilitarised zone between North and South Korea. The SGRA1 is made by Samsung Techwin and can pinpoint targets at up to 500m using a colour camera. Israel has introduced armed robotic sentries in pillboxes along the Gaza border.

'This is amazing technology,' says Singer, 'but it raises disturbing, fascinating questions. On one hand, hundreds of soldiers are alive today thanks to robots. The flip side, however, is that they allow us to use more force with less risk. Eleven out of the top 20 Taliban leaders have been killed by robot drones. But how many innocent people have been killed in the process?'

Either way, military robot technology is advancing at an alarming pace. 'We are experimenting to see whether we can embed the laws of war and the rules of engagement into an autonomous robot soldier.

'Our initial results are promising and I believe it is possible to constrain a robot's behaviour to a moral code.' But the impetus to create a fullyfunctional, fully-autonomous robot warrior is a political one.

'Body bags containing real soldiers coming home affect the government electorally,' says Sharkey. 'Once you start using robots, you remove this problem.'

But do we really want going to war to be as easy, and impersonal, as playing a computer game? And once we have created our indestructible robot armies, will we ever be 100 per cent sure that we can control them?

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Nations prosper with God on their side

Weekend Australian

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Byline: John Micklethwait, Adrian Wooldridge

Body

John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge explain why religion prospers in a deregulated and globalised market for faith

EVER since the Enlightenment in the 18th century, there has been a schism in Western thought over the relationship between religion and modernity. Europeans, on the whole, have assumed that modernity would marginalise religion; Americans, in the main, have assumed that the two things can thrive together.

This schism goes back to the modern world's two founding revolutions. The French and American revolutions were both the offspring of the Enlightenment, but with very different views of the role that religion should play in reason's glorious republic. In France the revolutionnaires despised religion as a tool of the ancien regime. By contrast, America's founding fathers took a more benign view of religion. They divided church from state, not least to protect the former from the latter.

These two versions of modernity have marched in different directions ever since. In Europe established churches sided with the old regime against the new world of democracy and liberty. In America, where there was no national established church, faiths embraced both democracy and the market: the only way they could survive was to attract customers.

In Europe, religion meant war or oppression, Edmund Burke once observed; in America, it turned out to be a source of freedom. For most of the past 200 years the European view of modernity has been in the ascendant. Europe gave birth to a succession of sages who explained, in compelling detail, why God was doomed. Karl Marx denounced religion as the ``opium of the masses". Emile Durkheim and Max Weber argued that an iron law of history was leading to secularisation (or ``the disenchantment of the world", in Weber's rather more poetic phrase). Friedrich Nietzsche remarked, ``I find it necessary to wash my hands after I have come into contact with religious people." Sigmund Freud dismissed religion as a neurosis that was designed to divert attention from man's real interest, sex.

A few intellectuals deplored God's disappearance, worrying that a godless world would also be a barbaric one. "When people stop believing in God," GK Chesterton argued, "they don't believe in nothing, they believe in anything." "If you will not have God (and he is a jealous God)," TS Eliot warned, "you should pay your respects to Hitler or Stalin."

Others welcomed the disappearance of an instrument of oppression and bigotry. A few tried to have it both ways: Jean-Paul Sartre railed against God's absence (``God doesn't exist, the bastard!"), yet celebrated the freedom that his departure provided. ``Lord I disbelieve," EM Forster confessed, ``help thou my unbelief."

Still, everyone who was anyone in European public life agreed that religion was dying and that its effect on politics was ebbing.

The European idea, that you cannot become modern without throwing off religion's yoke, had a massive influence all around the world. It is hardly surprising that Marxist dictators such as Lenin and Mao tried to impose atheism by force. But a striking number of less dogmatic leaders in the developing world were also bent on enforcing secularisation.

In Turkey, Kemal Ataturk imposed a strict separation between mosque and state. (``The fez," he once complained, ``sat upon our heads as a sign of ignorance, fanaticism, an obstacle to progress and to attaining a contemporary level of civilisation.") In India, Jawaharlal Nehru tried to make ``a clean sweep" of organised religion: ``Almost always it seems to stand for blind belief and reaction, dogma and bigotry, superstition and exploitation and the preservation of vested interests." In the Middle East, Gamal Abdel Nasser and the Pahlavi shahs of Iran argued that their countries faced a choice between the mosque and mechanisation; superstition and fanaticism had to be left behind.

By the end of the 20th century the intelligentsia had little doubt modern man had outgrown God. Most trend-setting books in the 1990s saw the world through secular lenses. Francis Fukuyama's The End of History and the Last Man predicted the triumph of secularisation as well as liberalism. The word religion does not appear in the index of Diplomacy, Henry Kissinger's 900-page masterpiece on statesmanship, published in 1994.

In 1980-99 only a half dozen of the articles in America's four main international relations journals dealt with religion. The Economist was so confident of the Almighty's demise that it published his obituary in its millennium issue. Today an unsettling worry nags at Western liberals: what if secular Europe (and for that matter secular Harvard and secular Manhattan) is the odd one out? They are right to be worried. It now seems that it is the American model that is spreading around the world: religion and modernity are going hand in hand, not just in China but throughout much of Asia, Africa, Arabia and Latin America. It is not just that religion is thriving in many modernising countries; it is also that religion is succeeding in harnessing the tools of modernity to propagate its message. The very things that were supposed to destroy religion -- democracy and markets, technology and reason -- are combining to make it stronger.

Almost everywhere you look, from the suburbs of Dallas to the slums of Sao Paulo to the back streets of Bradford, you can see religion returning to public life. Most dramatically, Americans and their allies would not be dying in Iraq and Afghanistan had 19 young Muslims not attacked the US on September 11, 2001. America's next war could be against the Islamic Republic of Iran, or it could be dragged into a spat in Pakistan, where religious fanatics are determined to seize the country's nuclear weapons, or perhaps in West Africa, where there is a monumental clash between evangelical Christianity surging northward and fundamentalist Islam heading south. Indeed, there are potential battlegrounds all around Islam's southern perimeter, along the 10th parallel, stretching through Sudan to The Philippines. Nor is it just a matter of Christians and Muslims. In Burma, Buddhist monks nearly brought down an evil regime; in Sri Lanka they have prolonged a bloody conflict with Hindu Tamils.

Meanwhile, many older conflicts have acquired a religious edge. The poisonous 60-year war over Palestine began as a largely secular affair. Many of the pioneering Zionists in the early 20th century saw the Middle East as an escape from the suffocating religiosity of eastern European village life. Even after the Holocaust, the new Jewish state at first deemed religion a distraction: after Israel's founding in 1948 the secular David Ben-Gurion agreed that rabbinical law would prevail in matters such as marriage and divorce partly because he assumed the Orthodox would melt away. On the Palestinian side, many of the leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation were Christian socialists; in Egypt, the spiritual champion of Arab nationalism, Nasser, clamped down on the radical Muslim Brotherhood.

Nowadays, in the era of *Hamas*, Jewish settlers and Christian Zionists, the Israeli-Palestinian dispute has become a much more polarised, sectarian battle, with ever more people claiming that God is on their side.

As for the old communist regimes, China is not the only country to have renewed its addiction to the opium of the masses (see accompanying story). Vladimir Putin, that hard-headed product of the Soviet security apparatus, decks himself in symbols of religion in much the same way as Russian tsars once did: he never takes off his baptismal cross, maintains a small chapel next door to his office in the Kremlin and has made regular visits to churches. The KGB's successor, the FSB, has its own Orthodox church opposite its headquarters, complete with rare icons presented by the Patriarch. One poll in 2006 -- 15 years after the fall of the Soviet regime -- discovered that 84 per cent of the Russian population believed in God while only 16 per cent considered themselves atheists. Meanwhile, Mikhail Gorbachev has shown signs that he is a Christian: after spending a half hour with his daughter Irina praying at the tomb of St Francis of Assisi, the last Soviet leader confessed that ``St Francis is, for me, the alter Christus, the other Christ. His story fascinates me and has played a fundamental role in mylife."

Ataturk's Turkey is in the hands of an avowedly Islamist party. The president's wife, like many cosmopolitan <u>women</u>, wears a headscarf, once regarded as a symbol of backwardness. In the US, the religious Right is an established part of politics in almost every state, and the US has had a succession of ``born again" presidents. The man it has just waved goodbye to was its most soul-on-the-sleeve religious leader since the 19th century: George W. Bush began each day on his knees and each cabinet meeting with a prayer, but he was a relatively moderate figure compared with Sarah Palin, the Pentecostal selected by John McCain to be his vice-presidential candidate, who has undergone rites to protect her from witchcraft. The single most frequently used noun in the 2008 Republican convention in St Paul, Minnesota, was God. But the Left is not immune from the influence of religion either: Barack Obama borrowed the title of his autobiography, The Audacity of Hope, from a sermon delivered by Jeremiah Wright, the man who ``brought him to God" when he was a young man (and later almost doomed his presidential campaign).

Religion is even (re-) emerging as a force in the very heartland of secularisation. Europe is still a long way behind the US: for instance, only one in 10 French people say that religion plays an important role in their lives. But nevertheless there are signs that the same forces that are reviving religion in the US -- the quest for community in an increasingly atomised world, the desire to counterbalance choice with a sense of moral certainty -- are making headway in Europe. Across the Continent the loosening of the ties between church and state is opening the religious market. In France, the fastest growing creed is the most American of all, Pentecostalism. After embracing modernism in the 60s with Vatican II, the Catholic Church has returned to a more traditional version of the faith, first under John Paul II and now under his successor, Benedict XVI. The aim is to Catholicise modernity rather than to modernise Catholicism.

The principle that European politicians do not ``do God", as Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's former spokesman, once angrily told an American magazine, looks out of date. Blair was always a ``praying person", and converted to Catholicism shortly after leaving office. His successor, Gordon Brown, claims that he learned his socialism listening to his preacher father's sermons. Before becoming president of France, Nicolas Sarkozy published La Republique, les religions, l'esperance, in which he called for a greater role for religion in public life. Poland's Law and Justice Party was elected on the promise of a ``moral revolution", based on the social teachings of the Catholic Church.

The arrival of millions of Muslims in Europe is also turbocharging religious debates. Growing Muslim minorities are plainly having a remarkable effect on European politics. At the most extreme end, this includes the bombings in Madrid and London, the killing of a Dutch filmmaker, Theo van Gogh, the riots in the Paris banlieues and the brouhaha about the Danish cartoons of Mohammed. More peacefully, the growth of Islam is also forcing secular people to re-examine the importance of religion. This applies in working-class neighbourhoods, where whites, confronted by immigration, are increasingly likely to identify themselves as Christian, and in politics, where a striking number of the Continent's leaders, casting around for a reason not to admit Turkey to the European Union, have rediscovered Europe's Christian origins.

Another indication of religion's reappearance in the public sphere has been the outcry among secular intellectuals, many of whom hold that the real ``clash of civilisations" is not between different religions but between superstition

and modernity. A hit parade of recent books has torn into religion: Sam Harris's The End of Faith, Richard Dawkins's The God Delusion and Christopher Hitchens's God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything.

The authors have crisscrossed the US, debating religious leaders, even in the Bible Belt, in front of megachurch-sized audiences. Dawkins has set up an organisation to empower atheists. Part of that secular fury, especially in Europe, comes from exasperation. What if a central tenet of the French Enlightenment -- that modernity would kill religion -- is proving to be an ancien canard? Statistics about religious observance are notoriously untrustworthy, but most of them seem to indicate that the global drift towards secularism has been halted and quite a few show religion to be on the increase. One estimate suggests that the proportion of people attached to the world's four biggest religions -- Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism -- rose

from 67 per cent in 1900 to 73 per cent in 2005 and may reach 80 per cent by 2050. Even if this number is padded by people moving from tribal religions to bigger ones, we are hardly seeing decline; and in terms of intensity -- a harder to measure phenomenon -- there seems to have been a considerable increase in most places outside Europe during the past halfcentury.

For most casual observers the revival of religion means the revival of Islam. But Christianity is also growing rapidly, particularly across the developing world. In 1900 there were roughly 10 million Christians in Africa. Today, thanks to waves of evangelisation, there are 400 million, almost half the population. And it is worth considering the intensity again. For instance, Latin America has been nominally Christian since the days of the conquistadores; but now the region is a much more competitive religious marketplace, with evangelical faiths battling it out with Catholicism.

In most of these places, the growth in faith has coincided with a growth in prosperity. People are choosing to be Christians, or choosing which sort of Christians they want to be. Man, whether the neo- atheists like it or not, is a theotropic beast: given the option, he is inclined to believe in a god, not least because, as studies show, religion can increase his well-being in material as well as spiritual ways. (If one group of intellectuals is lamenting the rise of religion, another is trying to measure why it works.)

And it gets worse for the neo-atheists. There are two particularly upsetting things about the way that religion is prospering. The first is that the ``wrong sorts'' of religion are flourishing. In the 60s most thinkers imagined that, if religion was to survive at all, it would be in its most reasonable and ecumenical guise: mild Anglicanism, say, or Graham Greene's doubting Catholicism. In fact, certainty has proved much easier to market: the sort of religions that claim Adam and Eve met exactly 6005 years ago or that take a particularly strict interpretation of jihad. In the US the tolerant-to-a-fault Episcopal Church has been in relentless decline. By contrast, the Southern Baptists have prospered. Altogether conservative Christians make up a quarter of America's population, according to Pew, significantly more than 50 years ago. People who seek liberation from liberation do not turn to liberation theology.

The most remarkable religious success story of the past century has been the most emotional religion of all. Pentecostalism was founded just over a century ago in a scruffy part of Los Angeles by a one-eyed black preacher, William J. Seymour, convinced that God would send a new Pentecost if only people would pray hard enough. Today there are at least 500 million renewalists across the world. Their beliefs are not for the faint-hearted. Most adherents have witnessed divine healing, exorcisms or speaking in tongues.

The hotter bits of Islam have also gained ground. As American neo-conservatives never tire of pointing out, this is partly a matter of Saudi money: petro-dollars have flowed into fundamentalist madrassas around the world and paid for millions of copies of the Koran with Wahhabi interpretations (for instance, stressing jihad, in the warlike sense, not just as personal striving, as an extra pillar of Islam). But it is also a matter of choice. In the Arab heartlands fundamentalism has become a refuge for anyone worried by the spread of Western culture and power. In overseas communities where Muslims are in a minority, notably Europe, it has had more to do with a search for identity. Scholars such as Olivier Roy have shown that extremism has become a form of generational warfare, with Western-born Muslim girls choosing to wear the headscarf that their mothers jettisoned on their arrival from Pakistan andMorocco.

There are all sorts of long-term reasons hotter, more combative religions will gain. Demography is one. From Salt Lake City to Jerusalem, religious people marry younger and reproduce more prodigiously than nonreligious ones.

An ultra-Orthodox Jewish woman in Israel will produce nearly three times as many children as her secular counterpart. By some counts, three-quarters of the growth in the more ardent varieties of American Protestantism is the result of demography. During the past half century the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has grown sevenfold, with half the world's 13 million Mormons living outside the US. Another long-term trend that could stir up religion is climate change. Philip Jenkins, one of America's most distinguished students of religion, points out that by 2050 most of the largest Christian countries, other than the US, will be located in the global south. He thinks that environmental change could spark intercommunal rivalry, recalling the Little Ice Age at the end of the 13th century that caused starvation and pogroms, with Christians turning on Jews in Europe and Muslims turning on Christians in Africa and Asia.

If these religious sorts sound angry and poor, that gives the wrong impression. For the second, arguably still more frustrating thing for the neo-atheists involves the sort of people who are embracing religion.

According to the secularist hymn book, those drawn to religion should be the weak, the ignorant and the fearful. That is certainly true in some cases. Pentecostalism has spread rapidly in the favelas of Brazil; go to Gaza, and it is not hard to see why radical Islam offers a form of hope for so many Palestinians.

But that is not the whole picture. In much of the world it is exactly the sort of upwardly mobile, educated middle classes that Marx and Weber presumed would shed such superstitions who are driving the explosion of faith. In Turkey and India, modernisation has helped to create the up-and-coming bourgeoisie that Ataturk and Nehru prayed for, but these people are the most fervent supporters of the religious parties.

Evangelicals are well educated and well off. For prosperous suburbanites, faith has become a lifestyle coach. Far from looking backward, American evangelicals claim they are ahead of the curve in grappling with the question of how you preserve virtue in a consumer society. How do you keep yourself on the straight and narrow when you are constantly beset by temptations? How do you raise your children in a world where an Abercrombie & Fitch clothing catalogue looks like something that ought to be kept on the top shelf? The answer, they argue, is simple: turn to the eternal truths captured in the Bible. For them, far from being a quaint relic, religion is the only way that you can navigate the torrents of modernity. It is no accident that America's bestselling religious book is called The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?

What is driving this great upheaval? The answer, to use two religious phrases, is a combination of revealed truth (something that we should have recognised years ago) and genuine transubstantiation (real change).

From one angle, little of substance has changed. The only thing that has happened is that the political classes in the West are waking up, rather late, to the enduring power of religion. This revealed truth argument is, needless to say, popular with believers: God's power was bound to be recognised sooner or later. But it is also popular with some people who study religion for a living. Peter Berger, dean of sociologists of religion, argues that outside Europe most people have always been religious and chides journalists for investigating the religious rule, not the secular exception: "Rather than studying American evangelicals and Islamic mullahs, you should look at Swedes and New England college professors."

On the other hand, there is also, plainly, an element of transubstantiation. To begin with, the change in the commentariat's perception of religious power may be overdue, but it is fairly gigantic. (Even Berger, who used to be one of the leading proponents of the secularisation theory, realised that religion was not going to wither away only two decades ago, and it caused a furore in his discipline when he did so.) And, more important, there have been genuine changes of substance, to do with religion itself and with its effect on politics.

In retrospect, religion's re-emergence as a political force came long before Osama bin Laden declared his jihad on Jews and Crusaders. Timothy Shah, a scholar at the Council on Foreign Relations, has argued that the great turning point was the Six-Day War of 1967. The Arab world's crushing defeat persuaded many embittered Arabs to turn from Nasser's secular pan-Arabism to radical Islam. (In 1967, under Nasser, the Egyptian army went into battle crying, ``Land! Sea! Air!''; six years later, under Anwar El Sadat, their new battle cry was, ``Allahu Akhbar.'' At the same time, Israel's ``miraculous'' triumph gave God a stronger voice in its politics, emboldening the settler movement. In the same year a Hindu nationalist party won 9.4 per cent of the vote in India. Faith gathered pace in

Nations prosper with God on their side

politics in the 70s. By the end of that decade, the US had elected its first proudly born-again Christian, Jimmy Carter; Jerry Falwell had founded the Moral Majority; Iran had replaced the worldly shah with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini; president Zia-ul-Haq was busy Islamising Pakistan; Buddhism had been formally granted the foremost place in Sri Lanka's constitution; and an anti-communist Pole had become head of the Catholic Church.

What caused this shift in the 70s? Believers see a populist revolt against the overreach of elitist secularism -- be it America's Supreme Court legalising abortion or Indira Gandhi harrying Hindus. From a more secular viewpoint, John Lewis Gaddis, a Yale historian, points out that the religious revival in the 70s coincided with the collapse of secular isms.

By then the Soviet Union's evils had made a mockery of Marxism, and capitalism had also hit some buffers (the oil shocks, hyperinflation). More generally, politicians' ability to solve problems such as crime or unemployment was thrown into doubt: faith in government tumbled just about everywhere in the 70s and has stayed low since.

And why has religion's power continued to increase? Most obviously, there has been a series of reactions and counterreactions. Fundamentalist Islam, for instance, has helped to spur radical Judaism and Hinduism, which in turn have reinforced the mullahs' fervor. *Hamas* owes much to Israel's settlers. Without Falwell, there would have been slimmer royalties for Hitchens and Dawkins. But there is also something deeper going on: globalisation. The biggest problem for the prophets of secularisation is that the surge of religion is being driven by the same two things that have driven the success of market capitalism: competition and choice.

PERHAPS for the first time since the dawn of the modern era, the world seems to be moving decisively in the American rather than the European direction. The American model of religion -- one that is based on choice rather than state fiat -- is winning. The US has succeeded in putting God back into modernity partly because it put modernity, or at least choice and competition, back into God. In many parts of the world, it is American missionaries and products you find to the fore: The Jesus Film, put out by Campus Crusade for Christ, has supposedly been seen by more than a billion people in 80 languages. The US is the pioneer in religious politics too. If it has given the world megachurches and megapreachers, it has also exported its culture wars. Meanwhile, as the battered superpower, it is fated to deal with most of the world's new wars of religion.

If the US plays an outsized role in our story, so does Christianity. Again the reason for this is straightforward: Christianity has spent longer grappling with modernity than other religions, notably Islam. There are plenty of modern Muslims; and there are also plenty of places, from Dubai to Detroit and the Dardanelles, where Islam sits comfortably with modernity. But in its Arab heartland, it does not. And, overall, it remains the world religion that has found pluralism hardest to cope with.

THE basic message of our book is a profoundly liberal one. Unevenly and gradually, religion is becoming a matter of choice -- something that individuals decide to believe in (or not). Secularists need to recognise that the enemy that ``poisons everything" is not religion but the union of religion and power and believers need to recognise that religion flourishes best where it operates in a world of free choice, that, as that doughty free thinker Benjamin Franklin once put it, ``When a religion is good, I conceive it will support itself; and when it does not support itself, and God does not take care to support it so that its professors are obliged to call for help of the civil power, 'tis a sign, I apprehend, of its being a bad one." Amen.

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Edited extract from God is Back: How the Global Rise of Faith is Changing the World, published on June 29 (Penguin Australia, \$59.95). John Micklethwait is editor-in-chief of The Economist and Adrian Wooldridge is Washington bureau chief of the London-based weekly magazine.

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Once Reviled, Black Hebrews Now Fêted; African-American Group in Dimona Faced Down IDF in '86, Now Celebrates First Member To Become Israeli Citizen; letter from dimona

The Forward March 27, 2009

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Body

Elyahkeem Ben Yehuda could have become another statistic, growing up poor, black and fatherless on the west side of Chicago during the 1950s.

But he never had a run-in with the law, nor did he see the inside of a jail cell, until he moved to Israel to join the African Hebrew Israelite community. I had to come to Israel to get my first experience in jail, he said. But in those days, that was like a badge of honor, to be arrested for God and His people.

Last month, the 62-year-old Ben Yehuda father of 10 children and husband of 3 <u>women</u> became the first member of his community to gain full Israeli citizenship. Looking back on the hurdles he overcame since his 1971 arrival, Ben Yehuda mused, I can only describe this journey in relationship to my forefathers, referring to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They were able to endure. As long as we put fulfilling the will of the God of Israel first, there's no challenge that we can't overcome.

The African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem or Black Hebrews, as they are more commonly known (though not all members are black) have sparred with the Israeli government for decades over their right to immigrate to Israel under the Law of Return. It is a right they still do not have. But presaging Ben Yehuda's achievement last month, Israel granted the community

permanent residency status in 2003, offering its 3,000 members a five-year path to apply for citizenship on an individual basis. It's a process that many others are now undertaking.

The Promised Land took many decades before putting out a welcome mat for the Black Hebrews. Asked by a newspaper reporter in 1980 what would happen if the Israeli government attempted to expel the entire community, as was widely expected then, the group's leader, Ben Ammi Ben-Israel, replied: If they send soldiers and the police, they could probably succeed in getting two-thirds of us out. The other third they would have to kill.

For much of its 40-year existence in Israel, the Hebrew community has been the subject of intense and hostile scrutiny, owed, in part, to its reputation as a cult, its belligerent attitude toward outsiders and its secrecy about the sometimes illegal methods used to bring its members to Israel.

As recently as 2005, The Jerusalem Post reported that the Israeli police and the National Insurance Institute, in coordination with the FBI, were probing allegations of widespread insurance fraud within the community. The investigation ultimately led nowhere. At the time, Israeli officials blamed the closed nature of the community for

Once Reviled, Black Hebrews Now Fêted African-American Group in Dimona Faced Down IDF in '86, Now Celebrates First Member To Become Israeli Citizen letter from

hindering their investigation, while community leaders dismissed the charges as spurious and the investigation as racially motivated.

Yet, in contrast to the Post's depiction of a shadowy sect, the community is more open today than it ever has been, and it actively works to promote awareness about its unique culture. [The author was hosted inside the Black Hebrews' village from September 2007 to November 2008 while conducting research on an academic fellowship.]

Indeed, the community has gone from the fringes of Israeli society to the mainstream, with its gospel choir performing for heads of state, and its youth enlisting at age 18 in the Israel Defense Forces. Several Black Hebrews participated in IDF ground operations in Gaza during the most recent war against *Hamas*, according to community spokeswoman Yafah Baht Gavriel.

The past year has brought even greater acceptance for the Black Hebrews. In August 2008, Israel's president, Shimon Peres, celebrated his 85th birthday in Dimona, where he visited their settlement, the Village of Peace, and was effusive in his praise of Ben Ammi and his people. Your community is beloved in Israel, Peres said. You give the country happiness and song and hope for a better world. He assured the Black Hebrews that Israel does not tolerate discrimination, and he pledged to facilitate their transition to citizenship. Our hands are in yours; your destiny must be our destiny, Peres said.

The founders of the Hebrew community are blacks, primarily from Chicago, who identi-fy themselves as descendants of the Tribe of Judah and view Israel as their ancestral homeland. The Chief Rabbinate has never accepted their claim to Judaism and they have always refused to convert as a group but their relationship with the Israeli government has evolved over the past 40 years.

The Hebrew community was born of the black-separatist movement of the early 20th century, which rejected the possibility that African Americans could live as equals with white people in the United States. Even today, many Hebrews believe there is no future for blacks in America, although they operate missions in such places as Atlanta and Washington.

Ben Ammi Ben-Israel born Ben Carter is a former metallurgist from Chicago who says that the angel Gabriel appeared to him in a vision in 1966 and instructed him to deliver his people to the Promised Land from America. He is 69 years old and lives in Dimona with his four wives.

The first members arrived in Israel in 1969 via Liberia, where they had spent two-and-a-half years cleansing themselves of spiritual impurities in preparation for what they refer to as their prophetic return to Israel to establish the Kingdom of God. Officials at what was then Lod Airport, however, did not know what to do with them when they stepped off the plane.

The government decided to send the initial group of 39 Black Hebrews to the impoverished Negev town of Dimona, expecting them to leave after their first taste of desert life. Despite their isolation and limited resources, the Black Hebrews thrived by drawing closer to one another and to Yah, the God of Israel, members of the community said.

Newer members seeking to join the community after 1969 were turned around at the border and told that their status as Jews was under debate. So they found other ways of entering the country in one case, posing as a Christian tour group and sneaking down to Dimona in the middle of the night.

The 1970s and '80s were characterized by mass arrests and deportations on one side, and by accusations of racism and denials of the legitimacy of the Israeli government on the other. Israeli authorities threw Ben Yehuda and other community members in prison in 1973 when they tried to renounce their American citizenship at the American embassy in Tel Aviv. The Black Hebrews had hoped to avoid deportation for overstaying their temporary visas by becoming stateless, but many, including Ben Yehuda, were sent back to America.

Once Reviled, Black Hebrews Now Fêted African-American Group in Dimona Faced Down IDF in '86, Now Celebrates First Member To Become Israeli Citizen letter from

The government did, in fact, send soldiers to Dimona on April 22, 1986. During what has become known in Black Hebrew lore as the Day of the Show of Strength, community members faced down dozens of Israeli troops who surrounded their village. Dressed in white robes, the Black Hebrews had threatened to march to Jerusalem to attract publicity for their plight. The army eventually backed down, and the planned march to Jerusalem was called off.

Relations began to improve steadily, beginning in 1990, when the government allowed community members to receive work permits.

According to Ben Ammi, the racially charged environment in America that the Black Hebrews left behind prevented them from having an uncomplicated relationship with the Israelis. We arrived here with a chip on our shoulder, he admitted. We weren't ready for any Europeans to tell us who we were.

The Black Hebrews strongly reject such labels as sect and cult, and insist that they are not a religious group of any kind, but rather a community of truth seekers who live according to God's laws, as recorded in the Torah. Their lifestyle incorporates Baptist worship practices and elements of traditional African culture. The government appears to ignore their practice of polygamy, which is illegal in Israel. They fast on the Sabbath and are strict vegans. They also manufacture kosher vegan foods at their Dimona factory.

Like Karaite Jews, the Black Hebrews observe biblically mandated holy days but not those instituted by rabbinical decree, such as Hanukkah and Purim. They also celebrate their own holidays, including an annual spring festival called New World Kingdom Passover. Members from all over the world converge on Dimona for this two-day commemoration of the anniversary of the 1967 exodus from America, which they call the Land of the Great Captivity.

This Hebrew community is perhaps best known outside Israel for the accomplishments of its performing artists including Eddie Butler, who represented Israel in the international singing competition Eurovision in 1999 and 2006 and for hosting such popular musicians as Stevie Wonder and Whitney Houston. With former husband Bobby Brown, Houston visited the Village of Peace in 2003.

Still, it is a visit by Louis Farrakhan in 1975 and his public embrace of Ben Ammi in 2000 that leave many Jews in Israel and America still suspicious of the community. Farrakhan, head of the black nationalist Nation of Islam, is widely regarded by Jews and many others as antisemitic, because of speeches in which he has condemned, disparaged and threatened Jews as a people.

During his address at the October 2000 Million Family March in Washington, Farrakhan invited Ben Ammi to the podium and embraced him rhetorically as his brother.

In a statement to the Forward, Ben Ammi described the relationship between the two groups as cordial.

Our contacts remain through the African-American social arena, where both communities are almost always represented, he explained. During those gatherings, the subject matter has to do with issues of concern for the African-American community at large. Beyond that, there is an understanding that we voice the positions of the State of Israel and the NOI (Nation of Islam) the positions of the Arab world.

Another source of concern has been the alleged association of the Black Hebrew community with the more radical and often brazenly racist and violent Hebrew Israelite camps in the United States, including the Nation of Yahweh. There is no evidence to suggest this is the case, and Ben Ammi has long denied any relationship with such groups.

Over time, Ben Ammi said, the community leadership has learned to tone down its own anti-white and anti-Zionist rhetoric and to preach a more inclusive message. The group still hews to a theology that asserts the status of African Americans as the authentic descendants of the original Israelites, who they argue were dark-skinned.

Once Reviled, Black Hebrews Now Fêted African-American Group in Dimona Faced Down IDF in '86, Now Celebrates First Member To Become Israeli Citizen letter from

But, Ben Ammi said, We've matured. The message has matured. And I feel that the people in the land, with the visit of President Peres, have matured also.

Their presence in Israel no longer contested, the Black Hebrews have established an urban kibbutz called Shomrey Ha'Shalom (Guardians of Peace) and secured a plot of land in the Mamshit area of Dimona for a new settlement that can better accommodate their rapidly growing community. A new gym will be built this year, next to their school, Beit Sefer Achvah (the Brotherhood School), with money from the national lottery.

Meir Cohen, mayor of Dimona, said that this group of people makes a valuable contribution to the cultural life of the city and country. Asked if he believed they were from the Tribe of Judah, he replied: There is no doubt that the descendants of the Tribe of Judah and the other tribes traveled all over the world. You just have to discover them, or they have to discover themselves.

Graphic

IMAGE

IMAGE: For the Land:Two scenes from the Dance for the Land celebration, held by the Black Hebrew community in Dimona, Israel.; andrew esensten

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No money? We can still save; DESALINATION

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

March 10, 2009 Tuesday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; Letters; Pg. 10

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Body

RE: "DESAL funds dry up" (The Age, 9/3). The State Government has been told time and time again that if you phase out the Latrobe Valley coal-fired power plants through a just transition for workers and convert our power generation to renewables, namely large solar thermal power farms with storage (as in Spain), wind power and save some money through targeted energy efficiency - we would save the equivalent water of a \$3 billion desalination plant (140 gigalitres), improve the health of the Latrobe Valley's community, where they have seven times the national cancer incidence, and free up about 25,000hectares of productive land for farming. We could do this while using 35,000hectares of drought-affected land near Mildura for our power system, running sheep between the mirrors.

Matthew Wright, Beyond Zero Emissions, Fitzroy

Take this chance to change

IT APPEARS that the economic crisis may actually be a blessing in disguise. With funding sources for the unnecessary desalination plant being questioned, the Victorian and Federal governments have been given a chance to reconsider its construction.

This is a prime opportunity for both governments to fund more economical and environmentally friendly infrastructure projects - including improving the transport systems, and developing an industry for manufacturing water tanks, renewable energy and other sustainable systems. The funding will also contribute to educating and training workers new to the industry, which will directly assist with the sudden downsizing and unemployment being experienced in other industries.

Governments should take advantage of the situation and move the funding towards a greener economy so they can be remembered as more than just the governments that implemented carbon trading or, even worse, created a desalination plant that will consume more fossil fuel energy and cause worse problems for the near future.

Gabriela Khoury, Glen Waverley

We're still in hot water

AFTER reading Peter Fisher's article on water and energy (Comment & Debate, 9/3), I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Laugh at the naive inadequacy of his proposed solutions or cry at the continuing, pathetically uninformed level of debate on water supply issues. Multiple-effect distillation has been around for more than a century and has

No money? We can still save DESALINATION

a power requirement well in excess of that for membrane desalination. All of the viable alternative solutions to Melbourne's water supply crisis will require more energy as simple, low energy solutions have already been tapped.

However, before we all slit our wrists over the impending doom of the planet, let's consider a simple fact highlighted in a recent CSIRO report largely ignored by the media. Even with the widespread adoption of seawater desalination, the total energy requirements for all urban water services, including waste-water treatment, will only amount to about 3per cent of total household energy consumption and about 20per cent of the energy we use to heat our domestic hot water. If you really want to save the planet, one small step would be to install a gas-boosted solar hot water system.

Tony Priestley, water quality expert, CSIRO, Fitzroy

Spinning us right round, like records

LABOR is a gyroscopic organisation - it is all about spinning. The millions spent telling us how important water is and the desalination plant are first. The problems with the rail system are second.

In the ultimate irony, public transport has become such a success that it is its own downfall. The system is running at 50per cent of capacity but it can't be at 100per cent because of the lack of action in the past 30 years.

New trains won't arrive for at least two more years. The system needs more trains, drivers, services and support from the managers. This is why it should be in government hands - so that public transport can be accountable.

The desalination plant has been forced down everyone's throats. Stuff the environmental cost and cheaper solutions. Now private operators look like they can't fund the Wonthaggi project and the largesse of federal Labor is evident for all to see.

We are looking down the barrel of never being able to run more trains and having no water, while the Government refuses to move to stage 4 restrictions.

Victoria is on a crowded train to a desert and we need action and solutions. We do not need spin or promises that are never delivered.

Douglas Potter, Surrey Hills

Looping the loop

THE City Loop fulfils its design to distribute rail passengers at city locations but to say it can handle double the capacity is not being realistic. For a start, the design of the loop is not how it was eventually built. Two lines that existed before its completion are no longer in service.

The original design also allowed just 20 seconds at the platform for passengers to alight and board when calculating capacity. It didn't forecast passenger loads of 200 million-plus a year, requiring trains to wait up to 90 seconds at platforms.

The doggedly held line that the system can magically double the number of services without major investment is evidence of one academic's anti-privatisation agenda and not a realistic assessment.

Mark Paterson, head of corporate affairs, Connex Melbourne

Adding it all up

THE equation: one (the City Loop can run twice as many trains as it currently does) plus two (the loop can't run any more trains because the overcrowding means the trains are at stations for too long) equals 22 (catch).

Does anyone else think there is a problem with this equation (called the Kosky paradigm)?

Geoff O'Brien, Eltham

Two parties, but only one cynicism

THE Liberals say that Kevin Rudd deliberately dropped the "s-bomb" to increase his appeal to workers. If this is true, then:

The Labor Party thinks that its "working families" consist of foul-mouthed people who don't understand politics and who will be swayed by a leader who relates to them by swearing, rather than by policies.

The Liberal Party thinks the same, as evidenced by how quickly it was able to point out the Prime Minister's apparent strategy.

I don't know whether to be offended or pleased that the two parties have adopted a bipartisan approach to typecasting voters.

Amanjit Gill, Endeavour Hills

Grounds for what?

THE hypocrisy of the previous government is astounding. Fancy the former immigration minister Amanda Vanstone claiming that an alleged Mafia crime figure was granted a visa on humanitarian grounds (The Age, 9/3) when that same government deported a heavily pregnant woman to China, despite pleas from her legal representatives that she would be (and later was) forced to abort her second child within weeks of full term. What happened to humanitarian grounds then?

Nothing short of a royal commission investigating the political dealings and integrity of the Liberal Party will suffice here.

Patrizia Bertozzi, West Preston

It's not the same

THERE are big differences between birth mothers and fathers, which I hope paid maternity leave would take into account. Irrespective of who cares for a child in its first few months of life, the birth mother places herself at a physical disadvantage or, in some cases, risk to have the child. After giving birth, she may need to rest and recuperate for at least six weeks.

We don't like to admit that pregnancy can be demanding, and not all <u>women</u> are in jobs where working up to the day of birth is appropriate. Breastfeeding or combined breast and bottle-feeding can be more difficult to establish than imagined.

Other cultures are much better than ours at respecting this: we seem to want to get back into our skinny jeans and pretend that we're the same as we were, as if to declare we haven't dropped the ball. So yes, David Barnes (Letters, 9/3), let's acknowledge at-home carers, but not at the expense of the <u>women</u> who become mothers.

Georgia Tucker, Williamstown

Even the smallest of mementoes is gone

THE Yarra Valley Shire knocked down my husband's parents' house last week, without proper warning. The house was destroyed by the Kinglake fires, both parents died there, and the further tragedy is that without so much as a chance to salvage anything out of a devastated family home, it was flattened.

Bricks piled into the rooms, completing the demolition of my husband's family memories. The council had issued a letter saying it would be done within 48 hours. We received the letter (redirected) last Thursday and we went up

No money? We can still save DESALINATION

yesterday. The house and all that could be salvaged, such as lockets and burnt stamp collections, were gone under a careless rubble. Disgusting, careless and completely without humanity.

Felicity Ahern, Seaford

We want life back

IT'S NOT only the Marysville people who want to go home (The Age, 7/3). We are from Kinglake West and in a similar situation. Our house is still standing. But we are not allowed to start with the clean-up or anything else. I have an 11-year-old daughter who is desperate to go home. Every night there are a lot of tears and we have to explain that we have to wait until they return the property to us. But this not knowing is difficult. Yes, to go back to a life and to no longer being a victim, that would be great.

Astrid Bathen, Kinglake West

Remember Boolarra

CHRISTINE Nixon has said that people in areas such as Flowerdale, which were ravaged by the horrendous fires on Black Saturday, are fearful of the end of the groundswell of public support for them. They fear going forward unsupported. They are right to feel this way.

The Delburn complex fires that went through Boolarra the week before February 7, in which 29 houses were destroyed, not to mention vehicles, sheds, fences and animals, is never mentioned in the media. One hopes that there is enough money in the fund donated by the people of Victoria for those silent sufferers.

Lyn Wilson, Glen Waverley

It should not be a difficult choice at all

SADLY one is no longer shocked by anti-Israel statements and actions or demands, such as that of Fay Waddington's for a campaign of boycotts and sanctions again Israel (Letters, 9/3). Anti-Zionism has become so widespread and politically correct and it is often so divorced from political and historic reality that one suspects that it masks even more dangerous and more ancient hatreds.

Israel is the only true democracy in the Middle East. If Waddington wishes to sheet home blame for the recent conflict in Gaza, she would be better to direct her ire towards <u>Hamas</u>, a violent terrorist organisation that has made no secret of its commitment to destroy Israel.

So we have to ask, should we boycott Israel, a legitimate democratic state, in favour of a Taliban-style terrorist organisation? One would hope that the answer is obvious.

Dr Bill Anderson, Surrey Hills

Save our bacon

CALLING for the extension of the first home buyers' grant, Mortgage and Finance Association of Australia chief executive Phil Naylor celebrates the grant's effect of persuading people to buy houses "who may otherwise have to delay their purchase while they continue to save". While I understand his concern for his industry in a falling market, there can't be many people who don't understand the link between subprime mortgages and the recession, not to mention the fact that requiring people to save before purchasing a house is not quite the horror Mr Naylor would have us believe.

Patrick O'Brien, South Yarra

Graphic

CARTOON BY TANDBERG

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A sick footnote in history; World Holocaust Day reminds us that the lessons of Auschwitz are grimly relevant today, writes Peter Bills

The Sunday Independent (South Africa)

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Body

As the light faded on an afternoon of brutal cold, snow flakes dropping from a sky of gunmetal grey, I stood upon a deserted railway line. Momentarily, it seemed as though a ghost from mankind's most vile pages of history had loomed into sight.

No trains come here now; none have done for six decades and more. Behind me, three lines snaking their way out into a clearing lay silent, covered in snow. And yet just 200m from where I stood, I saw what seemed to be a strong single light coming towards me. In 1943, that meant only one thing at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Another transport train was arriving ...

In the briefest of moments I imagined a giant steam train labouring towards the main gate of the world's most notorious concentration camp. It would have been just like this in mid-winter. The powerful engine would have hauled up to 15 or more cattle trucks filled with human beings - the already dead, the dying and the soon to be dead - right across Europe.

They came from Greece, a journey that sometimes took 17 days, for which they might have started with a few scraps of food and water to last just three. Others arrived from Norway, from Paris, Budapest, Amsterdam and Berlin.

As the giant wheels of the locomotive pulled them the last few yards under a brick arch, few could have comprehended that 75 percent of the arrivals would be dead within little more than an hour. Their fate lay in the hands of evil SS doctors who studied them as they clambered or fell out of the cattle trucks, gasping for air, pleading for food and water and filthy from the faeces and sickness of their compatriots on the nightmare journey.

The sick and the elderly, mothers and young children were waved to one side. The roads they walked down were known as the death roads. At the end of each one lay an underground gas chamber and a crematorium. By the end of the nightmare, around one-and-a-half million people had perished in this place.

This Tuesday, January 27, is World Holocaust Day. It was the day in 1945, too late, far, far too late, when the Red Army liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau. What they found and revealed to the dismaying world that day 64 years ago stained the hand of mankind forever.

No one can ever be quite the same after a visit to this place. The sheer scale of the killing grounds is breathtaking. By the time they had fled Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Nazis had dynamited the gas chambers and crematoria, plus

A sick footnote in history World Holocaust Day reminds us that the lessons of Auschwitz are grimly relevant today, writes Peter Bills

many of the individual huts where the prisoners who had been selected for forced labour had slept. Yet plenty survives to indict an entire nation.

Just a few days ago, the cold at Auschwitz assaulted not just your body but your mind. Survival became a struggle as fingers froze, even through gloves, and faces felt red raw in the bitter cold. Minus 10 degrees and thick snow was close to unbearable. Twenty-four hours earlier, it had been -15°C. Thick layers of clothing made little difference.

For the inmates, clad only in thin prison-issue trousers and top, on winter days in the early 1940s, it was prolonged torture, a living death.

At Auschwitz No 1 camp, some were selected to clean out ponds. It meant wading through icy water, waist deep, and staying in it sometimes for up to 11 hours. Those who didn't perish there and then often died that night in their unheated barracks.

The world well knows the facts and horrors of this place. What underpinned, indeed made possible everything that happened in this trembling, terrible place, was German efficiency, that nation's well-merited reputation for ruthless organisation and neatness. Everything was planned with a meticulous evil that touched a new low in mankind's inhumanity to man.

To walk into the very gas chamber and (reconstructed) crematorium in Auschwitz camp No 1 where 600 Russian prisoners of war and 250 of the sick from the camp hospital earned the terrible notoriety of being the first exterminated at the camp by Zyklon B gas and then incinerated, is to brush closer than you would ever wish to man's most bestial behaviour.

Nothing, no one can prepare you for Auschwitz. To go in mid-winter, when the snow lies heavy upon the Polish landscape, was deliberate. We cannot know, still less understand the suffering, the torment, brutality or hatred that poured out here, like pus from a sore. But at least the brutal cold is something we can share with those who perished, many worked to the bone, starved and beaten, before they succumbed.

Yet, even in summer, the torment endured. Summers in Oswiecim, a 75-minute drive from the old Polish medieval city of Krakow, were hot, stifling. At Birkenau, a plague of rats, lured by the filth of atrocious sanitary conditions, the smell, the weak and the dying descended upon this place to create a vision of hell on Earth. They found rich pickings among the living and the dying.

To arrive at Auschwitz was to abandon your identity. Prisoners were known no longer by names but by numbers. It was the only camp where prisoners had tattoos with numbers burned on their bodies, usually their arms. For those chosen to work, usually political prisoners or common criminals, their heads were shaved. So similar an appearance among the inmates meant that children lost fathers; brothers could not recognise their own brothers.

Within a year or so, on average 12 to 15 months in the case of men, around six months or often much less in the case of the *female* prisoners, they had died at the hands of their captors, destroyed by the labour, deprivations and illness.

The first transport arrived at Auschwitz 1 on June 14 1940. It contained 728 people and contained many Polish soldiers, a remarkable number of whom were to survive. Young and strong, they were used to a tough military life and somehow endured the torment.

But images, not words, best define the horrors of this place. A surprising amount, especially in Auschwitz KL1, remains intact. What you see is what existed, how it was. The terrible runs of electrified barbed wire seal terror into the visitor's mind, just as they would have the prisoner's.

The two tons of human hair, shaven from the bodies of as many as 40 000 people before they were thrown into the crematoria, leave you silent. The rusting, empty cans of Zyklon B gas leave you fearful. The piles of suitcases, most with the names and ages of the Jewish children whose belongings they held, leave you heartbroken.

A sick footnote in history World Holocaust Day reminds us that the lessons of Auschwitz are grimly relevant today, writes Peter Bills

The shaving brushes, hairbrushes and tooth brushes brought to this place by people believing they were merely going to be "resettled" leave you with a feeling of sickness in your soul. The discarded footwear, from elegant Hungarian folk shoes to simple workers' shoes and even clogs from the Dutch victims, leave you silent. But perhaps the sickest exhibits here are the one-way railway tickets, which the Germans forced their victims to buy so as to perpetrate the lie.

The facts assail your senses like a series of painful, heavy blows to the stomach.

Human ashes, piled up in such quantities by the roaring furnaces of the crematoria, which worked day and night, were hurled into the nearby rivers Sola and Vistula.

The Germans destroyed 90 percent of the documents that detailed their crimes at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Ninety percent of those responsible escaped punishment after the war, although Rudolf Höss, the first commandant, was taken back to the camp in 1947 and hanged there. But sadistic SS doctors like Josef Mengele who conducted often agonising experiments on prisoners fled to South America and were never apprehended.

Many Polish priests and farmers were killed at Auschwitz 1. One priest, upon hearing the pleas of a fellow Pole not to be shot because he had a young family (ultimately, he survived the war), offered to take his place. The Germans accepted and the cell where he spent his last night before being stripped (like all condemned prisoners, in a final humiliation) and lined up against the death wall to be shot, is now a shrine. It was visited by the late Polish Pope John Paul II.

Of an estimated 15 000 Soviet prisoners of war sent to Auschwitz, 90 survived. Twenty-three thousand European gypsies were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Twenty-one thousand were killed, half of them children.

In the four gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau, up to 5 000 people could be killed and then burned in a single day. Up to 2 000 people could be crammed into a gas chamber, the Zyklon-B crystals then dropped through vents in the roof. The victims suffered an agonising death from suffocation.

Photographic images of what happened hang from the walls of the Auschwitz 1 camp. They were taken by SS guards and the story of their survival is incredible.

A young Jewish girl, spared the gas chamber and forced to work, was one of the 60 000 marched west to Germany by their guards as the Red Army approached Oswiecim in late 1944. The girl, Lili Jacob, survived the remainder of the war in a German camp.

One day soon after it was liberated, she opened the door of a warehouse in the camp and discovered a huge pile of leftover belongings. There she stumbled upon some pictures. They were the ones taken by the SS men at Auschwitz. One she came across contained images of her mother, father, brother and sister. She saw her own face in the picture. She was the only family member to survive.

Sadness and sorrow hang like a heavy curtain above Auschwitz-Birkenau. Yet something else was also lost here, which would cause incalculable tragedy for future generations.

In Gaza over recent weeks, the corpses of little children have been laid out beside the shattered homes of Palestinian families. Provoked by <u>Hamas</u> terrorists, the Israelis launched a terrible vengeance on innocent Palestinians. Estimates put the deaths at more than 1 300, compared to 13 Israelis killed during the aerial assault and occupation of the Gaza strip.

Try telling any parent that the killing of innocent children is ever justified. It was never justified in the dark years of the 1940s in this terrible place and it cannot be justified to sane-minded people, 64 years later, in the wrecked communities of Gaza, far away from here in the Middle East.

A sick footnote in history World Holocaust Day reminds us that the lessons of Auschwitz are grimly relevant today, writes Peter Bills

No matter what the dogma born of the ravings of a man's sick mind in Germany, no matter the hatred, innocent Jews never deserved the cruel fate handed them by the Nazis. But equally, no provocation can justify the pitiless slaughter of innocent children and adults the world has just witnessed in Gaza.

A dead child is a dead child. The image of a parent, tears washing down his or her face as they cradle the corpse of their young offspring who has been slain by aggressors, should be repugnant to all human beings.

Here, in Poland, the Jews of today rightly ensure the world never forgets the slaughter suffered by their people. Indeed, all people from all countries should come to this shocking place. Auschwitz-Birkenau is a sick footnote in history, which the world must never forget.

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 16

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Body

Wong's push for renewables now seen as empty words

MOST TALKED ABOUT

CLIMATE AND THE ETS

I FIND it hard to believe how petty Penny Wong has been over the renewable energy target legislation, which the Coalition was happy to support (``Climate delay to cost jobs'', 19/6). Attempting to link this with the legislation for the emissions trading scheme was bound to fail and has undermined her own principles.

Now her stated aim of having solar panels on all houses is shown to be empty words. Large numbers of people wanting them, and others wanting to make and supply them, are understandably furious.

The facts are (a) we want renewable energy but (b) there are significant doubts about the ETS. She should hurry up and find a reason for introducing the RET legislation. Doing it on the last day of the current parliamentary session should enable her to avoid questions about why she changed her mind to do the right thing.

Geoff Dunsford

Lindfield, NSW

IT'S disappointing to see the political games that are being played out in Canberra around the renewable energy legislation.

The Rudd government's attempt to wedge the Opposition by linking the renewable energy target to the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme has meant that Australians will have to wait even longer for the wave of investment that will result from giving renewable energy innovators and investors the certainty they need. The government could have had strong Senate support for the renewable energy legislation if it had not linked these two bills.

There are enormous job opportunities in renewable energy for Australia just waiting for the right legislative support. There is no reason to continue to build coal-fired power stations when we have technologies such as wave energy, as well as baseload solar, thermal, wind and geothermal energy alternatives. We just need the political will at both federal and state government levels.

Dawn Jecks

Safety Bay, WA

SIR Ernest John Pickstone Benn, an uncle of the British Labour politician Tony Benn, stated that ``Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy." And so it is with Malcolm Turnbull and his stance on emissions trading. The Coalition is allegedly in opposition. Thus, it should vigorously oppose all facets of an emissions trading scheme until there is clear and irrefutable evidence that man-made carbon dioxide emissions are directly responsible for affecting climate.

J.Keith Mercer

Orchards, Vic

BOB Carter, David Evans, Stewart Franks and Bill Kininmonth (``Wong's silent treatment clouds emissions credibility", Opinion, 19/6) list three questions posed to Climate Change Minister Penny Wong by Senator Steve Fielding regarding global warming.

The questions (edited for brevity), and their answers, are:

- 1. Has the world cooled since 1998, despite a five per cent increase in atmospheric CO2 concentrations? No, it has not cooled. The global surface temperature has increased about one-tenth of a degree over the decade since 1998 (1999-2008). The warming over land areas has been even stronger.
- 2. Is the late 20th century warming unusual and, if not, then why is the current warming a problem? There have been warmer periods in the past. About 125,000 years ago, for example, temperatures were several degrees higher than today, comparable to the warming projected for the end of this century. Sea levels then were about 5m higher than today. A sea level rise of this magnitude could be a problem.
- 3. Did all computer models project a ``steady" increase in temperature for the period 1990 to 2008?

No computer model predicted a steady increase in temperature over this period, because models include processes that can cause cooling in short periods, as happens in the real world. But most models predicted warming over the 1990-2008 period because of increased concentrations of CO2. The world warmed about three-tenths of a degree over this period, an amount similar to that predicted by the computer models.

Professor Neville Nicholls

School of Geography and Environmental

Science, Monash University

Clayton, Vic

THE Australian is to be commended for publishing the article by Carter et al, as is Senator Steve Fielding for bringing to public attention three of the many flaws in the speculative anthropogenic global warming model. As a geologist, I'm dismayed at the lack of scientific rigour demonstrated by the proponents of this speculation and by the damage that ultimately will be done to science when the public realises the fraud that has been perpetrated.

Dan Wood

Pullenvale, Qld

COULD someone in the Labor Party please explain why they expect every Australian family to pay \$4000 per year, plus inflation, for a carbon dioxide tax of \$30 a tonne to potentially limit a temperature increase of one-tenthousandth of a degree by 2100? This when they cannot even give Senator Fielding a coherent response to three simple questions on the issue?

James Hein

Hackney, SA

Children and weighty issues of government don't mix

GREENS party members often display a lack of common sense and their latest stunt -- young children in the Senate chamber -- is yet another example (``Outcry as senator's daughter, 2, ejected", 19/6).

The Australian parliament sits at the pinnacle of power and decision-making in this country. It's fundamental to the good order and running of our parliament that the representatives we send there are always giving their undivided attention to the important matters under consideration.

Having a young child at one's elbow when grappling with the weighty issues of state, is no more appropriate than it would be were the mother a surgeon, air traffic controller, bus driver, company director or school teacher.

There are suitable alternatives for the children of mothers who serve as parliamentarians. They would do well to pursue those alternatives rather than feign moral indignation and self-righteousness. Their stunt, and its associated attempt to bully fellow MPs into submission, should be rejected.

Rob Davies

Point Lonsdale, Vic

WE should consider the subconscious effect that early exposure to a parliamentary atmosphere may have on a child of tender years. Slander, lying, prevarication, vilification, smears and scandals are hardly a desirable grounding for an impressionable mind, although they may be thought appropriate qualities should one eventually stand for parliament!

Gerry Cohen

Carine, WA

IF this was not a stunt, then it was the act of a very silly, immature woman. Being a senator is her ``job", it's what she is paid for. How many working <u>women</u> or men are able to take their children into the workplace with them? There is no reason why Senator Hanson-Young should be an exception. Next, parliament will be teeming with teenagers! Oh, have I hit the nail on the head?

Maureen Jefferies

Tandur, Qld

WHAT on earth does Senate President John Hogg have against children? If Senator Hanson-Young's daughter had been crying or disruptive, it might have been inappropriate for her to be there, but in the circumstances it just seems to have been a case of bullying tactics. If parliament can tolerate the bad behaviour, raised voices and trading of insults that is regularly seen, I'm sure it could tolerate the presence of a two-year-old girl for a few minutes.

Donella Peters

Aldgate, SA

PARLIAMENT is not a depository for unwanted children; one hopes it's the place where serious debate and decisions are formulated. If Senator Hanson-Young cannot find somebody to look after her child, she should stay at home and do what mothers do -- look after it herself.

David Edwards

Wangi Wangi, NSW

Breaking down the doors

DURING a recent visit to my country of birth, Scotland, I attended a 50-year school reunion. A tour of the school revealed a gym and swimming pool which had not changed in that 50 years and classrooms that were essentially the same.

At the same time I was reliably informed that parents were breaking down the doors to get their sons and daughters enrolled despite the fact that other schools in the area commanded better physical resources. There was a simple explanation. The school's academic record was one of the best in the country as a result of an outstanding group

of teachers. This is surely a clear lesson for us here in Australia at the present time when money is apparently being thrown at bricks and mortar rather than ensuring that the teachers are the best in the world in terms of academic standards and that the student-teacher ratio is of an ideal order.

Bill Roy

York, WA

RECENT articles in The Australian have referred to school principals complaining about wasted resources and duplication under the federal government's Building the Education Revolution stimulus package.

I'm the chairperson of the parents' association of a small public primary school in Burnie, Tasmania. We are happy; our school is to receive a new multi-purpose room and some redevelopment of our administration area. It will be enormously valuable for our students and our community going into the future. Like other schools, we had to apply for our grant. If some principals believe their projects are a waste of money, why did they put their hands up in the first place?

Mark Briggs

Burnie, Tas

Iran's power struggle

THE amazing protests we are witnessing now on the streets of Tehran are the outpouring of real anger and frustration, especially by educated urbanised youth, after 30 years of theocratic repression. They also represent an internal power struggle among the ruling clerics that may eventually weaken the tight grip of the Islamist regime.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's main opponent, Mir Hossein Mousavi, is certainly more of a reformist on some local and <u>women's</u> is issues, but as one of only four candidates selected from thousands by the regime, he is unlikely to be a real moderate in foreign policy. Furthermore, he was one of the instigators of the early work on Iran's nuclear weapons program, which is by far the most pressing issue that the West should be focusing on in the Middle East today.

The current turmoil questions the wisdom of President Obama's conciliatory approach to the hard-line Iranian regime and also his attempts to artificially link rapprochement with Iran to progress on the Israel-Palestine conflict. In fact, there seems to be little sympathy for the Palestinians on the streets of Tehran, and the reported attacks on protesters by imported <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah thugs have caused additional anger.

Mary Werther

Camberwell, Vic

Unmeritorious litigation

YOUR article (``Changes to court rules risks flood of litigation", 19/6) omits important information and is wrong on a key point.

The article fails to mention that, win, lose or draw, litigation by businesses is already subsidised by the great Australian taxpayer. Legal expenses for companies are tax deductible, regardless of their merits. The ongoing Gunns litigation against various members of the public is being partly funded by those same members of the public. No similar deduction is available to private citizens or community groups, no matter how strong their claims are.

Moreover, it's simply wrong to say that UK law will not provide costs protection to a litigant if they have a private interest in the outcome of the litigation. Several recent cases have demonstrated this (for example,

R (Compton)v Wiltshire PCT in 2008).

There is no evidence that the availability of public interest costs orders will lead to an increase in unmeritorious litigation. The spectre of floods of litigation is raised every time it is proposed to make it easier for ordinary people to have access to justice. And every time it fails to materialise.

Rupert Watters

Lawyer, Environment Defenders Office

(Victoria) Ltd, Melbourne, Vic

FIRST BYTE

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Wouldn't it be easier just to convene parliament in the creche?

John Francis

Lauderdale, Tas

If being asked to remove her child from the Senate chamber is the most humiliating experience Greens senator Sarah Hanson-Young has had, what is she doing in politics? What next, children in the law courts?

Steve McKenna

Lutwyche, Qld

Ah, Queensland justice: bellicose and befuddled one day, perverse and perfidious the next (``Taser victim died from heart attack", 19/6).

Bob Curren

Kensington Park, SA

Dear leader Kevin said, ``I'll end the blame game between the commonwealth and the states." He did but now, at every opportunity, he blames the Opposition. The states, which have responsibility for many of the ills in health and education, get showered with largesse.

Graham Blackman

Banyo, Qld

Parents serving vegetables to their children (Letters, 19/6) might like to familiarise themselves with the promise that ``whoever eats the most vegies gets the most dessert".

Chris Boaden

Concord, NSW

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Body

International

IN JAPAN, AN ADMINISTRATION,

And Its Party's Uncertain Future

Recent blows against the administration of Taro Aso, Japan's very unpopular prime minister, have raised questions about its longevity. The prime minister's Liberal Democratic Party, which has held sway in Japan for over half a century, is a larger question. Analysts say a defeat for the party in coming elections could mean its end. Page A6

NO, NO, NOT CRICKET!

Britain has been under siege; its banks shudder under a weight of debt; its largest stores are closing; and unemployment is skyrocketing. To add to these indignities, an inquiry has begun into the financial empire of R. Allen Stanford -- an American who thrust himself into a powerful role in the world of cricket -- an inquiry that could sully the hallowed sport. Page A8

AQUITTAL IN RUSSIAN MURDER TRIAL

A Moscow jury acquitted three men who were accused of murdering a prominent investigative journalist, Anna Politkovskaya, above. The outcome was frustrating for those seeking justice for the murder. Human rights advocates expressed pessimism, saying the verdict sends a permissive message to political killers. Page A6

U.S. OFFICIALS VISIT GAZA

Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts and two other Congressional Democrats made the first visit to Gaza by American legislators since 2000 to assess the destruction for themselves, Mr. Kerry said. He added that this visit does not reflect a change in the United States policy on *Hamas*. Page A13

IN CANADA, WALKING A FINE LINE

President Obama treaded lightly on his first foreign trip, to Canada, working hard to ensure that there were no ruffled feathers over issues like trade policy, climate change and the war in Afghanistan. At the same time, Mr. Obama got to enjoy his celebrity status. His popularity there is such that he even drew volunteers across the border during his campaign. Page A10

TRIAL STARTS FOR IRAQI JOURNALIST

An Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at former President George W. Bush had his first appearance in court, where he is charged with assaulting a foreign leader. He entered to cheers and applause, which a judge quickly quelled, and after an hour, the court was adjourned until March 12. Page A12

IRAN UNDERSTATES URANIUM LEVELS

Atomic inspectors have found that Iran understated by a third exactly how much uranium it had enriched, United Nations officials said. Page A12

national

SNAIL-PACED PLANS

For High-Speed Rail

Despite Japan's having introduced the first bullet trains more than 40 years ago, the United States still lacks true high-speed rail. And although an \$8 billion investment for high-speed rail, added at the last minute to the stimulus package, may seem like a way to get back on track, transportation experts say that amount is not enough for a single bullet train. PAGE A14

TRACKING STIMULUS MONEY CLOSELY

For the \$787 billion stimulus plan signed this week by President Obama, the stakes -- financially and politically -- are huge. So it's no surprise that the first disbursement would be the \$350 million to government auditors, investigators and lawyers who will try to track all the taxpayer money being spent on economic recovery. PAGE A18

EMBRACING PARTS OF STIMULUS BILL

Republican lawmakers nearly unanimously resisted supporting the president's stimulus package, but a handful of Republican members of the House and Senate have found some provisions to cheer. PAGE A18

SEEKING GERONIMO'S SKULL

The descendants of Geronimo have sued Skull and Bones, a secret society at Yale University with strong ties to the Bush family, charging that its members robbed the Apache warrior's grave in 1918 and have kept his skull in a glass case ever since. PAGE A14

CONDUCT OF TEXAS JUDGE EXAMINED

The Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct has started proceedings against the presiding judge of the state's highest criminal court because two years ago she closed her office promptly at 5 p.m. when she knew a death row inmate was about to file an appeal. PAGE A14

Boy Pleads Guilty to Killing Father A16

NONPROFITS GO BANKRUPT, TOO

Charities rarely go bankrupt. Traditionally, insolvent organizations have simply closed their doors and filed a plan of dissolution with the charity regulator in their state. But in the last six months, nonprofit groups have filed to reorganize or liquidate themselves under the bankruptcy code. PAGE A17

obituaries

PEER M. PORTNER, 69

His revealing studies of the heart's function led to development of the Novacor pump, an electrical device used to let seriously ill patients survive long enough for a heart transplant. PAGE A22

New York

PATERSON WEIGHS THE POSSIBILITY

Of Rehiring Former Top Aide

Gov. David A. Paterson has been privately sounding out the possibility of bringing back Charles J. O'Byrne, his former chief adviser, who resigned amid a messy tax scandal, according to two Democrats familiar with the discussions. Page A23

A HIP HOP LEGACY, PLUS BURGERS

At Hollis Famous Burgers in Queens, the burgers are a buck and include a free pass to the Hollis Hip Hop Museum. It's a small place over all, but Hollis is New York's Nashville, the owner says. Hollis has given rise to some of hip-hop's greatest including Ja Rule, LL Cool J, Irv Gotti and DMC, above, of the group Run-DMC. Page A23

Business

NEW JUSTICE DEPT. DEMANDS

For UBS in Tax Evasion Case

The Justice Department is pressuring UBS for the names of 52,000 Americans as part of criminal claims against the Swiss banking giant. Prosecutors said in court papers that UBS used secret offshore accounts to help American clients evade taxes. Page B1

High & Low Finance

The Best of a Bad Situation

If the world economy was graded on a curve, Floyd Norris writes, the United States would look fine against the current backdrop. Unfortunately, the whole world is suffering and it isn't enough to be the one suffering least. Page B1

THE TEXAS ROOTS OF AN EMPIRE

The multibillion-dollar financial empire of Robert Allen Stanford has deep, decades-long roots in the small town of Mexia. Regulators this week accused him this week of running an \$8 billion fraud. The inquiry has uncovered a complicated series of twists and turns in his business, and the town has been left reeling in the fallout. Page B1

Breakingviews.com

Survival and Comeback Stories

At a glance, an alliance between Sprint and Palm looks like the two kids who get picked last for basketball teams, but it seems to be working. Yahoo has scored a win with its increased search market, which should give Microsoft and Google cause for some backward glances. Page B2

SPRINT REPORTS CUSTOMER LOSS

Sprint Nextel reported losing 1.3 million subscribers in its fourth quarter after a dismal year in 2008. Sprint is the third-largest cellphone provider in the country, and with this loss falls even further behind AT&T and Verizon, both of whom managed to add customers during the last year. Page B2

Sports

JAPANESE BASEBALL'S RISING STAR

Poised to Garner More Accolades

Yu Darvish is already a celebrated talent in Japanese baseball, and his hard work in practice garners considerable attention. There have even been frequent comparisons between him and Daisuke Matsuzaka, and talks of his readiness to stand alongside the star in a formidable starting rotation for Japan at the approaching World Baseball Classic on March 5. Page B11

Armstrong Is Part of the Pack B11

WOODS TO RETURN IN MATCH-PLAY

It was the declaration heard around the golf world. "I'm now ready to play again," Tiger Woods wrote on his Web site while announcing his much-anticipated return to competitive golf next week at the World Golf Championships, a match-play event in Tucson. Woods has been sidelined since June 16 after he underwent surgery to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee. Page B14

Escapes

ENJOYING THE HAMPTONS

Before the Crowds Descend

Unless you rented or owned in the Hamptons or knew somebody who did, your options for lodging there were limited, shabby and uncomfortable. And, you paid dearly for the privilege. But those options are improving as establishments complete renovations, and if you get in before the high season this summer there are deals to be had. Page D1

American Journeys

History, Skis and New Hampshire

Bretton Woods in the White Mountains of New Hampshire was the stage for the creation of a path to economic stability after World War II. But it is a top skiing destination, John Motyka writes, and a beautiful resort. Page D1

OPPORTUNITY AMID THE MISERY

As the housing market continues to stagger through another tough year, some people shopping for second homes are finding bargains in all those hundreds of thousands of foreclosures in the Sun Belt. Page D1

Ski Report

Country Club Perks on an Incline

The popularity of private ski clubs has been rising. A membership fee and annual dues provide access to perks like spas, ski valets and a gathering place to share interests in an environment of exclusivity. Page D2

Wide Open in the Sierras' Shadow D3

Weekend

Television Review

Sex and Four Fashionable **Women**, But No Obsession With Heels

"Mistresses," a new series on BBC America, is escapist realism for <u>women</u>, a well-made soap opera, elevated less by ingenious plot lines than by talented actors and narrative sophistication, Alessandra Stanley writes. PAGE C1

Film Review

Boys Take Up Pompoms to Woo

"Fired Up!" is kind of dumb, but also kind of smart-about-being-dumb comedy, Manohla Dargis writes. It centers on two football players, friends and hormone-fueled teenagers, who join a cheerleading camp to be surrounded by **women**. PAGE C13

Theater Reviews

Male Friendship. That's It.

A musical now at the Booth Theater seems perfect for these financially lean times. "The Story of My Life" is short, has only two characters and uses an almost naked set; no need to waste cash on lavish sceneries and bloated casts. The portrait of a friendship stars Will Chase and Malcolm Gets. But the creators of this production forgot several vital elements that make a successful musical, Ben Brantley writes. PAGE C1

BLOOD, GUTS AND O'NEILL

The New Group revival of Eugene O'Neill's "Mourning Becomes Electra" at the Acorn Theater "feels underrehearsed and understaged," Charles Isherwood writes. PAGE C2

In 1913 With the Joffrey Ballet C3

Film

A Grab Bag of Cinematic Goodies

One of the main virtues of Film Comment Selects, an annual series presented by the Film Society of Lincoln Center, is its ability to rescue a potentially interesting film that has succumbed to the fickle distribution system and vanished into the ether. PAGE C6

Lorin Maazel's Philharmonic C11

Arts Review

Finding Rewards at the Art Show

Courtesy of the Art Dealers Association of America, this year's Art Show has, as usual, just 70 participants. And if raced through, the whole production may seem a bit lackluster. But at slower speeds, the fair offers more than enough rewards, Roberta Smith writes. PAGE C23

Why University Museums Matter C23

Books of The Times

'The Fat Man and Infinity'

A collection of the short, impressionistic newspaper columns of the Portuguese novelist Antonio Lobo Antunes is reviewed by Dwight Garner. PAGE C28

Editorial

SALVAGING AFGHANISTAN

The situation in Afghanistan is coming apart quickly. In coming weeks, President Obama will have to grapple with a series of very difficult questions, starting with how he will define success. Page A22

TWO EARLY TESTS ON GUNS

The Obama administration has chosen to defend a bad rule rushed through during President George W. Bush's final days in office that would allow concealed, loaded firearms in national parks and wildlife refuges. The question is whether this reflects a broader weakening of President Obama's stated commitment to sensible gun control policies. Page A22

104 WILL GET YOU \$300 MILLION

A lobbying powerhouse recently raided by federal agents has hurriedly gone out of business, but not before leaving a detailed blueprint of how the political money churn works in Congress. Page A22

Op-ed

PAUL KRUGMAN

The Obama administration's policy initiatives will help the economy in this difficult period -- especially if the administration bites the bullet and takes over weak banks. But still one wonders: Who'll stop the pain? Page A23

DAVID BROOKS

Government isn't fundamentally in the Last Judgment business, making sure everybody serves penance for their sins. In times like these, government is fundamentally in the business of stabilizing the economic system as a whole. Page A23

NO LUNCH LEFT BEHIND

High-fat, overprocessed foods are the hallmark of the national school lunch program. In an Op-Ed article, the chef Alice Waters and Katrina Heron, of the Chez Panisse Foundation, present a plan for bringing farm-fresh foods to school cafeterias across the country. Page A23

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Body

International

CAREFUL SUPPORT FROM 15,000 FEET

For Troops in Afghanistan

Navy aircraft carriers have returned to the waters of the Arabian Sea, launching combat planes to provide support for ground troops in Afghanistan. Harried and spread thin, American and British troops have come to rely on airstrikes when overwhelmed. But the strikes have led to soaring civilian casualties, forcing greater care and restraint on the part of the military in how they are used, if at all. Page A6

A BITTER END TO A PARTNERSHIP

A five-year partnership between Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp. and Ssangyong Motor of South Korea has dissolved, with mutual anger and accusations of exploitation, betrayal and prejudice. Page A6

CLINTON APPOINTS ADVISOR

Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton appointed Dennis Ross, a Middle East negotiator under Republican and Democratic administrations as her special advisor for the Gulf and Southwest Asia. Page A7

A U.S. PLAN TO GET AID TO GAZANS

The Obama administration intends to funnel \$900 million in aid to help rebuild Gaza after an Israeli military campaign last month. To ensure the aid gets to Gazans directly, and not <u>Hamas</u>, it will be passed through non governmental organizations. Page A7

F.B.I. SAYS MILITANT IS FROM U.S.

One of several suicide bombers involved in an attack in Somalia last October had apparently been recruited while in the United States, according to the director of the F.B.I. Page A8

STEROID IN PIG PARTS IS BLAMED

A banned steroid is blamed for making 70 people sick in China. They had taken ill after eating pig organs containing the chemical, according to state media. The lapse was the latest contributing to shaken faith in China's ability to regulate food safety. Page A8

A HELPING HAND FOR DUBAI

Dubai's stock market rallied after the United Arab Emirates announced a bond purchase of \$10 billion to help support its neighbor. The bond was part of \$20 million in long-term bonds offered by the Dubai government to rescue its staggering economy. Page A10

Vladikavkaz Journal

Stitches Over Old Wounds in Russia

Vladikavkaz, Russia's southernmost city, has been touched deeply by violence. But people who pay attention only to the bombings, violence and extremism nearby the city may overlook a gem. As 30 seamstresses prepare the costumes for the premier of yet another opera in St. Petersburg, another legacy is in progress. Page A11

National

OFFICIALS SAY MEXICAN VIOLENCE

Is Creeping Into Arizona

State and federal officials expressed worries that the bloody drug war among cartels in Mexico and their push to expand operations in the United States has led to a wave of kidnappings, shootings and home invasions in Arizona. PAGE A12

GINSBURG BACK ON THE BENCH

Three weeks after undergoing surgery for pancreatic cancer, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was back on the Supreme Court bench, posing crisp and vigorous questions in the two arguments heard by the court. PAGE A12

SHOPPING BAG FEES ARE TOUGH SELL

Seattle was the first city in the country to impose a surcharge on paper and plastic shopping bags, in an attempt to persuade shoppers to use reusable bags. Other cities are mulling similar measures, but worry about the political consequences of doing so in the current economic climate. PAGE A12

DETROIT EXPECTS LOW VOTER TURNOUT

The scandal that led to the resignation of Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick of Detroit last year has so disillusioned voters that officials predict that only 10 percent to 15 percent will turn out for Tuesday's primary. The vote may be the first in a series, with 15 candidates seeking to become Mr. Kilpatrick's first elected successor. PAGE A13

OBAMA CALLS FOR BELT-TIGHTENING

President Obama used a "fiscal responsibility summit" to promise to do his part to move the nation's balance sheet back into balance. But when he unveils his first budget on Thursday, Mr. Obama will have to begin showing how he plans to do that, and where he is willing to make painful cuts or raise new revenues. PAGE A14

THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM?

After his two previous picks to head the Commerce Department withdrew after being nominated, President Obama has settled on former Gov. Gary Locke of Washington as his latest choice to fill the post, a White House official said. PAGE A15

Obituaries

CHRISTOPHER NOLAN, 43

The Irish writer, mute and quadriplegic since birth, produced a well-regarded volume of verse and short stories at 15 and a prize-winning autobiography, "Under the Eye of the Clock." PAGE A18

New York

M.T.A.'S FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Grows Even Gloomier

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority's budget deficit could balloon to \$650 million this year, according to a new estimate. The agency is already proposing fare increases and service cuts, but if things become significantly worse, it could be forced to take even more drastic measures. PAGE A19

JUDGES FACE REMOVAL FROM BENCH

Joseph S. Alessandro and Francis M. Alessandro, two brothers who are judges in New York State, face removal from the bench after a state commission accused them of filing financial statements and loan applications that intentionally concealed a \$250,000 debt they owed to a former campaign worker. PAGE A23

Business

SELL-OFF ON WALL STREET

Sends Markets to 12-Year Low

Last week was a brutal one for the stock markets, and this one began no differently. After a brief rise in early trading, a broad sell-off by worried investors sent Wall Street staggering in the last hour of trading, and the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index closed at its lowest level since April 1997. Page B1

NEWS CORP'S NO. 2 TO LEAVE

Peter F. Chernin, the longtime president and No. 2 at News Corporation behind Rupert Murdoch, will leave the company after failing to get a new contract. His exit hints at instability in the media giant's executive ranks at time when Wall Street has become frustrated with Mr. Murdoch's devotion to newspapers. PAGE B1

NEW AND SORT OF IMPROVED

Amazon rolled out the latest version of its e-book reader, the Kindle, with lots of fanfare. But David Pogue writes that for all of the hullabaloo, the upgrades are fairly minor. PAGE B1

UNIVERSITY SHEDS CLOTHING CONTRACT

The University of Michigan became the 12th university to terminate its apparel licensing agreement with the Russell Corporation in response to Russell's decision to close a unionized factory in Honduras. PAGE B3

Business on the Web

E.U. Plans Tariffs on U.S. Biodiesel

The European Union is preparing to impose tariffs on biodiesel exported from the United States in an effort to prevent American producers from putting European producers of biodiesel out of business.

nytimes.com/business

Arts

A REMORSELESS PROTAGONIST

In a Novel Stuffed With Horrors

French critics lavished praise on Jonathan Littell's "The Kindly Ones," a violent, sexually graphic novel about an unrepentant Nazi. Michiko Kakutani's take on the book's new English translation is decidedly less flattering, calling the plaudits "not only an example of the occasional perversity of French taste, but also a measure of how drastically literary attitudes toward the Holocaust have changed in the last few decades." PAGE C1

An Exhibition on Nazi Propaganda C1SPITBALLING THE COMPETITION

In their bids for the eyeballs of younger television viewers, Nickelodeon and the Disney Channel have needled each other by copying ideas, poaching fledgling stars, and luring the other's executives away. PAGE C1

TACKLING THE BARD, ARTFULLY

Charles Isherwood writes that the production of Othello being performed at the Duke on 42nd Street will almost certainly be the most well-acted and artful take on Shakespeare's work this theater season. PAGE C1

SHOWING WHAT THEY'VE GOT

In "Love/Stories (or but You Will Get Used to It)," a collection of five short plays by Itamar Moses at the Flea Theater, five unsung actors make the most of a rare chance to tackle meaty parts. A review by Neil Genzlinger. PAGE C7

INDIANS EMBRACE 'SLUMDOG' OSCARS

The eight Academy Awards that "Slumdog Millionaire" were embraced as victories for India, dominating the country's news coverage and seized the Oscar showing as a sign of its arrival on the world stage. Page C5

Sports

IN MIDDLE AGE,

A Career Again in Ascent

Matt Carpenter, a titan in the world of high-altitude running, was seen as a champion in decline after several disappointing finishes. Now 44, Carpenter has regained his record-setting form. Last year, he won six long-distance races, setting two course records. PAGE B10

NOSEDIVING RANGERS FIRE COACH

A day after the Rangers lost to the lowly Toronto Maple Leafs, the team fired Coach Tom Renney. John Tortorella, a former Rangers assistant and the fiery former Tampa Bay coach who won a Stanley Cup in 2004, will take over the reins. PAGE B10

Colts to Release Harrison B14

WOODS FAN CHANNELS HIS IDOL

At 19, Rory McIlroy is the youngest man to crack the world's top-20 rankings. He is an avid Tiger Woods fan, and hopes to follow in his footsteps to greatness. But one close Woods friend said that McIlroy is further along than Woods was at the same age. PAGE B10

CARBS, WATER, BIGGER WALLET,

If the year's other road races are any indication, the field for the New York City Marathon is likely to be larger this year. But it won't be the only increase: With the economic outlook uncertain, the organization that directs the race has raised its entry fees. PAGE B11

SCIENCE

COLLEGES MORE THAN READY

To Spend Stimulus Funds

From proposed animal research laboratories to empty floors in laboratory buildings, colleges across the country have hundreds of shovel- and beaker-ready projects in the sciences that could collectively cost tens of billions and begin within weeks. PAGE D1

Findings

Politics Dressed as Science?

John Tierney considers "The Honest Broker," a book by a professor in the environmental studies program at the University of Colorado who argues that most scientists are mistaken about their role in political debates, and asks: Will Mr. Obama's scientific counselors give him realistic plans for dealing with global warming and other threats? PAGE D1

MALICIOUS PROGRAM GETS UPGRADE

The author or authors of a malicious software program that has infected more than 12 million computers since it was released last fall have begun distributing a new version of the program after computer security teams crippled the original's ability to do damage. PAGE D2

A WAVE-POWERED GLIDER

Two Silicon Valley engineers who wanted to eavesdrop on whales built a sensor-carrying vehicle that moves through the ocean propelled entirely by wave energy. The Wave Glider, as the device is called, could become a powerful tool that helps scientists to understand climate change and the military to monitor the high seas. PAGE D3

NEW INFORMATION IN DNA'S PACKAGE

One of biology's mysteries, Nicholas Wade writes, is that the 200 different kinds of cells in the human body all take their cues from the same DNA. How? What scientists are finding is that there's a second layer of information in the DNA of each genome. Page D4

MENSTRUAL TALES

Though male readers may prefer to go outside and toss a ball around, it is hard to imagine any woman, from the most straitlaced and body-denying to the most uninhibited and body-embracing, who will not read right through "My Little Red Book," a collection of 92 short reflections by <u>women</u> on the subject of their first period, Abigail Zuger, M.D., writes. PAGE D5

THE BIOLOGY OF ABUSE

In a study of people who committed suicide published in the journal Nature Neuroscience, researchers in Montreal report that people who were abused or neglected as children showed genetic alterations that probably made them more biologically sensitive to stress. PAGE D5

Editorial

WHAT PART OF 'STIMULUS'

Don't They Get?

Republican governors of some poverty-ridden states are threatening to turn away federal aid rather than expand access to unemployment insurance programs. These bad decisions are little more than political posturing by rising Republican stars, like Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana. Fortunately, voters of both parties have noticed. Page A24

GAY MARRIAGE NEEDS A VOTE

Same-sex couples deserve full equality before the law, and that includes the right to marry. For the last decade or so, members of the Rhode Island State Legislature have regularly proposed bills to allow the state's same-sex couples to marry, only to see the issue die in committee without coming to a vote. Proponents should redouble their efforts to propel them to the floor of both houses, where a favorable vote could help raise the issue in the national consciousness. Page A24

Op-Ed

BOB HERBERT

An infrastructure bank would answer a crying need, but politicians are not interested in relinquishing their influence over the selection and financing of major projects. Page A25

DAVID BROOKS

If President Obama is mostly successful with his agenda, we will know that highly trained government experts are capable of quickly designing and executing top-down transformational change. If they mostly fail, then liberalism will suffer a grievous blow and conservatives will be called on to restore order and sanity. Page A25

THE I'S HAVE IT

President Obama has been criticized by grammar mavens for mixing up his "me's" and "I's." He may not actually be wrong, argue two Op-Ed contributors, Patricia T. O'Conner and Stewart Kellerman, authors of the forthcoming "Origins of the Specious." But they offer some easy tips to help him steer clear of the "hypercorrectionists" during his Congressional address Tuesday night. Page A25

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Body

International

NEAR SRI LANKA'S WAR ZONE, THE INJURED STRUGGLE TO COPE

At least 100,000 civilians are trapped behind the front lines of Sri Lanka's civil war. The government has barred reporters from the conflict zone, but the toll of the fighting on civilians was on full display in the crowded wards of the municipal hospital in Trincomalee, an eastern port city 40 miles from the front lines. PAGE A6

Pope Rejects Denial of Holocaust A8

BRITAIN TURNS BACK DUTCHMAN

A Dutch member of Parliament, Geert Wilders, who has compared the Koran to Hitler's "Mein Kampf," was detained by immigration officials at Heathrow Airport in London and forced to fly right back to Holland. His deportation had been ordered by Britain's home secretary on the grounds that his presence in Britain endangered public safety. PAGE A8

VENEZUELAN JEWS ON EDGE

Episodes of anti-Semitic vandalism in Venezuela, the desecration of a synagogue in Caracas and government pressure on Jewish leaders to retract criticism of President Hugo Chavez in relation to the attack has infused a sense of dread into Venezuela's Jewish communities. PAGE A8

ISRAEL ALLOWS GAZAN EXPORTS

For the first time in about a year, Israel allowed the export of 25,000 carnations from <u>Hamas</u>-run Gaza, Israeli officials said. The flowers, destined for Europe, could portend a possible thaw in commercial relations in the context of a cease-fire. PAGE A6

CHINA MAKES ARRESTS AFTER FIRE

In a spate of arrests, Beijing officials blamed the state-run television network for a Monday fire that destroyed part of the 520-foot-high futuristic skyscraper that was part of CCTV's new \$1.1 billion headquarters, sometimes described as an architectural symbol of China's rising power. PAGE A10

China to Investigate Company A10

Mexico City Journal: Free Viagra A15

Attacks in Mosul and Karbala Kill 13 A14

Hijacked Arms Ship Limps Into Port A12

CITING URGENT THREAT TO U.S.

The new director of national intelligence told Congress that global economic turmoil and the instability it could ignite had passed terrorism as the most urgent threat facing the United States. PAGE A14

DRAFT OF NEANDERTHAL GENOME

Scientists in Germany announced that they have reconstructed the genome of Neanderthals. The genome, when fully analyzed, is expected to shed light on critical aspects of human evolution. PAGE A12

national

ATTEMPTS TO BRING COURTS

Up to Speed With the Web

Pacer, the government-run system to access electronic court records, is nothing like Google. Created in the bygone days of screechy telephone modems, it is cumbersome, arcane and not free. But a small group of open-government advocates is determined to push the court system into the 21st century by republishing court documents on the Web, where anyone can just Google it. PAGE A16

A COWGIRL'S JOURNEY OF FRIENDS

After losing her job and subsequently her home in Miami, Donna Byrne packed everything she owned, including her two horses, and set out for a ranching town 160 miles north. Ms. Byrne has become a minor celebrity and a magnet for generosity, as what began as a lonely trek turned into a team effort of horse lovers nationwide offering a helping hand. PAGE A16

NO LINK FOR AUTISM AND VACCINE

In a blow to arguments that vaccines lead to autism, a special court ruled against three families seeking compensation from the federal vaccine-injury fund. More than 5,000 similar claims have been filed with the fund. PAGE A16

New Hampshire May Close Courts A17

TRACKING BIRDS WHILE THEY FLY

For scientists, tracking birds as they fly 60 miles an hour has been an intractable problem. Now researchers think they have solved it with a novel device -- a tiny bird backpack that contains sophisticated sensors and that weighs less than a dime. PAGE A17

Inquiry on Hospitals and Tax Breaks A17

MOVING TO FINISH THE STIMULUS PLAN

Congressional leaders moved swiftly to schedule votes in the House and Senate on the \$789 billion economic stimulus plan while lawmakers spent much of the day hammering out the final details of the legislation. PAGE A20

MEDICARE BLOW TO COLON PROCEDURE

Medicare has tentatively decided not to pay for virtual colonoscopies, dealing a setback to a technique that some medical experts recommend as a more tolerable alternative to the conventional colonoscopy in screening for cancer, PAGE A18

Obituaries

SHIRLEY JEAN RICKERT, 82

She starred in several "Our Gang" film comedies as a child and later became a burlesque performer. PAGE A23

New York

WINDS BRING DISRUPTION AND DEATH

Three people were killed, more than a dozen were injured, flights and trains were delayed and tens of thousands of homes and businesses lost power as winds that gusted up to 60 miles an hour howled across the New York metropolitan area. PAGE A25

Softer Attacks on Governor's Budget A25

Investing, With Bonds Back to 1868 A25

Business

AMERICA COULD STAND TO LEARN

A Lesson From Japan's History

Japan has been there, done that when it comes to economic crisis, and if you distill the advice of its veterans, it is simply: more money, faster. Japan tried and failed using all of the steps the United States is taking, which were signs along a road to ruin and 15 years straight years of falling real estate prices. Alarmingly, students of that debacle see a similar fate in the United States' future. Page B1

FEWER WORDS FROM OUR SPONSORS

Fox is about to expand its initiative called "Remote-Free TV" against that odious quality of television viewing, the commercial. On its drama "Fringe," and starting Friday, on "Dollhouse," there are four to six fewer minutes of commercial interruptions an hour. The hope it that viewers will be less likely to channel surf while waiting for the show to resume, but does it work? Page B3

REPACKAGING A TOUCHY SUBJECT

The governments of England and Ireland have, in effect, nationalized banks. But instead of giving such a touchy subject an equally touchy name, they've been careful to commit to keeping banks in private hands and are referring to the moves as more of a restructuring. Never mind the increased amount of control they have gotten. Page B4

THE SLIDE OF AN INDUSTRY, AND TOWN

Janesville, Wis., can be looked at as a microcosm of the plight of many who work in manufacturing. When the town's General Motors plant closed, 2,500 lost their jobs. While the workers are receiving substantial compensation packages, when that coverage ends, many will not be able to find jobs that pay comparable wages. For many, the future means hoping that, in a year, things will be better. Page B1

CHIEF OF SWISS RE STEPS DOWN

The reinsurance giant Swiss Re announced that its chief executive would step down, despite a vote of confidence and an infusion of cash from Warren E. Buffett. Page B6

Sports

COURT RULING MAY ALTER CONTRACT TALKS FOR BASEBALL DRAFT PICKS

In a decision that could rework negotiations between Major League Baseball draft picks and their teams, an Ohio judge ruled that an N.C.A.A. rule interferes with an athlete's right to legal representation by prohibiting student-athletes from having a lawyer present during contract negotiations. PAGE B9

One Topic at Girardi's Conference B9

TEAM PROGRAMS DRAW SKEPTICISM

Many professional cycling teams, like Lance Armstrong's, Astana, have internal antidoping programs. Still, some antidoping experts say that team's program, and others like it, are virtually useless in proving that a rider is clean. PAGE B13

Congressman Beckons Rodriguez B9

DID PHELPS'S STATUS SPUR ARRESTS?

The fallout from a party in November where Michael Phelps was photographed with a marijuana pipe included eight arrests on Saturday, attorneys for two of the eight arrested said. Both lawyers argued that the police investigation has been an excessive allocation of resources fueled by Phelps's celebrity status. PAGE B12

Gordon Hopes to Make Some Noise B11

Replacing Brett Favre B12

Escapes

SHORT STAYS, LASTING LOVE,

Kindled at Weekend Homes

Romance at a vacation or weekend home often has the evanescent quality of shipboard flings. But an enduring connection sparked at such retreats isn't completely the province of make believe. PAGE D1

Away

A Very Little Slice of Heaven

Vacation means leaving the front door to his Key West cottage open -- not just unlocked, but flung wide open. The cottage is where Murphy Davis comes to recharge from his busy work life in Sag Harbor, N.Y. PAGE D1

PARTIES AT YOUR WEEKEND HOME

Being able to entertain a big group at a weekend home and actually doing it are two different things. Steve Bailey offers some advice for having everyone up for the weekend. PAGE D2

High & Low D2

UNDER SAIL ON A FROZEN HUDSON

One-hundred years ago, dozens of ice yacht races on the Hudson River regularly drew large crowds. Now, the sport is kept alive by a small but dedicated group of enthusiasts. PAGE D5

Weekend

LIKE PEE-WEE FOOTBALL, AT OSCARS,

You Get a Prize Just for Competing

When some people say they are thrilled just to be nominated for an Oscar, they really mean it, David Carr writes. And we should be thrilled along with them, he adds. Even if a nominated film or actress never makes it to the podium, the spectacle-rich Oscars have the collateral effect of elevating impressive works. PAGE C1

Theater Review

Russians After Many Red Bulls

Austin Pendleton's production of "Uncle Vanya," which opened at the Classic Stage Company, is in perpetual-motion. The actors playing Chekhov's characters are always pacing or running or jumping, and the impression "is less of people running after elusive dreams than of actors running after elusive roles," Ben Brantley writes. PAGE C1

Film Reviews

Lesser-Known Mob Just as Brutal

What matters in the world of "Gomorrah" -- Matteo Garrone's film about the Camorra, the largest of Italy's crime gangs with 7,000 members -- is that people kill other people casually, as if taking out the garbage. And unlike so many Hollywood crime movies, there is no thrilling violence in "Gomorrah;" there is only grotesque violence and waste, Manohla Dargis writes. PAGE C1

A BAD BANK, MORALLY, NOT FISCALLY

"The International," a sleek travelogue thriller about the villainy of banks directed by Tom Tykwer, is so undistinguished, A. O. Scott writes, that the moments you remember best are those that you wish another, more original director had tackled. PAGE C8

RETAIL THERAPY'S LIMITATIONS

"Confessions of a Shopaholic," based on two popular novels by the British author Madeleine Wickham, is the story of an excessive shopper. Everything you think might happen does. But the cute title and premise aside, the film registers more as a story of *female* self-improvement, Manohla Dargis writes. PAGE C14

Television Reviews

Jerk Pitcher in Retirement

Will Ferrell and Adam McKay are executive producers of "Eastbound & Down" (beginning Sunday on HBO). The show, created by and starring Danny McBride, is tailored to their tastes (read intelligent fraternity humor), but feels like a margarine, not butter, version of "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," Ginia Bellafante writes. PAGE C17

BRAINWASH, RINSE, REPEAT

In Fox's new "Dollhouse," by Joss Whedon, the creator of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," the body is infinitely perfectible and the mind ever malleable: scientists take a real woman, brainwash her into thinking like a robot and erase her memory after each assignment. Reviewed by Alessandra Stanley. PAGE C19

Art Review

Rethinking a Typecast Painter

"Becoming Edvard Munch" at the Art Institute of Chicago. Reviewed by Roberta Smith. PAGE C27

Holland Cotter on 'Manzoni: A Retrospective' at Gagosian Gallery C27

Editorial

AFTER THE STIMULUS

While it is beyond the scope of any one piece of legislation to counter the worst recession in modern memory, the \$789 billion stimulus and recovery package could have accomplished so much more. The administration's next shot at this puzzle will be President Obama's first budget bill. Page A30

VACCINES EXONERATED ON AUTISM

A federal court issued three verdicts on Thursday that should help end lingering fears that childhood vaccines can and have caused autism. Page A30

MR. TSVANGIRAI'S LEAP OF FAITH

We hope Zimbabwe's new prime minister, Morgan Tsvangirai, will be able to achieve his ambitious and essential goals. If there is any real hope, African leaders must pressure Robert Mugabe -- Zimbabwe's illegitimate president - to stop tormenting the opposition and let Mr. Tsvangirai do his job. And they must make clear that if Mr. Mugabe does not, they will finally stop protecting him. Page A30

Op-ed

PAUL KRUGMAN

It's early yet, but we're falling behind the curve. America just isn't rising to the challenge of the greatest economic crisis in 70 years. Page A31

DAVID BROOKS

Cognitive scientists distinguish between normal risk-assessment decisions and decisions made amid extreme uncertainty. In 2009, Americans were suddenly thrust into the realm of extreme uncertainty. Economists and policy makers had no way to peer into this darkness. Page A31

THE MAGGOTS IN YOUR MUSHROOMS

Salmonella-tainted peanut butter has sickened 500 people and killed eight -- but how much do we really know about what is in our food supply? In an Op-Ed article, E. J. Levy takes a look at the list of contaminants that the F.D.A. actually allows, including insect eggs, rodent hairs and cigarette butts. Page A31

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Body

From health to hip-hop, the second part of our guide to the blogosphere unearths the net's gems

Performing arts

westendwhingers.wordpress.com

The Whingers, Phil and Andrew, attend most big West End productions and report back. They are brilliantly bitchy wits, with sharp tastes and low boredom thresholds.

Three Days of Rain got a thumbs down, not least because it really does rain on stage and they were concerned for the actor getting soaked. Verdict: "Pure theatrical Niagara".

jessicamusic.blogspot.com

The novelist and journalist Jessica Duchen keeps an informed eye on the music world (she is married to an LPO violinist). Her blog is not comprehensive and has strange biases (she loves Korngold), but compensates with an air of intelligent engagement and nice sense of community.

therestisnoise.com

Some elegant musings but mostly straightforwardly informative stuff from the music critic of The New Yorker, whose acclaimed book of the same name, on classical music in the 20th century, came out last year.

violinist.com/blog

A host site for blogs posted by violinists, with a useful Top Blogs page where the editor posts links to the best recent entries, from all levels of players.

overgrownpath.com

A wide-roving look at all aspects of the classical-music world, from pricing and album covers to reviews and comment.

artsjournal.com/aboutlastnight

Terry Teachout's blog is about the arts in America, but still of interest here. Recently he noted, for example, that hip-hop was the most popular music used as a means of torture; meanwhile, an American railway is trying to drive homeless people out of its stations by subjecting them to classical music.

Technology

blog.wired.com

Blog Central for geeks, this is Wired magazine's blog compendium. Usually verbose and clunkily written, but addictive and essential for watching technology.

boingboing.net

A "directory of wonderful things" for a global community of 2m-plus digital culture vultures. In an Aladdin's cave patrolled by the literate opinion-former Cory Doctorow, and Xeni Jardin, the producer of Boing Boing TV, ideas are discussed and gadgets demoed without geek snarkiness.

mashable.com

A breezy pathfinder through the era of Web 2.0, the nerdy tag for interactivity. Founded in Scotland by Pete Cashmore, who now resides in California, aged 22, it reaches 2.4m folloPerforming arts Technology wers of Facebook, streamed TV and all user-generated media.

bbc.co.uk/blogs/technology

At the BBC's Dot Life, abundant intelligent comment replaces the prattle that makes most geek blogs unreadable. The perspective is also refreshing in an American-dominated blogosphere.

techcrunch.com

The digital universe surveyed for management and investors. The editor, Michael Arrington, a corporate attorney who was raised in England, can influence the fate of start-ups and established web brands alike. Highly accessible to non-business readers.

treehugger.com

The most popular among sustainability blogs. As arch-enemy of corporate "greenwashing", it has "the Wal-Mart effect" constantly in its sights. Scrutinises climate, GM, toxins, pollution, carpooling, personal health, fashion and travel.

ted.com

TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design: click on the Themes link for visions of the digital future encapsuled in 18-minute bites by world-leading minds.

Navigation is a chore, so pop these names into the search: Jeff Han, Neil Turok, Martin Rees, Bill Gross, Amy Tan and Hod Lipson.

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terrytao.wordpress.com michaelnielsen.org/blog

Two maths blogs. Probably, you will barely understand a word. But what you do understand will excite and grip. Also, it's just good to know this stuff is out there if you need it.

network.nature.com/blogs

A collection of blogs on the science journal Nature's site. The writing can be prone to that whimsy and jollity to which scientists often resort when trying to be "accessible".

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dcscience.net

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www.weebirdy.com

Sometimes it takes outsider eyes to refocus your surroundings for you. Here is a native of Sydney whose blog registers all things good/unknown about her new home, London.

Wee Birdy pokes around the back streets of the city for the best shops and sights, so you don't have to.

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Graphic

ILLUSTRATION BY JACKY FLEMING

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The Sunday Times (London)
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Section: CULTURE; FEATURES; Pg. 12,13

Length: 2388 words

Body

Performing arts

westendwhingers.wordpress.com

The Whingers, Phil and Andrew, attend most big West End productions and report back. They are brilliantly bitchy wits, with sharp tastes and low boredom thresholds. Three Days of Rain got a thumbs down, not least because it really does rain on stage and they were concerned for the actor getting soaked. Verdict: "Pure theatrical Niagara".

jessicamusic.blogspot.com

The novelist and journalist Jessica Duchen keeps an informed eye on the music world (she is married to an LPO violinist). Her blog is not comprehensive and has strange biases (she loves Korngold), but compensates with an air of intelligent engagement and nice sense of community.

therestisnoise.com

Some elegant musings but mostly straightforwardly informative stuff from the music critic of The New Yorker, whose acclaimed book of the same name, on classical music in the 20th century, came out last year.

violinist.com/blog

A host site for blogs posted by violinists, with a useful Top Blogs page where the editor posts links to the best recent entries, from all levels of players.

overgrownpath.com

A wide-roving look at all aspects of the classical-music world, from pricing and album covers to reviews and comment.

artsjournal.com/aboutlastnight

Terry Teachout's blog is about the arts in America, but still of interest here. Recently he noted, for example, that hip-hop was the most popular music used as a means of torture; meanwhile, an American railway is trying to drive homeless people out of its stations by subjecting them to classical music.

Technology

blog.wired.com

Blog Central for geeks, this is Wired magazine's blog compendium. Usually verbose and clunkily written, but addictive and essential for watching technology.

boingboing.net

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Section: ECOSSE; FEATURES; Pg. 16,17

Length: 2349 words

Body

Titian treasure

Art It was described by artist Lucian Freud as "the world's most beautiful painting". Last Monday came news that Titian's Diana and Actaeon, pictured above, had been saved for the nation after the National Gallery in London and the National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) raised Eur50m in five months to keep the Old Master in Britain. Artists Antony Gormley, Tracey Emin and David Hockney were among those who campaigned to raise enough to buy the 16th-century picture from the Duke of Sutherland, one of the country's richest men.

John Leighton, the director-general of the NGS, who had previously likened losing losing Diana and Actaeon to France losing the Mona Lisa, said that fundraisers had "broken the piggy banks". The painting will stay in Edinburgh until September and will then move between galleries in the two capitals.

Murder admission

Court A New Zealand teenager has confessed to the murder of the Orkney backpacker Karen Aim who was attacked and killed with a baseball bat in the resort of Taupo in January of last year. Jah che Te Manawa Kaha Broughton, who also goes by the name Shane, will be sentenced on March 6. Aim's parents Brian and Peggy had travelled to New Zealand expecting the trial to last up to one month. Ms Aim, 26, was discovered unconscious and with critical head injuries just 100 metres from her home after a night out with friends.

She later died in hospital. She had been working at a glass-blowing gallery in the town.

MI5 in the dock

Torture Did British intelligence services collude in the alleged torture of Binyam Mohamed, a British resident who is on a hunger strike in Guantanamo Bay? On Wednesday two High Court judges said that they were unable to publish evidence about his treatment because the United States had threatened to stop sharing intelligence with Britain if the classified information was made public.

Mohamed, 30, who came to Britain as a 16-year-old Ethiopian seeking asylum, claims he only confessed to terrorism after he was tortured. His penis and chest were cut open with a scalpel, he says, and a stinging liquid poured into the wounds.

"One of them said it would be better to cut it off, as I would only breed terrorists," he wrote in a diary.

Allegedly interviewed by an MI5 officer after the ordeal, he has begun a legal action in London for his case documents to be published. Mohamed was arrested in Karachi in April 2002 and claims to have been held in prisons in Morocco and Afghanistan before he went to Guantanamo in September 2004.

Lindsey's wildcats

Jobs A settlement was reached in the "British jobs for British workers" dispute after thousands took unofficial strike action. The men walked off sites across the country two weeks ago when all 200 construction jobs at a Lincolnshire oil refinery were handed to Italian and Portuguese contractors.

The demonstrators abandoned their placards after winning a deal that at least 50% of the work at the Lindsey plant would be offered to British employees by Total, owner of the plant. Derek Simpson, joint general secretary of the Unite union, said the victory was the beginning, not the end. "Lindsey is part of a much wider problem that will not go away," he said.

"No British worker should be barred from applying for a British job."

Chelsy challenge

Royalty The South African born Chelsy Davy, who recently broke off a five-year relationship with Prince Harry, is to stay in Britain after accepting a job with a law firm in London. Davy, pictured below, who is studying for a postgraduate law qualification at Leeds University, will join Allen & Overy later this year as a trainee solicitor.

The law firm was founded by George Allen, who advised Edward VIII during his abdication: in return the king nicknamed him "poker face".

Stuck and stucker

Blogging Television presenter Stephen Fry took Twitter communication to new heights when he blogged his experience of being stuck in a lift - as the ordeal unfolded. Surrounded by strangers, Fry gave a running commentary on his predicament to the website. "OK. This is now mad. I am stuck in a lift on the 26th floor of Centre Point," he wrote. "Hell's teeth. We could be here for hours. A**e, poo, and widdle." More than 100,000 Twitterers read his words, and many sent back messages of encouragement, which Fry read to his companions. His trial ended when engineers fixed the fault and brought the lift back down.

Thatcher in a jam

Television The tabloids dubbed it Gollygate: Carol Thatcher was axed from her BBC job for describing a male tennis player in the Australian Open as a "golliwog". Thatcher, 55, daughter of the former prime minister, made the remark during an off-air chat with presenter Adrian Chiles and comedian Jo Brand, after a broadcast of The One Show. The remark referred to the hairstyle of Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, a French-Congolese player..

Justifying Thatcher's sacking from her post as roving reporter for the show, the controller of BBC1, Jay Hunt, said that the comment had been deemed "inappropriate and racist".

Thatcher, pictured above, had refused to make a "fulsome apology", maintained Hunt.

"Carol never intended any racist comment," responded Thatcher's spokesperson. "She made a light aside about this tennis player and his similarity to the golliwog on the jampot when she was growing up." Budget passed Politics Alex Salmond pushed his budget through the Scottish Parliament last week after MSPs backed, by 123 votes to 2,

the third and final stage of the Budget Bill. Labour and the Lib Dems voted in favour as did the independent MSP Margo MacDonald and the Conservatives. Patrick Harvie and Robin Harper, Green MSPs, voted against the bill and were given a reduced offer for their home insulation package - which is now to be means-tested - a move widely seen as a punishment for their defeat of the bill the week before.

Sale of century

Business A For Sale sign was hoisted over some of Britain's best-known high street shops on Wednesday as one of their shareholders teetered on the brink of collapse. Karen Millen, Whistles, Oasis, Warehouse, Principles, All Saints, House of Fraser, Hamleys and Iceland supermarket are among the stores whose ownership was left in doubt after the Icelandic retailer Baugur filed for court protection from creditors.

Baugur, which has Eur1 billion of debts, is one step away from going bankrupt and thousands of jobs would be at risk if the group held a fire sale of assets.

The failure of Baugur, which means "ring of strength" in ancient Icelandic is being laid at the door of its founder, Jon Asgeir Johannesson, known as the Viking raider, who authorised the firm to borrow millions of pounds to buy retailers.

Johannesson warned that parts of the business will have to be sold.

"I'm sure that Philip Green is dancing a war dance in his living room, because now he will become a large owner of our companies for virtually nothing," he said.

The bloodhounds

Mobiles Fed up of never knowing where your teenager is? Overanxious parents finally have a way of keeping tabs on the movements of their little darlings: on Wednesday Google launched a feature that allows people to track the movement of friends and family through their mobile phones.

Google Latitude uses a digital map to show where someone's mobile phone is at any given moment. You cannot be tracked unless you give your permission but it will allow parents to check up on their children and could also spell the end for "I'm working late at the office" excuses.

Not everyone was happy though.

John Carr, the secretary of the Children's Charities' Coalition on Internet Safety, warned that it could turn the mobile phone into an "electronic leash" on children..

TOP STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Shamed to kill 1 Iraq A middle-aged mother of six suspected of recruiting more than 80 <u>female</u> suicide bombers has been arrested. Samira Ahmed Jassim, 51, admitted sending 28 <u>women</u> to carry out attacks. In an interview in prison she confessed that she had organised the rape of some of the <u>women</u> so that they would seek death as a bomber in order to end their shame.

Major-General Qassim al-Moussawi, who announced the capture, said that Jassim was a member of Ansar al-Sunna, a group linked to Al-Qaeda. The number of <u>female</u> suicide bombers has increased as insurgents exploit taboos that make it unlikely that male guards will frisk a woman at checkpoints.

Novel choice 2 France JK Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series, has been made an honorary knight of the Legion of Honour, the country's highest award. President Nicolas Sarkozy bestowed Rowling with the title in the Elysée palace last Tuesday, praising her for reigniting children's love of reading.

Speaking in French the author used her acceptance speech to apologise for the quality of her pronunciation and for giving Potter's evil nemesis a French name - Lord Voldemort. She assured the audience, "Voldemort himself is

100% English!" Youngest sex swap 3 Germany A German teenager is believed to have become the world's youngest transsexual after undergoing a sex change operation at the age of 16. Kim Petras, born as a boy, began her hormone replacement therapy as part of her gender transition by the age of 12. In Germany, such operations are not normally allowed until the patient reaches 18. Petras, pictured below, convinced doctors that she should have the surgery early.

"Two independent psychiatrists must confirm that the child is transsexual and approve the sex change. Once that has been done, it is best to start as early as possible," said Dr Achim Wüsthof, an expert in adolescent hormonal conditions. Petras said she "always felt like a woman" and was looking forward to wearing "whatever I want to".

United front 4 Israel A Jew and an Arab who joined up to sing a song for Israel in the Eurovision song contest may have to pull out after suffering a torrent of abuse from both sides of the political divide. Mira Awad, an Arab-Israeli, was criticised by Arabs for allowing herself to be "used by Israeli propaganda". Right-wing Jews, on the other hand, said she should not be permitted to represent the Jewish state.

Israeli-Jewish singer Achinoam Nini was attacked after criticising *Hamas*, the militant Islamic group that controls

Gaza, for saying it had turned the territory into a "trash heap of poverty, disease and misery".

Small is beautiful 5 Italy The Italian government of Silvio Berlusconi is to ban girls under 18 from having breast enhancement surgery because it is "dangerous to their health". Stricter controls on breast implants, liposuction, botulin injections, tummy tucks and face-lifts are being proposed by ministers.

"We have to teach girls that physical perfection is not everything," said Francesca Martini, deputy minister for welfare and health. "Too many girls think their life will be different if they have a bust two sizes bigger. But breast enhancements at an age when your mammary glands are still developing is a big mistake." Obama's setback 6 America "I screwed up." That was Barack Obama's admission as he ran into his biggest problem to date as president, when one of his mentors withdrew from consideration for a cabinet post amid concerns about income tax issues. Tom Daschle, a former Senate leader of the Democrats, who took Obama under his wing when he arrived in Washington four years ago, had been in line to become secretary for health and human services until it emerged that he had failed to pay more than \$128,000 (Eur89,000) in taxes.

In an interview with NBC, Obama said, "It's important for this administration to send a message that there aren't two sets of rules, you know, one for prominent people and one for ordinary folks." Dr Death exposed 7 Egypt The children of his Egyptian neighbours called him Uncle Tareq. At Mauthausen, in his native Austria, he was known as Dr Death. On Thursday The New York Times reported that the most wanted Nazi war criminal still at large is believed to have died in 1992 in Cairo. Aribert Ferdinand Heim, who carried out horrific medical experiments on concentration camp prisoners, is now thought to have changed his name to Tareq Hussein

Farid and filed for Egyptian residency after the end of the second world war.

In a Cairo hotel where he is believed to have lived, journalists found medical and financial records. Efraim Zuroff, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, a Jewish human rights organisation, said it was not conclusive proof that Heim was dead. "There's no body, no corpse, no grave, no DNA," he said. "These people have a vested interest in being declared dead." Nightmare at sea 8 Indonesia More than 220 Burmese migrants have been found lost at sea off northern Sumatra after drifting for more than 20 days, during which 22 died of dehydration or exposure. The men, and one boy of 13, were packed in so tightly that they could do little but stand shoulder to shoulder. As time wore on, they resorted to throwing their dead shipmates overboard to create more space.

The survivors, members of Burma's Rohingya Muslim minority, alleged that they were detained by Thailand's military and taken to a remote island, where they were held for two months, before being towed out to sea and abandoned..

Trouble in Tehran 9 Iran The British Council has shut up shop in Tehran because of "intimidation and harassment" by the government. It closed after its local staff were summoned to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's office at the end of December and ordered to resign.

"An order of that kind in present circumstances in Iran is not something you can refuse," said Martin Davidson, the council's chief executive.

Carla's castle 10 Italy A castle in Italy owned by the family of France's first lady, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, has been sold to a sheikh for Eur8m. The 40-room, 16,000 square foot Castello di Castagneto Po residence near Turin was owned by Italian-born Bruni-Sarkozy with her mother and sister.

The castle had originally been bought by her father, the billionaire industrialist Alberto Bruni Tedeschi in 1952. It has been repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt over the years but experts estimate the original structure dates back to 1019.

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A fallen star, a tycoon's death and a sea of wood; TOP STORIES FROM THE UK AND IRELAND

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Section: NEWS REVIEW; FEATURES; Pg. 16,17

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Body

Career in ruins

Rugby You don't expect to see a 6ft, 19-stone rugby player crying, but in a televised interview on Tuesday, England prop forward Matt Stevens had tears in his eyes as he confessed to being hooked on a drug, widely assumed to be cocaine. Suspended by both England and Bath, his club, after a positive drugs test, the 26-year-old, who was thought to earn Eur150,000 (¤160,000) a year, admitted he had started counselling. His career now appears to be in ruins.

"I was tested for a prohibited substance," Stevens, who has won 32 caps, told Sky News. "It is pretty distressing talking about this when I think how much effort so many people have put into my career. I have thrown it away through irresponsible behaviour. Like any drug problem, you do not know it is happening and then it mounts up. Before you know it, you are sitting there with an illness."

While Bath admitted feeling "let down" by their player, fellow professionals said they would stand by him. Lawrence Dallaglio, a former England forward, said: "These are the sort of tough times when a guy discovers who his friends really are."

Appalling abuse

Courts A Roscommon mother of six was sentenced to six years' imprisonment after being found guilty of neglect, incest and sexual assault of her children. The unnamed 40-year-old was the first woman to be convicted of incest in the history of the state. Judge Miriam Reynolds pointed out that a man on this charge would face life imprisonment, but the maximum sentence she could impose on a woman was seven years. Mary Harney, the health minister, said it was the most appalling case of abuse she'd ever heard of. "I don't understand how children were left in such a vulnerable position for so long and I want to salute their bravery," she said.

The six children are now in care. The court heard evidence of how they had been infested with lice and fleas, living in a filthy house alongside vermin, and had been admitted to hospital with nutrition problems. The woman had

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forced her son to have sex with her on a number of occasions when he was aged 13. The Western Health Board has been criticised for not being more active in the case, given that it was first alerted to the likelihood of neglect and emotional abuse in 1996.

Jobless rise

Unemployment The number of unemployed in Ireland has now passed 300,000, costing the state hundreds of millions of euros extra in unemployment benefit. The government had forecast 290,000 beingon the Live Register when it drew up the budget last October, but Mary Hanafin, the social welfare minister, said figures to be released in the next fortnight will show the number has already surpassed 300,000.

She expects at least ¤400m extra will be needed to meet the additional cost, bringing the state's annual welfare bill to more than ¤20 billion.

The dole queues are set to lengthen further with Superquinn, the grocery chain, announcing the loss of 400 jobs and the closure of its store in Dundalk.

Bus Eireann is seeking 320 redundancies.

Greens leave Politics Two senior Green councillors resigned in protest at their party's continued participation in a coalition government with Fianna Fail. Chris O'Leary, a Cork councillor, announced he was leaving because of the party's "stay in government at all costs" approach. Bronwen Maher, a councillor in Dublin, resigned the following day, complaining that the party was not standing up to Fianna Fail.

John Gormley, the party leader, suggested that the real reason for their departure was that both councillors were afraid of losing their seats in the local elections in June.

Top of the pops Music The Brit award nominations were led by old favourites Coldplay and new star Duffy when they were announced last week. Coldplay and lead singer Chris Martin were nominated for four gongs, including best British group and best British album for their latest work, Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends. Welsh singer Duffy, below, whose debut work Rockferry was the biggest-selling album in the UK last year, was also nominated in four categories, including best British *female* and best breakthrough act.

Some of the awards, hosted this year by Kylie Minogue, and comedy duo James Corden and Mathew Horne, will be decided by public votes.

Despicable mother

Courts "Truly despicable" was how a judge described the crimes of mother-of-seven Karen Matthews on Friday. Sentencing the 33-year-old to eight years in jail for kidnapping and imprisoning her nine-year-old daughter Shannon in a Eur50,000 abduction scam, Mr Justice McCombe said: "It is impossible to conceive how you could have found it in you to put this young girl through the ordeal that you inflicted upon her."

Shannon, now 10, was snatched on her way home after a school swimming trip, drugged, and held for 24 days in a flat belonging to Michael Donovan, 40, a relative. He received an eight-year sentence last week.

Matthews made tearful appeals during the hunt for Shannon, but the court heard that it was all a charade, part of a plot dreamt up by her and Donovan to claim reward money they expected to be offered for the child's return. The police officer leading the investigation described Matthews as "pure evil" but her defence lawyer, Frances Oldham, demurred. "She is not Myra Hindley, she is not Rose West," she said..

Park Lane squat

Invasion Squatters have invaded two Eur15m mansions in one of Britain's most exclusive roads, pictured above, just yards from Madonna's London home. Thirty artists, students and musicians set up home in the sevenstorey houses in Park Lane after, they say, sneaking in through an open door in the basement.

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According to The Sun, the residents pass their time playing guitars while their dogs foul the rooms. Meanwhile, they are planning a night-time exhibition of their art at No 95. "It feels pretty good," said squatter Daniel Moreira, 20, a performing arts student. "It's the dream of everyone in London to live for a little bit on Park Lane."

Brontë's model

Auction What price a doll's house probably decorated by Charlotte Brontë, author of Jane Eyre? The George II four-room house, complete with miniature furniture and dolls, went way over its Eur8,000 guide price last week, finally going under the hammer at Eur14,000.

Redecorated by Brontë in 1839, when she worked as a governess for the Sidgwicks, a wealthy family in Yorkshire, the house was part of the private collection of antique dealer Roger Warner. Warner, whose shop in Burford, Oxfordshire, attracted customers including Walt Disney and Princess Margaret, is thought to have paid about Eur400 for it in 1974.

Victim's anguish

Rape A schoolgirl with learning difficulties who was filmed being gang-raped and then doused in caustic soda to destroy any evidence said she had tried to forgive her attackers.

"My family has always taught me to forgive and to pray for others. But I have to think about what has happened ... I hope one day they will feel sorry for what they have done to me," the 16-year-old, who is scarred for life, told Wood Green crown court.

As their victim, who has a mental age of nine, cried out in pain, the men filmed the attack on their mobile phones; in the recordings, their laughter can clearly be heard. Three of the gang who raped the schoolgirl in Tottenham, north London, last January were jailed for a total of 23 years on Monday. Stephen Bigby had also been charged with the rape but was fatally stabbed in a knife fight on Oxford Street before he could face trial.

Cabinet talks

Politics The Irish cabinet had two days' discussions on proposals for cuts in public spending, which are needed because of the country's rapidly deteriorating economic situation. Ministers agreed a range of options, which they then presented to trade unions and employers to see whether agreement could be reached.

Noel Dempsey, the transport minister, said final decisions would be taken following talks with the social partners.

It is expected that #2 billion in cuts will eventually be announced.

The government is also preparing to speed up the recapitalisation of Allied Irish Banks and Bank of Ireland, in order to convince the markets that neither will be nationalised. There are expectations that bad debts in both institutions could be transferred to Anglo Irish Bank, which has already been nationalised. A sum of ¤1 billion will be given to each bank.

TOP STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Milk men to die

1 China Two men are to be executed for their role in the tainted milk scandal that killed six babies and made 300,000 others sick. The former head of a dairy firm, Tian Wenhua, 66, who was accused of attempting to cover up the crime, was jailed for life. Geng Jinping, a middleman, and Zhang Yujun, a manufacturer who mixed and sold the milk, were sentenced to death.

The government has sought to portray the verdicts as proof of its efforts to ensure food safety, but relatives of the victims accuse the authorities of holding a show trial. "I think they are scapegoats. The milk producers' association

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and the people in charge of checking the milk should also be punished," said Liu Donglin, the father of a baby who was made ill by the milk.

Tycoon's suicide

2 Ireland Neighbours spotted property tycoon Patrick Rocca in his pyjamas, wandering outside his luxury home in Dublin on Monday morning. Hours later, the 41-year-old had become the latest victim of the economic downturn after shooting himself in the head. Rocca, a poster boy for Ireland's economy, had rubbed shoulders with the rich and famous: he lent his helicopter to Bill Clinton whenever he was in Ireland and played tennis with Alan Sugar. His suicide is understood to have been prompted by the fear of financial ruin: Rocca, reported to be worth Eur463m in 2007, is understood to have lost millions in the banking crisis.

Nursery killings

3 Belgium Two small children and an adult were stabbed to death when a psychiatric patient ran amok with a knife in a nursery school. Ten children and two adults were injured in the attack in the town of Dendermonde. The grown-ups had tried to save the youngsters by throwing themselves between the knifeman and the children.

The murder suspect, a man in his late twenties, called at the crÈche on Friday morning, claiming to be carrying a message. He then barged through the door and bolted upstairs where he began attacking babies indiscriminately.

"The guy just went crazy," said Theo Janssens, the deputy mayor. Twenty-one children up to the age of three were in the crÈche at the time..

Exit Supermum

4 France Justice minister Rachida Dati has left President Nicolas Sarkozy's government 21 days after giving birth.

The 43-year-old has confirmed that she is to resign to stand in second place on a list for Sarkozy's party for the European parliamentary elections. A party insider claimed: "Everything has fallen into place quite painlessly." Dati, below, was praised at the time of her appointment in 2007 as the first person from a north African background to reach a senior French cabinet position, but her reputation has suffered since. Critics have accused her of indulging her taste for luxury and being heavy-handed with magistrates, prison guards and her staff.

Shelling inquiry

5 Gaza The Israel Defence Forces has launched an investigation into the alleged use of white phosphorus shells in densely populated parts of the Gaza Strip during its recent offensive against <u>Hamas</u> militants, but insists that their use was not illegal.

Ygal Palmor, a foreign ministry spokesman, said the investigation had so far found no evidence to support the claims. The United Nations has released photographs that it alleges show white phosphorus - which, like napalm, burns flesh - raining down on a United Nations school in Beit Lahiya.

Handbags at dawn

6 Italy A catfight has broken out between two of Italy's leading fashion houses after Giorgio Armani, the luxury designer, accused Dolce & Gabbana of copying one of his designs for a pair of trousers. The row, dubbed "trousergate" by fashion industry insiders, erupted during men's fashion week in Milan.

Armani, 74, the doyen of Italian fashion, claims that the fashion duo displayed a pair of quilted trousers, which are an almost exact copy of a pair he unveiled on the catwalk last year. "Now they copy, later they will learn," Armani told reporters. Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana hit back at his comments: "For sure we still have much to learn, but certainly not from him."

Rebel chief held

7 Rwanda The leader of the most powerful rebel army in eastern Congo has been arrested. Laurent Nkunda, 41, fled to Rwanda after an attack on his base camp at Bunagana in eastern Congo. Lambert Mende Omalanga, the Congolese information minister, welcomed the arrest, saying: "I think it is a good achievement for peace and security in this region." Nkunda has been accused of numerous human rights violations, including an outrage last November at Kiwanja, where his men burnt camps housing 30,000 refugees. Rwanda has not yet said whether it will hand Nkunda over to the Democratic Republic of Congo government.

Ransom paid

8 Greece Kidnappers released a prominent Greek shipping magnate who had been held captive for eight days after his wife paid a reported Eur28m ransom for his release. Pericles Panagopoulos, 74, was abducted at gunpoint near his home in the southern Athens suburb of Vouliagmeni.

His wife and driver dropped off the ransom at an undisclosed location.

Panagopoulos, the founder of Greece's largest ferry company, suffers from diabetes and has a serious heart condition.

He said his captors treated him well but did not reveal where he was held or how many people were involved in the kidnapping.

Mills defiant

9 Italy David Mills, the estranged husband of Tessa Jowell, the minister for the Olympics, has apologised to Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian prime minister, for causing him "bother", but denied corruption. Mills, 64, is accused of taking a Eur350,000 bribe from Berlusconi, but responded: "I have never been corrupted by anyone." In her summing up of the prosecution case, Gabriella Vanadia claimed that Mills had admitted taking the money from the Italian prime minister three times then retracted the confession. Berlusconi was originally jointly accused with Mills in the case before a new law last June granted him immunity. A verdict is expected on February 3.

Vice ring smashed

10 France Five British <u>women</u> were among 40 high-class prostitutes caught working for a vice ring near Paris. The <u>women</u>, who were charging up to Eur8,000 a night, were working for a 39-year-old French madame arrested this week. Her vice girls also included 10 French <u>women</u> and 25 eastern Europeans.

Although it is not illegal to work as a prostitute in France, it is illegal to live off immoral earnings.

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Body

Titian treasure

Art It was described by artist Lucian Freud as "the world's most beautiful painting". Last Monday came news that Titian's Diana and Actaeon, pictured above, had been saved for the nation after the National Gallery in London and the National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) raised Eur50m in five months to keep the Old Master in Britain. Artists Antony Gormley, Tracey Emin and David Hockney were among those who campaigned to raise enough to buy the 16th-century picture from the Duke of Sutherland, one of the country's richest men.

John Leighton, the director-general of the NGS, who had previously likened losing Diana and Actaeon to France losing the Mona Lisa, said that fundraisers had "broken the piggy banks" to help buy the painting. It will stay in Edinburgh until September and will then move between galleries in the two capitals.

Prayer offering

Health Caroline Petrie, a Christian nurse suspended without pay after offering to pray for a patient, was reinstated on Thursday. National Health Service officials climbed down after an outcry over the way she was treated by North Somerset primary care trust. Petrie, 45, a community nurse, had asked her patient, 79-year-old May Phippen, whether she would like prayers said for her recovery. After Phippen mentioned the suggestion to another nurse, the matter was referred to the trust.

Although pleased her employers had backed down, Petrie, a mother of two from Weston-super-Mare, said she was in two minds over whether to return to work: she wanted to carry on being able to pray for patients: "If they won't allow me that I don't think I would return. It's very difficult for me not to ask patients if they want me to pray for them when I feel that prayer works for the sick. It's a matter of conscience to me."

MI5 in the dock

Security Did British intelligence services collude in the alleged torture of Binyam Mohamed, a British resident who is on a hunger strike in Guantanamo Bay? On Wednesday two High Court judges said that they were unable to publish evidence about his treatment because the United States had threatened to stop sharing intelligence with Britain if the classified information was made public.

Mohamed, 30, who came to Britain as a 16-year-old Ethiopian seeking asylum, claimed he only confessed to terrorism after he was tortured. His penis and chest were cut open with a scalpel, he said, and a stinging liquid poured into the wounds. "One of them said it would be better to cut it off, as I would only breed terrorists," he wrote in a diary. Allegedly interviewed by an MI5 officer after the ordeal, he has begun a legal action in London for his case documents to be published.

Mohamed was arrested in Karachi in April 2002 and claims to have been held in prisons in Morocco and Afghanistan before he went to Guantanamo in September 2004.

Wildcats tamed

Jobs A settlement was reached in the "British jobs for British workers" dispute after thousands took unofficial strike action. The men walked off sites across the country two weeks ago when all 200 construction jobs at a Lincolnshire oil refinery were handed to Italian and Portuguese contractors.

The demonstrators abandoned their placards after winning a deal that at least 50% of the work at the Lindsey plant would be offered to British employees by Total, owner of the plant. Derek Simpson, joint general secretary of the Unite union, said the victory was the beginning, not the end. "Lindsey is part of a much wider problem that will not go away," he said. "No British worker should be barred from applying for a British job."

Chelsy challenge

Royalty The South African-born Chelsy Davy, who recently broke off a five-year relationship with Prince Harry, is to stay in Britain after accepting a job with a law firm in London. Davy, pictured below, who is studying for a postgraduate law qualification at Leeds University, will join Allen & Overy later this year as a trainee solicitor.

The law firm was founded by George Allen, who advised Edward VIII during his abdication: in return the king nicknamed him "poker face".

Elevated opinion

Blogging Television presenter Stephen Fry took Twitter communication to new heights when he blogged his experience of being stuck in a lift - as the ordeal unfolded. Surrounded by strangers, Fry gave a running commentary on his predicament to the website. "OK. This is now mad. I am stuck in a lift on the 26th floor of Centre Point," he wrote. "Hell's teeth. We could be here for hours. A**e, poo, and widdle."

More than 100,000 Twitterers read his words, and many sent back messages of encouragement, which Fry read to his companions. His trial ended when engineers fixed the fault and brought the lift back down.

Thatcher in a jam

Television The tabloids dubbed it Golliwog-gate: Carol Thatcher was axed from her BBC job for describing a male tennis player in the Australian Open as a "golliwog". Thatcher, 55, daughter of the former prime minister, made the remark during an off-air chat with presenter Adrian Chiles and comedian Jo Brand, after a broadcast of The One Show. The remark referred to the hairstyle of Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, a French-Congolese player.

Justifying Thatcher's sacking from her post as roving reporter for the show, the controller of BBC1, Jay Hunt, said that the comment had been deemed "inappropriate and racist". Thatcher, pictured above, had refused to make a "fulsome apology", maintained Hunt.

"Carol never intended any racist comment," responded Thatcher's spokesperson. "She made a light aside about this tennis player and his similarity to the golliwog on the jampot when she was growing up."

Long arm of law

Crime Eighty-three years on and the police have re-opened what must be one of their oldest cold cases. Emma Alice Smith, aged 16, was last seen cycling to the railway station in Horam, East Sussex, in 1926. She then vanished. Now, following a belated tip-off from Smith's surviving relatives that she might have been murdered, Sussex police have agreed to try to find her remains, thought to have been dumped in a local pond.

The breakthrough came when a local man confessed on his deathbed to one of Emma's sisters that he had killed the teenager. Detective Chief Inspector Trevor Bowles, announcing Operation Stratton, said: "We are very confident of making progress in this inquiry."

High St carve-up

Business A For Sale sign was hoisted over some of Britain's best-known high street shops on Wednesday as one of their shareholders teetered on the brink of collapse. Karen Millen, Whistles, Oasis, Warehouse, Principles, All Saints, House of Fraser, Hamleys and Iceland supermarket are among the stores whose ownership was left in doubt after the Icelandic retailer Baugur filed for court protection from creditors. Baugur, which has Eur1 billion of debts, is one step away from going bankrupt and thousands of jobs would be at risk if the group held a fire sale of assets.

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Johannesson warned that parts of the business will have to be sold. "I'm sure that Philip Green is dancing a war dance in his living room, because now he will become a large owner of our companies for virtually nothing," he said.

Keeping tracks

Mobiles Fed up of never knowing where your teenager is? Overanxious parents finally have a way of keeping tabs on the movements of their little darlings: on Wednesday Google launched a feature that allows people to track the movement of friends and family through their mobile phones.

Google Latitude uses a digital map to show where someone's mobile phone is at any given moment. You cannot be tracked unless you give your permission but it will allow parents to check up on their children and could also spell the end for "I'm working late at the office" excuses.

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Shamed to kill

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Novel choice

2 France JK Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series, has been made an honorary knight of the Legion of Honour, the country's highest award. President Nicolas Sarkozy bestowed Rowling with the title in the Elysée palace last Tuesday, praising her for reigniting children's love of reading.

Speaking in French the author used her acceptance speech to apologise for the quality of her pronunciation and for giving Potter's evil nemesis a French name - Lord Voldemort. She assured the audience, "Voldemort himself is 100% English!"

Youngest sex swap

3 Germany A German teenager is believed to have become the world's youngest transsexual after undergoing a sex change operation at the age of 16. Kim Petras, born as a boy, began her hormone replacement therapy as part of her gender transition by the age of 12. In Germany, such operations are not normally allowed until the patient reaches 18. Petras, pictured below, convinced doctors that she should have the surgery early.

"Two independent psychiatrists must confirm that the child is transsexual and approve the sex change. Once that has been done, it is best to start as early as possible," said Dr Achim Wüsthof, an expert in adolescent hormonal conditions. Petras said she "always felt like a woman" and was looking forward to wearing "whatever I want to".

United front

4 Israel A Jew and an Arab who joined up to sing a song for Israel in the Eurovision song contest may have to pull out after suffering a torrent of abuse from both sides of the political divide. Mira Awad, an Arab-Israeli, was criticised by Arabs for allowing herself to be "used by Israeli propaganda". Right-wing Jews, on the other hand, said she should not be permitted to represent the Jewish state.

Israeli-Jewish singer Achinoam Nini was attacked after criticising <u>Hamas</u>, the militant Islamic group that controls Gaza, for saying it had turned the territory into a "trash heap of poverty, disease and misery".

Small is beautiful

5 Italy The Italian government of Silvio Berlusconi is to ban girls under 18 from having breast enhancement surgery because it is "dangerous to their health". Stricter controls on breast implants, liposuction, botulin injections, tummy tucks and face-lifts are being proposed by ministers.

"We have to teach girls that physical perfection is not everything," said Francesca Martini, deputy minister for welfare and health. "Too many girls think their life will be different if they have a bust two sizes bigger. But breast enhancements at an age when your mammary glands are still developing is a big mistake."

Obama's setback

6 America "I screwed up." That was Barack Obama's admission as he ran into his biggest problem to date as president, when one of his mentors withdrew from consideration for a cabinet post amid concerns about income tax issues. Tom Daschle, a former Senate leader of the Democrats, who took Obama under his wing when he arrived in Washington four years ago, had been in line to become secretary for health and human services until it emerged that he had failed to pay more than \$128,000 (Eur89,000) in taxes.

In an interview with NBC, Obama said, "It's important for this administration to send a message that there aren't two sets of rules, you know, one for prominent people and one for ordinary folks."

Dr Death exposed

7 Egypt The children of his Egyptian neighbours called him Uncle Tareq. At Mauthausen, in his native Austria, he was known as Dr Death. On Thursday The New York Times reported that the most wanted Nazi war criminal still at large is believed to have died in 1992 in Cairo. Aribert Ferdinand Heim, who carried out horrific medical

experiments on concentration camp prisoners, is now thought to have changed his name to Tareq Hussein Farid and filed for Egyptian residency after the end of the second world war.

In a Cairo hotel where he is believed to have lived, journalists found medical and financial records. Efraim Zuroff, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, a Jewish human rights organisation, said it was not conclusive proof that Heim was dead. "There's no body, no corpse, no grave, no DNA," he said. "These people have a vested interest in being declared dead."

Nightmare at sea

8 Indonesia More than 220 Burmese migrants have been found lost at sea off northern Sumatra after drifting for more than 20 days, during which 22 died of dehydration or exposure. The men, and one boy of 13, were packed in so tightly that they could do little but stand shoulder to shoulder. As time wore on, they resorted to throwing their dead shipmates overboard to create more space.

The survivors, members of Burma's Rohingya Muslim minority, alleged that they were detained by Thailand's military and taken to a remote island, where they were held for two months, before being towed out to sea and abandoned.

Trouble in Tehran

9 Iran The British Council has shut up shop in Tehran because of "intimidation and harassment" by the government. It closed after its local staff were summoned to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's office at the end of December and ordered to resign.

"An order of that kind in present circumstances in Iran is not something you can refuse," said Martin Davidson, the council's chief executive.

Carla's castle

10 Italy A castle in Italy owned by the family of France's first lady, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, has been sold to a sheikh for Eur8m. The 40-room, 16,000 square foot Castello di Castagneto Po residence near Turin was owned by Italian-born Bruni-Sarkozy with her mother and sister.

The castle had originally been bought by her father, the billionaire industrialist Alberto Bruni Tedeschi in 1952. It has been repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt over the years but experts estimate the original structure dates back to 1019.

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Body

International

WOUNDED FLEE SHELLING

Of Sri Lankan Hospital

Civilians wounded by the fighting between the Sri Lankan military and ethnic Tamil rebels had fled to a hospital in a rebel-held village. But artillery attacks on the hospital left at least 12 people dead by Tuesday, according to the Red Cross, and the wounded have begun to flee. PAGE A5

ROCKET FIRE HITS ISRAELI CITY

Palestinian militants fired a long-range rocket from Gaza into the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon, and Israel retaliated with airstrikes against smuggling tunnels and a <u>Hamas</u> outpost in southern Gaza. In the meantime, Egyptian-brokered talks for a sustainable cease-fire continued in Cairo with no obvious progress. PAGE A6

MAYOR IN MADAGASCAR IS FIRED

The mayor of Madagascar's capital city was fired by the country's president after he announced last weekend that he was taking over the government. The political violence has left about 100 people dead in recent weeks, and buildings have been burned and gutted. PAGE A8

REFUGEES FROM MYANMAR RESCUED

Two hundred refugees from Myanmar were rescued by the Indonesian Navy after drifting aboard a wooden boat at sea for almost three weeks, and they are being treated in a hospital in Aceh. It was the second boatload of refugees from Myanmar to land in Aceh in the last month. PAGE A8

Memo from Mexico City

Recession Is Opportunity

For a Vocal Populist

Mexico had largely moved on from its contentious 2006 presidential election and the former mayor of Mexico City, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who said it was stolen from him. But the economic downturn has created opportunities for his brand of populism and given him a chance to revive his political career. PAGE A10

MULLING A TOUGH LINE WITH IRAN

President Obama's aides and outside experts who have consulted with the government about Iran say the administration may take a tough line with Tehran in the coming months, even as it signals a willingness to move toward direct talks. PAGE A11

WOMAN HELD FOR ROLE IN BOMBINGS

Samira Ahmed Jassim al-Azzawi, known by the code name "the mother of believers," confessed to recruiting more than 28 <u>women</u> to carry out suicide bombings in Diyala Province and Baghdad. Her confession offers a glimpse into the wave of suicide attacks by <u>women</u> in the past two years that has alarmed Iraqi and American commanders as insurgents have adjusted tactics to avoid detection. PAGE A12

National

ETHICAL DEBATE SWIRLS

Around Octuplets in California

The Suleman children, born nine days ago to Nadya Suleman, are now the longest-surviving octuplets born in the United States. While they rested comfortably in a hospital, a debate about them raged outside: should Ms. Suleman, already a mother of six children under the age of 7, have been given fertility treatments to have eight more? PAGE A14

MYSTERY OF ANCIENT JARS IS SOLVED

A paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences asserts that the unusual cylindrical clay jars found in the ruins at Chaco Canyon, a complex of multistory masonry dwellings in New Mexico, were used by an ancient civilization for drinking liquid chocolate -- offering the first proof of chocolate use in North America north of the Mexican border. PAGE A14

INVESTOR ACCUSED OF THREATS

Richard L. Goyette, an investor who lost more than \$60,000 when a bank collapsed, has been charged with mailing dozens of threatening letters containing white powder to financial institutions in October, federal authorities said. PAGE A15

REVELATIONS ROCK CATHOLIC ORDER

The Legionaries of Christ, the influential conservative Roman Catholic religious order, has been reeling from new revelations that its founder, the Rev. Marcial Maciel Degollado, had an affair with a woman and fathered a daughter. Father Maciel, who died a year ago, had been forced to leave public ministry because of charges from more than a dozen men that he sexually abused them when they were students. PAGE A15

WITHDRAWAL LEAVES OBAMA IN BIND

When Tom Daschle withdrew his candidacy for secretary of health and human services, it undercut President Obama's mission to expand health care by depriving him of an unusually well positioned architect for a big legislative campaign -- and left him without a backup plan. PAGE A16

OBAMA'S NEW COMMERCE NOMINEE

President Obama announced Senator Judd Gregg of New Hampshire as his nominee to head the Commerce Department -- which Mr. Gregg once supported eliminating. If confirmed, he will be at the top of the list of incoming administration officials who have fundamental differences with the president who is enlisting them to advance his agenda. PAGE A16

NEW YORK

LAWSUITS SUGGEST JAIL GUARDS

Routinely Ignored Inmate Beatings

When two guards were accused last month of encouraging inmates in one Rikers Island jail to police themselves, leading to beatings and in one case the killing of an inmate, correction officials called the situation "an aberration." But New York City has been sued in recent years by more than a half-dozen Rikers inmates claiming to have been the victims of beatings by prisoners while guards looked the other way, or worse, ordered the attacks. PAGE A22

THE DAY AFTER THE CHOMP

Is there redemption after public disgrace? Charles G. Hogg, a k a Chuck, the groundhog at the Staten Island Zoo that bit Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's index finger, was trotted out by zookeepers for another photo op. "He's usually well behaved," insisted Doug Schwartz, a zookeeper. PAGE A22

BUSINESS

WHAT SORT OF MESS LURKS

In Your Tax Return?

Two high-level nominees for jobs in the Obama administration took themselves out of the running because of tax problems. So what sort of mess is lurking in your return? Ron Lieber offers advice that might have helped Obama's nominees, and could help you, too. PAGE B1

CELL MARKET FACES SLOWDOWN

Cellphone sales are falling, and wireless carriers are finding it harder to acquire and keep customers. It seems like another tale of "recession bites industry," but there are signs that this downturn is masking something more fundamental, that the cellphone industry's best days are behind it. PAGE B1

WIND AND SOLAR POWER PLUMMET

Wind and solar power seemed likely to accelerate under the green-minded Obama administration. But because of the credit crisis and the broader economic downturn, the opposite is happening. PAGE B1

CAR SALES FALL 37 PERCENT

New vehicle sales in the United States fell 37 percent in January, the industry's worst month since June 1982, and the worst January since 1963. Automakers are bracing for most of 2009 to be just as bad. PAGE B3

Obituaries

JOHN ISAACS, 93

He was a key member of the Harlem Renaissance basketball team, known by fans as the Rens, which showcased some of New York City's greatest black players during the Depression and captured the first world professional championship. Page A21

Sports

COLLEGES LOOKING TO WOO RECRUIT

As Middle Man Facilitates

Bryce Brown is the top high scholl football recruit in the country, but he has yet to declare, and he temporarily left his hometown to avoid the media attention about his decision. Anyone looking to deal with him must go through Brian Butler, a controversial figure who claims to be Brown's trainer and manager, and who occupies a gray area in the N.C.A.A.'s recruiting rules. PAGE B10

TORRE CONTINUES TO FEIGN SURPRISE

Joe Torre offers up some explosive accusations in "The Yankee Years," the new book he co-wrote about his tenure as the team's manager. Harvey Araton writes that he does not begrudge Torre the right to tell his remarkable story, but wishes Torre would stop expressing shock at the response to the book's charges. PAGE B10

JAMES TO THE KNICKS? NOT LIKELY.

When LeBron James comes to the Garden, the stands will be packed with Knicks fans looking to pry him away from the Cleveland Cavaliers when he becomes a free agent in 2010. Their signs and enticements are likely to fail, as N.B.A. salary guidelines reward superstars for staying put, and punish them for leaving. PAGE B11

Arts

IN MOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS, IN REVERSE

Sissy Spacek left her small Texas town to become a folk musician, but ended up becoming a major Hollywood actress. Her daughter, Schuyler Fisk, took the opposite route: heading to Hollywood to become an actor, and ending up a touring singer-songwriter. PAGE C1

CHASING BAD GUYS

In NBC's detective show "Life," its protagonist is trying to find out who set him up for a crime that sent him to jail for more than a decade. (He, almost necessarily, is a brilliant eccentric, and exasperates his attractive *female* partner.) But Ginia Bellafante writes that the show's creators have bigger ambitions than the average police procedural. PAGE C1

GREEN OGRE MAY BE SEEING RED

Ticket grosses for "Shrek the Musical" have been falling since it opened, and hit a new low last week, which has raised the question of whether big-budget production may be losing money. C2

INTERNAL CRITICISM FOR 'WORLDFOCUS'

WNET's "Worldfocus" has won praise for its international news coverage. But some at the station blame the show's \$8 million budget for deep layoffs at the public television station. PAGE C3

Music Review: Wonny Song at Frankel Hall C4

GETTING INTO FREUD'S HEAD

Anita Gates writes that the playwright and director of "Freudian Slips," a new comedy about the psychoanalyst, ably pull off the production, which calls for a complex structure and some complicated staging. It is the premise, she says, that is off-base. PAGE C5

DINING

NEVER BEEN WANTED THIS BADLY

And Never Been Treated This Well

Most of the time for diners, going out to eat in New York can be a humbling experience. You are at the mercy of service, and often it can feel as if the restaurants know this. But those still able to dine out, Frank Bruni writes, might find themselves having a very different experience, courtesy of a plunging restaurant business. When was the last time a restaurant hugged you? Page D1

THE (STILL) BELOVED PEANUT

In terms of American tastes, the peanut has to rank up there with hamburgers and milkshakes. It can be found in nearly every variety of food. A recent salmonella scare at a Georgia peanut factory is worrisome, certainly, and might cool the national ardor for the little legume. But not by much. Page D1

A GAIN FOR 'BIGGEST LOSER'

For the contestants of "The Biggest Loser," the reality show that pits morbidly obese contestants against their appetites, the final battle is to change their relationship with food -- from the kitchen up. Page D1

A Good Appetite

From Briar Patch to Cook Pot

Rabbit is a lean meat. It is often prepared with a large amount of fat, added to counter the dryness. With this recipe for braised rabbit, cooks won't need to resort to that. Page D2

Food Stuff

Cheese Cabbage and Canoodling D3

The Minimalist

Snappy, Richer, Better

Pre-packaged crackers are often overpriced and contain ingredients you probably would not choose to cook with, especially when you consider how easy they are to make, Mark Bittman writes. Page D3

BAROLO: THE THRILL IS BACK

Barolo is not cheap, Eric Asimov writes, but put that aside for just a moment and consider a few things. It is a vintage that appeals to both the head and the heart -- it pleases now but rewards contemplation and patience. Page D4

Restaurants

The New Oak Room

Dinner in the Oak Room at the Plaza Hotel: little inspires such visions of elegance and luxury, writes Frank Bruni. In the restaurant's recently restored confines, it is not so much the eating that is nearly peerless, but the atmosphere and the imagining. Page D6

\$25 and Under

India Brings the Truck Stop to You

In India, a dhaba is a roadside joint, home to vibrant meals and cots for a snooze afterward, writes Oliver Schwaner-Albright. In the minds of Americans, truck stops raise a lot of images, but tasty food? Dhaba in Manhattan offers variety, both in menu and its nods to various types of Indian cuisine. Page D6

Editorial

A VITAL BOOST FOR EDUCATION

Congress is doing the right thing by including a \$140 billion education package in the stimulus measure, helping the states stave off layoffs, budget cuts and other problems. But this will fail Americans in crucial ways if Congress squanders the opportunity to push the country's schools toward long-overdue reform. Page A30

THE COST OF CREDIBILITY

The new administration is waking up to the need for top officials to live up to the standards set by the president -- like paying their taxes. It should give Americans new hope that President Obama will live up to his campaign vows to reform the ethics of government. Page A30

HOW TO FILL A SENATE SEAT

Most Americans probably gave little thought to how empty Senate seats are filled until this year -- but what a year it's been. It is time to put the power in the hands of the voters. Page A30

Op-Ed

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

In recent days, some have questioned whether Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was making a big mistake in appointing so many "special envoys" to handle key trouble spots like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The problem isn't that she has too many; it's that she doesn't have enough. Page A31

AFGHAN SUPPLIES RUSSIAN DEMANDS

On Tuesday, the Taliban attacked NATO supply lines into Afghanistan, showing how hard it will be for President Obama to step up the military effort there. But using alternative routes through Russia and countries in its sphere of influence would require bowing to Moscow's interests. In an Op-Ed article, George Friedman, the leader of a global intelligence company, explains how Mr. Obama can solve the problem. Page A31

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

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A3)

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Body

We need a leader who knows how the economy works

MOST TALKED ABOUT

SAVING JOBS

IF ACTU President Sharan Burrow really believes that a corporatist-style summit of big government, big business and of course the ever-shrinking trade union movement can somehow forestall the oncoming very serious recession, she is completely unaware of how jobs come into existence, and how the real economy actually works.

The only thing commonwealth and state governments can do now to ameliorate the impact of this recession, is to repeal those laws which make it difficult, if not impossible, for would-be employers to take on new staff. Even worse, it is impossible for employers and employees to agree on new contracts which could save the company, and the jobs it provides, until times improve.

Our problem is that Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard are hell-bent in going in the opposite direction with their so-called Fair Work legislation. Even worse is the me-tooism of Malcolm Turnbull and the Liberal Party. At the same time, the Governor-General, at a major conference on renewable energy in Abu Dhabi this week, has urged swift (read job-destroying) action on climate change as the Rudd Government sets out to de-carbonise Australia's carbon-dependent economy.

How much misery will Australians have to endure before a political leader emerges who knows how the real economy works, and what has to be done to get it working again?

Ray Evans

President, H.R. Nicholls Society

I'M not an economist but I have long been concerned at the way in which Australia has had such a narrow focus for the purposes of trade. Surely it would have been clear to anyone that relying almost entirely on a small handful of countries such as China for export markets was not sensible (\$5``bn worth of exports at risk: Rudd", 23/1)?

Successive governments have insisted on a focus on Asia. In doing so, they effectively cut back our capacity to trade with regions such as Africa, South America and even the Indian subcontinent. Europe was no longer in favour either, being seen as somehow associated with a shameful colonial past.

We are about to pay heavily for this short-sighted, narrow-minded approach and the laziness of the business sector, which has allowed successive governments to dictate export strategy rather than aggressively pursuing diverse opportunities for the long-term benefit of Australia. A more diverse approach would not have prevented a recession but it may well have softened the impact.

K.M. Gunn

Lower Mitcham, SA

RETRENCHMENTS in the mining industry create opportunities for employment on so-called nation-building projects. For example, Queensland's Bruce Highway between the Sunshine Coast and Cairns is sub-standard, dangerous and in need of major upgrading. Workers now being discarded in large numbers from various mining projects in Central and North Queensland could be redeployed to work on major roadwork projects between Gladstone and Townsville.

For many, their skills would be readily transferable from open-cast mining operations to road construction and most of them would live locally or within reasonable distances. Some might even find themselves being employed by the same contractors as they were working for at the mines.

This downturn may be that once-in-a-generation opportunity to provide much-needed road infrastructure for the future. Rather than sitting on the sidelines wringing their hands and blaming the rest of the world for our increasing levels of unemployment, federal and state governments should be providing leadership and acting without delay to bring forward these projects.

Peter Wall

Ascot, Qld

AT a time when world economies are struggling, it is appalling that the air traffic controllers' union, Civil Air, could consider industrial action that may result in the loss of many other jobs within the airline industry (``Air controller strike looms", 22/1).

While Civil Air may have a legitimate claim regarding their negotiations on pay and conditions with Airservices Australia, strike action that causes major disruptions to aircraft traffic has the potential to create many job losses in an industry that is already struggling due to lower passenger numbers.

Aircraft operators, who are suffering revenue problems, will still have to pay staff, aircraft leases and rent on facilities even though the strike action will reduce revenue even further. At a time when we all should be pulling together to ensure the viability of the Australian aviation industry, Civil Air could consider a delay to negotiations while the industry rides out the worst of the recession.

G. Giles

Alderley, Qld

AS a senior financial consultant, I must take exception to your front-page story \$250``bn wiped out in super rout" (23/1). The general public equate the word ``lost" with gone forever. If you lose \$100,000 at the casino that \$100,000 is lost. But in the case of investments in managed funds and quality Australian shares held by super funds, nothing is lost until you sell. If you had purchased all your direct holding in any of the Big Four Australian banks in late 2008, and you sold them now, you would lose about 50 per cent of your funds. But if you sell nothing and they recover, and in time they, the banks, always do, you will lose nothing.

Barry Van Es

Senior Financial Planner

Godfrey Pembroke Financial Consultants

Gold Coast, Qld

The burga is a harrowing symbol of male oppression

FIRST there was the Bilal Skaf rape trial with its revelations of shocking Muslim male attitudes to <u>women</u>, then Sheik Taj Din al-Hilali's infamous remarks about <u>women</u> presenting as uncovered meat.

Now, another Muslim cleric, Samir Abu Hamza, back-pedals from public remarks approving violence and rape in marriage (``Muslim cleric told to apologise for video remarks on forced sex", 23/1). We see frequent, disturbing images of submissive Muslim <u>women</u> wearing the burqa which, for me, is a harrowing symbol of Muslim male oppression in our society where <u>women</u>'s rights and equality are entrenched.

Is it any wonder Australians of most backgrounds perceive Islam, especially in its fundamentalist manifestations, as alien, anathema and potentially threatening?

Ron Sinclair

Bathurst, NSW

SELF-styled Islamic cleric Samir Abu Hamza should be reminded in the strongest possible terms that in this country rape is a crime and violence against <u>women</u> is a crime. If he and his followers choose to live in Australia, they are required to comply with Australian law. I encourage all **women** to report such crimes to the police.

Marilyn Beaumont

Executive Director

Women's Health Victoria

AND of course it goes without saying that any red-blooded, Christian, Australian male is free to belt in the mouth any cowardly, self-styled Muslim cleric exhorting violence on <u>women</u>.

Ted Porter

Crows Nest, NSW

THE suggestions by Samir Abu Hamza that a man should be able to force his wife to have sex and slap her for disobedience are offensive and unsupportable. However, those stampeding to the high moral ground to fling clods of self-righteous outrage at the mad mufti should glance over their shoulders.

They will see that in only the past 20 to 30 years has it been made an offence for a man to rape his wife in this country, and the law still authorises assault to prevent the repetition of insult.

The repudiation and denunciation of such barbaric views is appropriate, but arrogating moral superiority should be avoided when so much remains to be done to make **women** safe in Christian homes.

Michael Barnes

Windsor, Qld

Defeatism on a grand scale

HUGH White (``The new President has to tell the US `No, we can't", Opinion, 23/1) argues for realism, not idealism in his article on future US foreign policy. But by calling for a slogan of ``No, we can't" he appears to be arguing for defeatism on a grand scale.

White first proclaims GeorgeW. Bush's objectives of ``transforming Iraq, rebuilding Afghanistan, containing Russia, disarming North Korea and Iran and sustaining US primacy in Asia in the face of China's rise" as failures and then pessimistically asks whether anyone else could have done better. A statesmanlike response, according to White, would be to simply give up all notion of a better, freer and more secure world.

To see fear-based societies flourish and not to counter them, not to strive for the spread of democracy and freedom, is to encourage despotism. Bush was right to strive for democracy in the world, and if Barack Obama seeks a similar road, then he too will be denounced. It will not, however, make such a policy line any less correct.

William Briggs

Kingston Beach, Tas

FRANK Devine's true-believer support of GeorgeW. Bush (``History will smile on Bush, even if he didn't suit The Times", 23/1) is nicely countered by Hugh White's article. For me, Bush's greatest folly was to overstretch and weaken US power. This hubristic ignorance sprang from the naively simplistic

world-view of a fundamentalist Christian (come-lately at that).

It is true that the Iraq story is still to unfold, but if a united, secular liberal democracy was the desired outcome, I contend that it has a snowflake's chance in a Texas summer. Believing in it denies the realities in that artificial state of deep, long-standing divisions and hatreds, marinated in tribalistic Islam. Think Northern Ireland times 1000.

Being born in southeast Queensland in 1940, I have particular reason to be grateful for the existence and well-being of the US. However, any criticism of right-wing Republican policy has been snarlingly denounced

as anti-American by Devine and his ilk over the past eight years. It will be interesting to see how objective will be their criticisms of Barack Obama as he struggles to deal with the Bush legacy.

Clive Huxtable

Beaconsfield, WA

SORRY, Richard Boyes (Letters, 23/1), but President Obama read every word of his inauguration speech, not from written notes on the lectern but from the autocue -- those squares of glass on a stick on each side of the lectern that enable a speaker to look up and out to the audience whilst still being able to read the words as they slowly scroll up.

Gary Edwards

Flagstaff Hill, SA

It is called self-defence

MOAMMAR Mashni (Letters, 23/1) needs to be reminded that no one is trying to deny the hardships suffered by Gazans. The point, however, is that <u>Hamas</u> cannot fire thousands of rockets at Israeli civilian communities and expect no response. If you fire rockets and mortars at people with the intention of killing them, then do not complain if someone fires back. It is called self-defence.

Ian Fraser

Cherrybrook, NSW

Jelena's off-court triumph

THAT troubled soul in tennis player Jelena Dokic has an inner strength that you can only admire (``A magnificent rally", Editorial, 23/1). It doesn't matter if she never wins another game of tennis, she has successfully won the much bigger prize of conquering self-doubt, a dysfunctional family background and a father from hell. She

epitomises the truism attributed to heavyweight boxing legend Jack Dempsey: ``A champion is someone who gets up when he can't."

Rex Condon

Ashwood, Vic

Policies that nurture fires

AS long as state Labor governments rely on the Greens' preferences to stay in power, we will never get the sensible management of forests which Allan Hansard advocates (``Governments fail on burning issues", Opinion, 21/1). Their ``lock up and leave" philosophy piles up fuel for wild fires, restricts entry for firefighters, destroys flora and fauna and releases millions of tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere.

Hansard also points out that fires cross from national parks, state forests and reserves to devastate farms and communities. Laws also prevent landholders from creating firebreaks by clearing the verges of adjoining roads. In 2005, our farm was nearly burnt out by such a fire, causing much loss and personal trauma, and our home and sheds were saved only by the fuel reduction measures which we had taken. We have every reason to resent government policies that nurture fires on public land, while ignoring the dangers to lives and private property.

B. Bath

Balmoral, Vic

FIRST BYTE

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Of course Kevin Rudd wants employers to preserve jobs. That way, he is more likely to keep his.

Jan McCauley

Bowral, NSW

If Trooper Mark Donaldson doesn't get the Australian of the Year award this year (``VC winner proud to put his medal on display", 23/1), then it's not fair dinkum.

Kevin King

Glenelg, SA

On the other hand, Mal Washer (First Byte, 23/1), we might just finish up with members of parliament who desire nothing more than to render public service, unlike the ``clowns", ``losers", ``screwballs" and ``halfwits" already ensconced there.

John Dean

Earlville, Qld

What do Bernard Tomic, David Warner and Barack Obama have in common? Media hype and the weight of expectations on such inexperienced shoulders. Let's hope they are up to it.

David Crommelin

Strathfield, NSW

No, D.D. McNicoll (``Obama's lifting lyrics", Strewth, 23/1), Jerome Kern wrote music not lyrics. Dorothy Fields supplied the words to Pick Yourself Up.

John McCarthy

Kapunda, SA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Body

National

DIFFERING ON JUDGES' SALARIES

Should federal judges be paid more? They make a fraction of what partners at big-city law firms do and did not receive a cost-of-living adjustment this year. On the other hand, theyhave status, power, good working conditions, no clients, the ability to affect policy and the satisfaction of doing justice. They also have generous pensions and life tenure. Sidebar, by Adam Liptak. PAGE A14

BUILDING PLAN DISAPPOINTS

Many hoped that at a government plan for large public works projects would help fix the nations aging bridges or finally bring high-speed rail to the United States. But only about a third of an \$825 billion proposal introduced in the House will go to infrastructure, and critics say the plan falls far short of what is needed. Page 14

A CONTROVERSIAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ebenezer Baptist Church, the church the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called home, was filled to capacity and an overflow crowd watched the annual birthday service for the civil rights leader on a Jumbotron screen outside. The Rev. Rick Warren gave the keynote address, and demonstrators who disagreed with his stands against gay marriage and abortion rights denounced his prominent place on the program as an unfitting honor. PAGE A14

ACCEPTANCE OF OBAMA GROWS

President-elect Barack Obama failed to win a single county in Oklahoma in the November election. And though few interviewed in the state believe he would fare much better in a do-over, there has been a shift toward accepting what the majority of the country wrought in giving Mr. Obama a lopsided victory. PAGE A20

REACHING ACROSS THE AISLE

President-elect Barack Obama and his advisers are making a visible effort to reach out to Congressional Republicans, and the fervent courtship is turning the debate on the economic package into a test of whether the Obama White House can put an end to years of distrust between the parties and overcome their recent inability to shape consensus legislation. PAGE A20

OBAMA TO EASE INSURANCE RULES

The incoming administration said it plans to undo a Bush administration policy that has impeded state efforts to provide health insurance to children from low- and middle-income families, one of many policies the Obama White House hopes to plan or change in its first weeks of the new administration. PAGE A19

Obituaries

JOSe TORRES, 72

He learned to box while in the Army and went on to become a light-heavyweight champion. Mr. Torres, at right, later became a boxing official and a literary presence in the sport as a biographer of Muhammad Ali and Mike Tyson. PAGE B31

International

LEADING RUSSIAN RIGHTS LAWYER

Killed Along With Journalist

Stanislav Y. Markelov, a prominent Russian lawyer known for pursuing contentious human rights and social justice cases, was killed in a brazen daylight assassination in central Moscow, along with Anastasia Baburova, a freelance journalist who was with him. The lawyer had just left a news conference where he had announced that he would continue to fight the early release from prison of a former Russian tank commander imprisoned for murdering a young Chechen woman. PAGE A6

WRITER SENTENCED FOR INSULT

An Australian novelist, Harry Nicolaides, was sentenced to three years in prison for insulting the Thai monarchy in a self-published novel, which reportedly sold fewer than a dozen copies. The case was brought under the country's strict lese-majeste laws, which call for a prison term of up to 15 years for anyone who "defames, insults or threatens the king, the queen, the heir to the throne or the regent." PAGE A8

RUSSIA AND UKRAINE REACH PACT

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko of Ukraine and Russia signed a deal in their dispute over the price of natural gas and the terms of its transit across Ukraine to Europe, and said they would quickly resume shipments of fuel to freezing homes and idled factories. PAGE A11

ISRAELI ARABS RECOIL AT ATTACKS

Whenever Israel has been in conflict with its neighbors, the allegiances of its Arab citizens have been tested, and their empathy has often been with the other side. But this war was worse, they say, because it was waged against their own people and they were watching it as it happened. The feelings of estrangement could last long after the Gaza war. PAGE A12

QUESTIONS ABOUT GAZA TARGETS

As Gazans surveyed the destruction of their city, and many wondered why so many civilian institutions had been hit in Israel's raids. But Israel argues that those institutions help funnel money, supplies and people to <u>Hamas</u>, which it considers a terrorist organization, and for that reason they are legitimate targets in Israel's efforts to weaken the group. PAGE A12

CLERIC URGES IRAQIS TO VOTE

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most influential Shiite cleric, exhorted people to vote in the coming provincial elections. His urging is significant because he had exerted some influence on past elections, and his approval of the

elections could increase turnout in the Jan. 31 vote, in which 14 of Iraq's 18 provinces will choose councils that function like state legislatures. PAGE A13

CHINA NAMES NEW HOLIDAY

In naming the holiday set aside to commemorate the Chinese Communist Party's takeover of Tibet on March 28, 1959 -- Serf Emancipation Day -- China clearly intended to needle the Dalai Lama. PAGE A13

New York

ANXIETY GRIPS RESTAURANTS,

And None More Than the New

In the hard-knocks restaurant business of New York, it's not even easy to be the old kid on the block, let alone a new one. The economy has twisted that dagger a little further, for new establishments the anxiety is palpable. Page A27

BIGGIE'S BED-STUY, THEN AND NOW

The blocks where Christopher Wallace -- a k a rapper Biggie Smalls -- grew up, became a drug dealer and then a rapper have changed. In a space where worlds collide, there are now organic markets, wine stores and children who talk about rappers like Lil' Wayne and T.I. But there are hints of Biggie's Bed-Stuy if you know where to look. Page A30

Business

SMALL BUILDERS REEL AS BANKS

Step Up Foreclosure Efforts

When the housing crisis began, many banks avoided cracking down on small home builders. That's over now. Small home builders are weighed down by billions in loans taken out during a favorable market. As banks -- during a crisis of their own -- foreclose on these loans, as many as 50 percent of small home builders are expected to fail. Page B1

Britain Adds \$147 Billion in Bailout B1

CISCO PLANS LEAP TO SERVERS

Cisco makes most of its profit -- \$40 billion a year -- through its networking equipment. But Cisco's planned release of a server computer with sophisticated virtualization software could change the technology industry and put the company in competition with traditional partners. Page B1

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

An almost magical investment called Gemstone VII -- an amalgam of financial instruments -- was touted during its pitch as having virtually no risk. Just like water front property in the Sahara, it was too good to be true. Now the issue is who should have to carry the weight of the losses. Page B1

OLD TRICKS IN A NEW AGE

India is left wondering if the "New India" was real, or a myth in the wake of a billion-dollar scandal at Satyam Computer Services. For such a new beginning, this was very old style corruption. Page B1

Breaking Views

Shifty Jackpots and Trouble Assets B2

AN ESPIONAGE FAVORITE FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE

Regular folks are beginning to avail themselves of dual passports, qualifying for them for various reasons like ethnic heritage or religion. Those passports, some more versatile than others, can open up doors like being free to work without restriction. Page B6

Arts

A MUSICAL MAKES ITS WAY

From Broadway Back to Utah

"Passing Strange," an offbeat tale of a black musician's coming of age, was well-received by critics before its Broadway run ended last year. Spike Lee was one of its many admirers; he liked it so much he wanted to adapt the musical to film. The film is now being screened at the Sundance Film Festival, which is unfamiliar territory for both Mr. Lee and the playwright, Stew. PAGE C1

A TRIBUTE TO A CHAMPION OF SONG

The mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne has given more than 1,300 recitals in her career and has created a foundation to preserve the art of the song recital. On Sunday, some of the recipients of that foundation's grants, along with other notable vocal artists, held a birthday tribute concert at Carnegie Hall in her honor. A review by Anthony Tommasini. PAGE C1

BROOKLYN ACADEMY THINKS BIG

What recession? While other cultural organizations around the city are cutting back, the Brooklyn Academy of Music is planning a \$300 million expansion. PAGE C1

A BOMBER MEETS AN AUTHOR

The play "Terre Haute" imagines a series of death-row conversations between the novelist Gore Vidal and Timothy J. McVeigh, who was executed for bombing the Oklahoma City Federal Building in 1995. But the interaction between the pair, initially one of mutual fascination and curiosity, eventually gives way to revulsion. A review by Charles Isherwood. PAGE C1

Arts, Briefly C2

Venice Baroque Orchestra in Boston C2

TWO TAKES ON A MELODRAMA

The best-selling 1929 novel "Magnificent Obsession" inspired a film in 1935 and another in 1954. The Criterion Collection has released both versions in a double-disc set, and the performances in both are reminders that believability in acting is a constantly moving target. Dave Kehr, Critic's Choice. PAGE C3

Dance Review: 'Borrowed Bones' C5

AFTER A GENERATION OF BIG DREAMS

Michiko Kakutani reviews new books by Gwen Ifill, the moderator and managing editor of "Washington Week," on PBS, and Jabari Asim, the editor in chief of The Crisis, which look into the cultural ramifications of Barack Obama's election victory. PAGE C7

Sports

PLAYER'S DEATH REVIVES DEBATE

Over Fighting in Hockey

The death of an amateur hockey player in Canada after an on-ice fight has reignited the argument on what role, if any, fighting should have in the sport. PAGE B12

TWO VERY DIFFERENT PASTS

The two teams set to face off in the Super Bowl could not have more divergent histories. The Pittsburgh Steelers' trophy case is crowded; another Super Bowl victory would give them more championships than any other franchise. Meanwhile, the Cardinals' postseason history isn't much of a history at all. PAGE B17

Cardinals' Decades of Woe B17

JETS NAME NEW COACH

The Jets named Rex Ryan, formerly the Baltimore Ravens defensive coordinator, as their new head coach. Page B14

Science Times

AS MORE DRUGS ARE MADE ABROAD,

Safety Concerns Multiply in U.S.

Once, most pills consumed in the United States were made in the United States. Now, most drug plants have moved to Asia because labor, construction, regulatory and environmental costs are lower there. Lawmakers and pharmaceutical experts are growing more and more worried that the nation is too reliant on medicine from abroad, and they are calling for a law that would require some drugs be made or stockpiled in the United States. PAGE D1

IMPETUSES FOR FEMALE SCIENTISTS

With the new president's apparent enthusiasm for science, and the rise of "geek chic," many scientists say now is the time to tackle a chronic problem in their enterprise: a dearth of **women** in the field. PAGE D1

Talking With Robert L. Martensen D2

Q+a: Do Eskimos Eat Their Veggies? D2

NUMBER OF REEF FISH FALLING FAST

The seemingly insatiable appetite for live reef fish across Southeast Asia -- and increasingly in mainland China -- is devastating fish populations in a protected marine region around Indonesia, the Philippines and the Solomon Islands that is home to the world's richest ocean diversity, according to a recent report in the scientific journal Conservation Biology. PAGE D3

ROCK REVEALS EARLY MOON'S CORE

A moon rock collected more than 36 years ago -- when someone from the earth last visited the Moon -- suggests that the Moon's molten core may have once churned and generated a magnetic field. PAGE D3

Observatory: Cooling Crops D3

Really? Eye Color Can Affect Vision D5

Good Times in an Empty Nest D5

After Hookup, an E-Card Warning D5

Health

Nostalgia for the Cave Life

Movies like "10,000 B.C." are popular because they appeal to a sense that life used to be simpler, more in sync with the environment and with how humans evolved, Marlene Zuk, a biology professor at the University of California, Riverside, writes. But, the notion that there was a time of perfect adaptation, from which we've now deviated, is a caricature of the way evolution works, she says. PAGE D5

SEX AND DEPRESSION

As everyone knows, sex feels good. Or does it? In recent years, Richard A. Friedman, M.D. encountered several patients for whom sex was not just unpleasurable; it seemed to cause harm, he writes. PAGE D6

Global Update D6

Vital Signs D6

Trying Anything for Autism D7

Editorial

THE PROMISE OF GOVERNMENT

When he accepted his party's nomination last year, Barack Obama repudiated the "you're on your own" ethos that had come to define the government's relationship to the people. With the \$825 billion economic recovery plan unveiled last week, he is already on track to fulfill his pledge. Page A32

MAYBE, FINALLY, A WILDERNESS BILL

The Senate last week gave final approval to an omnibus public lands bill that would designate more than two million acres across nine states from California to West Virginia as permanent wilderness. The House can now honor the country by passing the bill. Page A32

A MORE DYSFUNCTIONAL F.E.C.

Hardly known for vigor or vigilance, the Federal Election Commission is about to undergo well deserved scrutiny from President-elect Barack Obama's administration. Page A32

Op-Ed

BOB HERBERT

A look back at the many who are no longer with us, but who contributed so much to a profoundly historic moment. Page A33

DAVID BROOKS

Barack Obama's challenge will be to translate the social repair that has occurred over the past decade into political and governing repair. Part of that will be done with his inaugural address today. Part of that will be done with his governing style. Page A33

OP-CHART

The wait for the presidency. Page A33

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Body

Career in ruins

Rugby

You don't expect to see a 6ft, 19-stone rugby player crying, but in a televised interview on Tuesday, England prop forward Matt Stevens had tears in his eyes as he confessed to being hooked on a drug, widely assumed to be cocaine. Suspended by both England and Bath, his club, after a positive drugs test, the 26-year-old, who was thought to earn Eur150,000 a year, admitted he had started counselling. His career now appears to be in ruins.

"I was tested for a prohibited substance," Stevens, who has won 32 caps, told Sky News. "It is pretty distressing talking about this when I think how much effort so many people have put into my career. I have thrown it away through irresponsible behaviour. Like any drug problem, you do not know it is happening and then it mounts up. Before you know it, you are sitting there with an illness." While Bath admitted feeling "let down" by their player, fellow professionals said they would stand by him. Lawrence Dallaglio, a former England forward, said: "These are the sort of tough times when a guy discovers who his friends really are."

A-bomb appeal

Compensation A thousand former servicemen went to the High Court on Wednesday to seek compensation for atomic bomb tests carried out more than 50 years ago.

As a 19-year-old sent out to Christmas Island in the 1950s, Donald James was "as fit as a soldier could be". After witnessing five nuclear experiments over the course of a year, his health deteriorated and he has since been diagnosed with a rare blood disorder. "They told us to squat down with our backs to the blast and put our hands in front of our eyes. When you did that you could see the bones of your hands through the flesh," he recalled.

James is certain that his condition, which has also affected his daughter, who has gynaecological problems, can be traced back to his exposure to radiation.

The Ministry of Defence is arguing that the veterans' claims have been brought too late to qualify for compensation, but Clive Hyer, the servicemen's lawyer, said: "I think we have cutting-edge science which demonstrates the link."

Legal tender

Currency Scotland's only Conservative MP, David Mundell, has launched a private member's bill in Westminster that would require all providers of goods or services in the UK to accept Scotlish banknotes. Traders south of the border can refuse to take notes that are printed by the Royal Bank of Scotland, Bank of

Scotland and Clydesdale Bank. Mundell said: "What I am saying is, if a business accepts a Bank of England note, it would be under an obligation to accept the equivalent Scottish note - provided there was no suggestion that it was not genuine."

The beast is back

Politics He's back: one of the biggest beasts of the Conservative party, the former chancellor of the exchequer Kenneth Clarke, is to return to the Tory front bench as shadow business secretary.

The party's leader, David Cameron, announced the surprise move on Monday, saying that the 68-year-old would bring experience to the top team. "Having him means we now offer a real alternative government," said George Osborne, the shadow chancellor, who instigated the appointment.

Clarke, renowned for his love of jazz, cigars and brown suede shoes, will be pitted against Labour's Peter Mandelson in parliament. However, the rebellious senior Tory's pro-European stance could yet cause ructions with his own party: "Cameron and Clarke agree to disagree on Europe," said a Tory source.

Top of the pops

Music The Brit award nominations were led by old favourites Coldplay and new star Duffy when they were announced last week. Coldplay and lead singer Chris Martin were nominated for four gongs, including best British group and best British album for their latest work, Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends. Welsh singer Duffy, below, whose debut work Rockferry was the biggest-selling album in the UK last year, was also nominated in four categories, including best British *female* and best breakthrough act.

Some of the awards, hosted this year by Kylie Minogue, and comedy duo James Corden and Mathew Horne, will be decided by public votes.

Despicable mother

Courts "Truly despicable" was how a judge described the crimes of mother-of-seven Karen Matthews on Friday. Sentencing the 33-year-old to eight years in jail for kidnapping and imprisoning her nine-year-old daughter Shannon in a Eur50,000 abduction scam, Mr Justice McCombe said: "It is impossible to conceive how you could have found it in you to put this young girl through the ordeal that you inflicted upon her." Shannon, now 10, was snatched on her way home after a school swimming trip, drugged, and held for 24 days in a flat belonging to Michael Donovan, 40, a relative. He received an eight-year sentence last week.

Matthews made tearful appeals during the hunt for Shannon, but the court heard that it was all a charade, part of a plot dreamt up by her and Donovan to claim reward money they expected to be offered for the child's return. The police officer leading the investigation described Matthews as "pure evil" but her defence lawyer, Frances Oldham, demurred. "She is not Myra Hindley, she is not Rose West," she said..

Park Lane squat

Invasion Squatters have invaded two Eur15m mansions in one of Britain's most exclusive roads, just yards from Madonna's London home. Thirty artists, students and musicians, one of whom is pictured above, set up home in the seven-storey houses in Park Lane after, they say, sneaking in through an open door in the basement.

According to The Sun, the new residents pass their time playing guitars while their dogs foul the rooms.

Meanwhile, they are planning a nighttime exhibition of their art at No 95.

"It feels pretty good," said squatter Daniel Moreira, 20, a performing arts student. "It's the dream of everyone in London to live for a little bit on Park Lane."

Brontë's model

Auction What price a doll's house probably decorated by Charlotte Brontë, author of Jane Eyre? The George II four-room house, complete with miniature furniture and dolls, went way over its Eur8,000 guide price last week, finally going under the hammer at Eur14,000.

Redecorated by Brontë in the summer of 1839, when she worked as a governess for the Sidgwicks, a wealthy family in Yorkshire, the house was part of the private collection of antique dealer Roger Warner. Warner, whose shop in Burford, Oxfordshire, attracted customers including Walt Disney and Princess Margaret, is thought to have paid about Eur400 for it in 1974.

Victim's anguish

Rape A schoolgirl with learning difficulties who was filmed being gang-raped and then doused in caustic soda to destroy any evidence said she had tried to forgive her attackers.

"My family has always taught me to forgive and to pray for others. But I have to think about what has happened . .

I hope one day they will feel sorry for what they have done to me," the 16-year-old, who is scarred for life, told Wood Green crown court.

As their victim, who has a mental age of nine, cried out in pain, the men filmed the attack on their mobile phones; in the recordings, their laughter can clearly be heard.

Three of the gang who raped the schoolgirl in Tottenham, north London, last January were jailed for a total of 23 years on Monday. Stephen Bigby had also been charged with the rape but was fatally stabbed in a knife fight on Oxford Street before he could face trial.

Airborne babies

Twins Premature twins who had to be transferred from hospital in Stornoway to the mainland on an RAF Hercules are in a stable condition in Princess Royal Maternity Hospital in Glasgow. The twins - a boy and a girl - were delivered, at 27 weeks, to Chrissie Mary Macinnes, of Tobson, on Great Bernera, off the west coast of Lewis.

Doctors worked through the night to stabilise the twins before the flight to Glasgow, but with snow and gales battering the island it was too risky to use an air ambulance, so the military aircraft was scrambled. The twins will remain in hospital for another 10 or 11 weeks, until the time of their due date.

TOP STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Milk men to die

1 China Two men are to be executed for their role in the tainted milk scandal that killed six babies and made 300,000 others sick. The former head of a dairy firm, Tian Wenhua, 66, who was accused of attempting to cover up the crime, was jailed for life. Geng Jinping, a middleman, and Zhang Yujun, a manufacturer who mixed and sold the milk, were sentenced to death.

The government has sought to portray the verdicts as proof of its efforts to ensure food safety, but relatives of the victims accuse the authorities of holding a show trial. "I think they are scapegoats. The milk producers' association

and the people in charge of checking the milk should also be punished," said Liu Donglin, the father of a baby who was made ill by the milk.

Tycoon's suicide

2 Ireland Neighbours spotted property tycoon Patrick Rocca in his pyjamas, wandering outside his luxury home in Dublin on Monday morning. Hours later, the 41-year-old had become the latest victim of the economic downturn after shooting himself in the head. Rocca, a poster boy for Ireland's economy, had rubbed shoulders with the rich and famous: he lent his helicopter to Bill Clinton whenever he was in Ireland and played tennis with Alan Sugar. His suicide is understood to have been prompted by the fear of financial ruin: Rocca, reported to be worth Eur463m in 2007, is understood to have lost millions in the banking crisis.

Nursery killings

3 Belgium Two babies and an adult were stabbed to death when a man ran amok with a knife in a nursery school..

Ten children and two adults were injured in the attack in the town of Dendermonde. The grown-ups had tried to save the youngsters by throwing themselves between the knifeman and the children.

The murder suspect called at the crÈche on Friday morning, claiming to be carrying a message. He then barged through the door and bolted upstairs where he began attacking babies indiscriminately. "The guy just went crazy," said Theo Janssens, the deputy mayor. Eighteen children up to the age of three were in the crÈche. A 20-year-old man is being questioned by police..

Exit Supermum

4 France Justice minister Rachida Dati has left President Nicolas Sarkozy's government 21 days after giving birth.

The 43-year-old has confirmed that she is to "resign" to stand in second place on a list for Sarkozy's party for the European parliamentary elections. A party insider claimed: "Everything has fallen into place quite painlessly." Dati, below, was praised at the time of her appointment in 2007 as the first person from a north African background to reach a senior French cabinet position, but her reputation has suffered since. Critics have accused her of indulging her taste for luxury and being heavy-handed with magistrates, prison guards and her staff.

Shelling inquiry

5 Gaza The Israel Defence Forces has launched an investigation into the alleged use of white phosphorus shells in densely populated parts of the Gaza Strip during its recent offensive against <u>Hamas</u> militants, but insists that their use was not illegal.

Ygal Palmor, a foreign ministry spokesman, said the investigation had so far found no evidence to support the claims. The United Nations has released photographs that it alleges show white phosphorus - which, like napalm, burns flesh - raining down on a United Nations school in Beit Lahiya.

Handbags at dawn

6 Italy A catfight has broken out between two of Italy's leading fashion houses after Giorgio Armani, the luxury designer, accused Dolce & Gabbana of copying one of his designs for a pair of trousers. The row, dubbed "trousergate" by fashion industry insiders, erupted during men's fashion week in Milan.

Armani, 74, the doyen of Italian fashion, claims that the fashion duo displayed a pair of quilted trousers, which are an almost exact copy of a pair he unveiled on the catwalk last year. "Now they copy, later they will learn," Armani told reporters. Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana hit back at his comments: "For sure we still have much to learn, but certainly not from him."

Rebel chief held

7 Rwanda The leader of the most powerful rebel army in eastern Congo has been arrested. Laurent Nkunda, 41, fled to Rwanda after an attack on his base camp at Bunagana in eastern Congo. Lambert Mende Omalanga, the Congolese information minister, welcomed the arrest, saying: "I think it is a good achievement for peace and security in this region." Nkunda has been accused of numerous human rights violations, including an outrage last November at

Kiwanja, where his men burnt camps housing 30,000 refugees. Rwanda has not yet said whether it will hand Nkunda over to the Democratic Republic of Congo government.

Ransom paid

8 Greece Kidnappers released a prominent Greek shipping magnate who had been held captive for eight days after his wife paid a reported Eur28m ransom for his release. Pericles Panagopoulos, 74, was abducted at gunpoint near his home in the southern Athens suburb of Vouliagmeni.

His wife and driver dropped off the ransom at an undisclosed location.

Panagopoulos, the founder of Greece's largest ferry company, suffers from diabetes and has a serious heart condition.

He said his captors treated him well but did not reveal where he was held or how many people were involved in the kidnapping.

Mills defiant

9 Italy David Mills, the estranged husband of Tessa Jowell, the minister for the Olympics, has apologised to Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian prime minister, for causing him "bother", but denied corruption. Mills, 64, is accused of taking a Eur350,000 bribe from Berlusconi, but responded: "I have never been corrupted by anyone." In her summing up of the prosecution case, Gabriella Vanadia claimed that Mills had admitted taking the money from the Italian prime minister three times then retracted the confession. Berlusconi was originally jointly accused with Mills in the case before a new law last June granted him immunity. A verdict is expected on February 3.

Vice ring smashed

10 France Five British <u>women</u> were among 40 high-class prostitutes caught working for a vice ring near Paris. The <u>women</u>, who were charging up to Eur8,000 a night, were working for a 39-year-old French madame arrested this week. Her vice girls also included 10 French <u>women</u> and 25 eastern Europeans.

Although it is not illegal to work as a prostitute in France, it is illegal to live off immoral earnings.

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Byline: Greer Fay Cashman

Highlight: The Ofer brothers are still donating generously despite their substantial losses. GRAPEVINE

Body

ACCORDING TO the refrain in an old song, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Over the past year, we've seen both get poorer, but worst affected were people in the middle income bracket, who suddenly found themselves poor.

For the poor it was just more of the same, and for the rich, it was living with less, but still a lot. Which explains how shipping and real estate magnates Sammy and Eyal Ofer were ranked 8th on the Sunday Times Rich List in Britain, despite the fact that they had lost £659 million. Their current estimated wealth is £2.677 billion.

Under the circumstances, they would hardly miss what they've lost. Proof is in the millions of pounds that father and son gave away since the start of the economic crunch.

* SOMETIMES THERE'S a happy ending in the story of the poor as in the case of the workers of Vita Pri Hagalil. The badly mismanaged company was threatened with closure and the workers, who were in most cases barely earning a living wage, had little or no chance of finding employment elsewhere in Hatzor Haglilit.

For four months Moti Haziza, the chairman of the worker's union, waged a relentless battle with the banks, with politicians and with potential buyers, to keep Pri Hagalil open. Haziza doesn't have an MBA. He doesn't even have a matriculation certificate. But he has street smarts and a big heart.

It also helped that the media were not only on his side, but on the side of all the hapless people who just wanted the chance to keep the little that they had.

Potential buyers came and went. Either they couldn't satisfy the banks or they were unwilling to keep on all the workers, or they wanted to erode the working conditions which were nothing to write home about in the first place.

Then along came the knight in shining armor, Zachi Shalom, the owner of the Hetzi Hinam chain of supermarkets, who agreed to leave all the workers in place and to leave their working conditions intact. At the end of last week they had a huge blast of a celebration, before resuming work on Sunday. To them, Israel's 61st Independence Day was probably the sweetest ever.

* FOLLOWING REPORTS and retractions about rising anti- Semitism in Norway, comes a historical travelling exhibition about Jewish life in Norway from the mid-19th century until 1945.

The exhibition, entitled "Wergeland's Legacy," is a mark of appreciation to Norway's national poet Henrik Wergeland, whose battle to repeal the clause in the Norwegian constitution that banned Jews from entering the country was finally won in the Norwegian Parliament in 1851.

Although the law was amended, popular sentiment was not, and there was a lot of anti-Jewish feeling in Norway. As a result, the Jewish population was never very high, although Norway was one destination of Jews fleeing the pogroms of Russia and neighboring countries.

From the time of the repeal to around 1920, some 1,200 Jews settled in Norway, and most of today's Jewish community is descended from this group. The number of Jews increased in the 1930s, bolstered by those who fled Nazi Germany, but Norway was not a pleasant place for them because vitriolic anti-Jewish propaganda led to violence against Jews.

Even with the refugees, the Norwegian Jewish population at its peak was slightly in excess of 2,000, and several hundred of them were deported by the Nazis. Today, Norway's Jewish population numbers about one thousand.

The exhibition will be opened on Tuesday, May 5, at Beth Hatefutsoth, by Norwegian Ambassador Jakken Biern Lian, along with Olav Aaraas, Director of the Norwegian Museum of Cultural History in Oslo and Sidsel Levin, director of the Jewish Museum of Oslo.

It is based on material gathered through the Norwegian-Jewish Documentation Project of the Norwegian Museum of Cultural History in Oslo in cooperation with the Jewish Community of Oslo, and includes interviews with Norwegian Jews born before the war.

Photographs in the exhibition come from private albums which were buried, hidden by friends, or taken along by Jews fleeing from Norway to Sweden.

* BECAUSE ANZAC Day, April 25, fell on a Saturday this year, Australian Ambassador James Larsen decided to hold the ceremony two days earlier - and if he was already making a departure from tradition, he also decided to hold it at a more convenient hour than in the past.

ANZAC Day commemorates the disastrous dawn landing at Gallipoli by Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought in the First World War. In recent years, the service at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Jerusalem was also held at dawn, but this time Larsen decided to hold it at 10 a.m.

Although diplomatic events are generally punctual, this one was not. Larsen decided to wait for US Ambassador James Cunningham, who arrived 10 minutes late.

But this was completely forgivable because, unlike most of the allied countries who fought in the First World War, the US is almost always represented by its ambassador at ANZAC Day ceremonies in Israel, whereas most of the other countries tend to rely on diplomats of lower rank and on military attaches.

For several years now, there has also been a representative of the Turkish Embassy to join the other wreath-layers, and Larsen, in his address, noted the courage of Turkish soldiers, thousands of whom, like thousands of ANZACS, had laid down their lives in the Gallipoli campaign.

Joining in this year's ANZAC Day commemoration was Jay Weatherill, South Australian Minister for Environment and Conservation, who had come to Israel as the guest of the Jewish National Fund for the inauguration of the South Australia Israel Friendship Forest - part of the Yatir Forest, the largest planted forest in the country.

ANZAC biscuits were served at a small reception that Larsen hosted after the ANZAC Day ceremony.

On Saturday, Australian ambassadors in other parts of the world including Turkey, conducted services. Hundreds of Australians gathered at the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli, where Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith laid a wreath.

* EDUCATION MINISTER Gideon Sa'ar is taking his duties very seriously. Last week when he visited the Tel Aviv Ironi Tet High School, he delivered a history lesson on Herzl and anti-Semitism, and created sufficient interest in the subject to elicit questions from the students whom he later joined at recess in a game of soccer.

Sa'ar was so pleased with the experiment that he is now going to make it a regular practice to visit different schools and give a history lesson.

Sa'ar already has a law degree and he's a seasoned politician. Now it looks like he's pursuing a third profession.

* UNLESS THEY'RE of a nature to mark a milestone in the reign of a monarch or a special event in the career of a governor, general, a president or a prime minister, stamps depicting the likenesses of living people are not usually issued.

So it was a very pleasant surprise for Communications Minister Moshe Kahlon, when Avi Hochman, CEO of the Israel Postal Company, presented him with a set of stamps that bore his likeness. The occasion was the launch of the Postal Company's first retail store, which is not unlike any regular office supplies store in terms of merchandise except that it also offers postal services that are not necessarily available in regular stores.

Kahlon chaired the Knesset Economic Affairs Committee that approved the setting up of stores in post offices, and in so doing, earned his image on a stamp.

The launch, Kahlon's first public appearance as minister, took place at the Central Post Office in Jerusalem. It was attended by members of the Jerusalem City Council, including Mayor Nir Barkat and numerous postal employees. Members of the public, who went past the post office that evening and heard the strains of a jazz band, wondered what on earth was going on.

The buffet, which had the usual Moroccan delicacies, was also laden with trays of sushi. It's actually rare to go to a reception in Jerusalem these days without finding sushi on the menu.

Ariel Jacoby, chairman of the State Employees Committee, reminded Kahlon that he had told him that he would be a minister one day, and noted that nearly all communications ministers had gone on to greater things.

- * WHILE ON the subject of stamps, Polish Ambassador Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska, in company with the Polish Post and the Israel Postal Company, will host a ceremony marking the Israel-Poland joint stamp issue dedicated to Polish Year in Israel and to Berel Joselewicz, a Jewish fighter for Polish freedom. The ceremony will be held at Yad Leshiryon in Latrun on Sunday, May 3.
- * TEL AVIV Mayor Ron Huldai was a guest at the weekly cabinet meeting last Sunday to receive the congratulations of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on Tel Aviv's centenary celebrations.

Netanyahu described Tel Aviv as "the city that never ceases to amaze us, a truly international city, an effervescent, creative and commercial city; a city of entertainment, technology and unceasing creativity, a city of the present and of the future."

Netanyahu noted that Tel Aviv "has one characteristic that outshines everything: It is a Hebrew city, the first Hebrew city. In my eyes, it symbolizes renewal alongside continuity, which is the basic characteristic of the State of Israel, the state of the Jewish people that has returned to its homeland and is building a new life."

As a Jerusalemite, he said, he wanted to congratulate Huldai for everything that he and the people of Tel Aviv are doing.

For all that, Tel Aviv is being left to find its own funding for special projects. Netanyahu announced that he had informed Huldai that the government is prepared to give him moral, if not budgetary, support in restoring Dizengoff Square to its original state.

* NOTWITHSTANDING HIS fondness for luxuries, former prime minister Ehud Olmert is no snob and is known to be a people person. Thus he felt no need, now that he's out of office, to notify Shimon Mor, the manager of the Mevasseret Zion branch of the Rami Levy supermarket, that he was coming by to do his weekend shopping.

Aside from the fact that he was accompanied by three bodyguards, Olmert, who now lives in nearby Motza Illit, behaved like any other customer, checking out the products on the shelves and gradually filling his shopping cart as he wandered up and down the aisles.

And when he got to the checkout counter, he waited in line just like anyone else.

Some of the other customers came over to shake his hand and wish him well. Despite the nonchalant attitude, Olmert has a lot on his mind - including several police investigations and his health.

* THERE WAS a hint of Michelle Obama in Jerusalem this week. No, America's first lady was not in the capital, but a fabulous Margon black silk organza coat with sleeves belled below the elbow, identical to one that Obama wore to a recent reception, won admiring oohs and aahs from Jerusalem socialites who accepted an invitation to visit the Amica store in the Windmill complex in Rehavia.

Socialites are rarely averse to seeing new fashion collections, but they would have come to this one under any circumstances because fellow socialite Mimi Kanfu, who used to be in the hotel business, has forsaken it in favor of fashion.

The effervescent Kanfu is now the owners' representative for the Amica chain and invited many of her friends to come see the new fashions from Italy and Germany, with black and white as the dominant colors and tangerine, apricot, strong lilac and turquoise brightening up the fashion landscape.

Favorite fabrics are pure cotton, linen and silk, and many of the dresses and jackets are fully lined. Styling is both classic and romantic, leaving plenty of leeway for generation gaps.

Veteran model Hani Perry and her daughter Daniella proved that mother and daughter, even though they don't look alike, look equally good in identical outfits.

Perry frequently models for <u>women</u> in her own 50-plus age group, because once they see her in an outfit, it gives them a sense of confidence.

* FEW PEOPLE in Israel work as hard as President Shimon Peres, who keeps going from dawn till well after dusk.

Towards the end of last week Peres met with Egyptian Intelligence Chief Omar Suleiman after regular working hours in his private apartment at Beit Hanassi. He also met with the Chinese foreign minister and the Czech prime minister, visited the Druse village of Daliyat el-Carmel, and participated in the Earth Day ceremony in Jerusalem as well as other trips and meetings.

He also started this week with a visit to Kibbutz Yavne and on Monday and Tuesday attended a series of memorial ceremonies. On Independence Day he hosted two military ceremonies in the morning, a diplomatic ceremony in the late afternoon and participated in the Israel Prize ceremony in the evening. There were also meetings and activities not listed on his schedule.

For a man in his mid-eighties, that's pretty good going.

* FOLLOWING ON the tremendous success of the Facing Tomorrow conference that he sponsored last year in celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary, Peres recently announced the Presidents Conference II, which like its predecessor is expected to bring many current and former world leaders to Jerusalem.

However, unlike the first conference, the second conference will not coincide with the Gregorian calendar date of Israel's Independence, which has been reserved for the pope's visit. Instead, it will be held on October 20- 22, after Succot, and will be called Facing Tomorrow 2009.

Invitees will include heads of state, heads of government and senior ministers, leading figures from the world of business and presidents of universities and Jews who have achieved renown in their respective fields, among them actress Sarah Jessica Parker, best known for her starring role in the television series and subsequent movie Sex and the City.

Last year, a lot of publicity was given to the anticipated participation of singer and film star Barbra Streisand, who bowed out at almost the last minute, but absence did little if anything to spoil the luster of the event.

* PRIOR TO the annual International Bible Quiz, which has become part and parcel of Israel Independence Day ceremonies, Peres hosted the 47 contestants from 24 countries, and told them that the Bible is the most important and enduring asset of the Jewish people.

Each of the contestants, most of them speaking Hebrew, introduced themselves by name, age and country. Their ages range from 13 to 18.

Peres characterized the Bible as the raison d'etre of the Jewish people, and urged the youngsters to continue to study it.

Rachel Weintraub, 14, a student of the Flatbush Yeshiva in Brooklyn, New York, speaking in Hebrew on behalf of all the contestants, said that they would return to their homes as loyal ambassadors for Israel. She also expressed the wish that abducted soldier Gilad Schalit would return from *Hamas* captivity to his home as soon as possible.

Weintraub fittingly chose a biblical quote from the Book of Isaiah with which to conclude her address.

"They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they learn of war any more."

Graphic

3 photos: PRESIDENT SHIMON Peres and Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman. COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER Moshe Kahlon and Israel Postal Company CEO Avi Hochman display Kahlon's personal stamps. SARAH JESSICA Parker will be the president's guest in October. (Credit: Bloomberg)

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Body

David Horowitz's lifelong journey from one end of the political spectrum to the other continues.

A "red diaper baby," Horowitz was one of the founders of the New Left in the 1960s and edited Ramparts, that movement's largest magazine, but later became a conservative activist and co-author of best-selling biographies of the Rockefellers, Kennedys and Fords, as well as many books of his own.

Earlier this decade, Horowitz turned his attention to academia with 2002's "Uncivil Wars," a book about his crusade against intolerance and racial McCarthyism on campus. In 2003, his Horowitz Freedom Center (horowitzfreedomcenter.org) launched The Campaign for Academic Freedom, an effort to restore academic freedom and open inquiry to college campuses that includes an Academic Bill of Rights. And in 2006, he published "The Professors: The 101 Most Dangerous Academics in America."

Horowitz advances that campaign with "One-Party Classroom: How Radical Professors at America's Top Colleges Indoctrinate Students and Undermine Our Democracy." Co-written with Jacob Laskin and released on March 10 by Crown Forum, the book examines 12 universities nationwide — including Penn State — where courses violate academic standards by amounting to systematic indoctrination in radical politics.

The Trib caught up with Horowitz by phone during a week when he spoke at Penn State and several other Pennsylvania campuses and attended a celebration of his 70th birthday and his new book in Philadelphia. Following are excerpts from that conversation about the book and related topics.

On the basic problem addressed by "One-Party Classroom": For a hundred years, our universities and our schools, generally, have understood that the function of a teacher in a democracy is to teach students how to think, not tell them what to think. If you want your child or if you want yourself to be told what to think, send them to the University of Havana or the University of Tehran, where the function of teachers is to instruct students in what is proper to think, which is of course what the totalitarian dictatorship wants them to think.

In a democracy, we need to educate citizens who can think for themselves. ... And that means presenting two sides to controversial questions, indicating when an opinion is being given by the professor, as opposed to a statement of scientific fact.

All across the country, in every school we've studied ... we have discovered and analyzed courses which are publicly described in the university catalog ... which are blatant attempts to indoctrinate students, and exclusively in radical left-wing agendas. Now, in my view it would be just as reprehensible if professors were abusing students and their classrooms by indoctrinating students in right-wing ideology and agendas.

But ... (these courses are) simply political recruitment and training sessions ... and this is a threat to our democracy. ... When you have millions of students every year going to classrooms where this kind of doctrine is hammered into them, and where the threat of their grades means that at the very least they have to parrot it back, but where they don't get to hear critiques of these absurd views, then you have a serious problem.

Advice for parents and students who might be considering Penn State as a college choice: Well, the first thing they need to do is read my book. "One-Party Classroom," by describing these courses, the problematic courses, the bad courses, in analyzing them, gives you a mini-education in how to go about looking at a college catalog and at the courses offered.

Penn State is a huge school. It's practically a city in itself. There are many terrific departments there ... (but students should) avoid the teachers who are political activists and avoid <u>women</u>'s studies, black studies, usually cultural anthropology is a corrupted field, communications studies is generally bad, cultural studies, peace studies, these are all mini-communist parties operating in the universities.

My parents were communists and I understand the ideology well, and when you teach students that America is ruled by race, gender and class hierarchy, that corporations are evil and America's an imperialist power and that <u>Hamas</u> and other terrorist organizations are freedom fighters, you are teaching communist doctrine.

In my judgment, about 90 percent of professors are doing a decent, good job. They are liberals, but in a moderate sense. So even in their classes, students are being deprived of a good education, because you can't get a good education if they're only telling you half the story. ... The liberal who can do justice to both sides of the argument is rare, and the same would be true of a conservative. Things just don't get on your radar screen if you're focused from one perspective.

The indoctrination process begins in the K-12 schools. This is a much bigger scandal and nothing is being done about it. You have to understand that the teaching unions are radical left-wing parties. They're socialists. They mask their socialist/communist agendas with the term "social justice."

(University president) Graham Spanier and the administration at Penn State, just like the administrations everywhere, are intimidated by these leftists on their faculty because they don't want to be in their crosshairs and called racists or sexists or imperialists or whatever, and so they do nothing. ... (T)he courses described in my book ... are clear violations of Penn State's academic freedom policies. Penn State has the best academic freedom policies in the country and it's got the only ones that apply to students, but with rare exceptions, they're not enforced.

On the role of academic tenure: Tenure protects mediocrity. That's what it's for. It's a completely outmoded idea. ... Since all these radicals who came out of the '60s and subverted and trashed our universities and debased their curriculum have tenure, probably eliminating tenure would be helpful, but I don't think it matters one way or the other too much.

On recourse for students in an indoctrination course and their parents: If they're at Penn State, there's a grievance procedure. ... It's a very difficult situation for a parent. I can tell you the students are intimidated. They fear retribution, so it's very hard to get students to complain.

These faculty radicals force students to conceal their true beliefs and pretend to believe something they don't believe — it's just like a communist country — in order to get a good grade. But if you've gotten your good grade, even though you've been indoctrinated, what's the incentive to lodge a complaint? You have to be a pretty gutsy student to do it.

On the future of higher education: I don't think it's any different from the future of the country, and that's the good news and the bad news. ... The battle for our universities is identical to the battle for the country. ... Barack Obama is a product of a very corrupt and dirty Chicago political machine and Harvard and whatever other schools he went to. He's an academic. That's the culture — Chicago corruption and Marxism.

So the political struggle which the country and conservatives are now engaged in is identical to the struggle in the universities. The problem is that conservatives are just beginning to wake up, in my view, to the actual nature of the Democratic Party and the left. I can't wait for the day when conservatives stop calling them "liberals." There's nothing "liberal" about them. They're intolerant bigots and they want to suppress the other side.

I think that with the Obama administration and the control of three branches of government by the Democrats, conservatives are finally saying, "Gee, they're socialists, they're leftists," and that's good — you have to know who your opponent is in order to fight them. But universities are kind of off the radar screen.

SHELF LIFE: Automakers' right, wrong turns

Americans long have been fascinated not just with driving cars, but with reading about them, too. Just don't try to do both at the same time.

That near-obligatory warning having been given, this is a fitting time to turn to books for a better idea of where the struggling U.S. auto industry has been, how it got from there to here and what sort of path it soon may be on.

Chrysler is just days away from the federal government's April 30 deadline for it and Italian automaker Fiat to present a "viable" plan for Chrysler's future. General Motors is scrambling to meet a June 1 federal deadline for more cost cuts and concessions. What each Detroit automaker presents to Washington, D.C., will go a long way toward determining whether Chrysler and GM get more federal money — and, indeed, survive.

Readers who want to explore the history of and outlook for the U.S. auto industry might find it daunting to choose from among the thousands of books that America's love affair with cars has generated over the years. So the Trib called on the specialized expertise of the business librarians at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Downtown & Business branch, who listed the titles recommended below.

And don't forget that newspapers, magazines and Web sites continue to update the ongoing saga of the industry with each new development and that the library's databases, most of which holders of library cards can access from home, also offer useful information. The Business Source Premier database is one that covers many aspects of the industry.

We've added a couple of picks of our own to round out the list. Happy motoring — and happy reading.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh books related to the auto industry

Shiny new models: Current titles

Who Really Made Your Car?: Restructuring and Geographic Change in the Auto Industry by Thomas Klier & James Rubenstein (W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 2008)

The Turnaround Kid: What I Learned Rescuing America's Most Troubled Companies by Steve Miller (Collins, 2008)

Why GM Matters: Inside the Race to Transform an American Icon by William J. Holstein (Walker & Co., 2009)

Clean Car Wars: How Honda and Toyota are Winning the Battle of the Eco-Friendly Autos by Yozo Hasegawa (John Wiley & Sons, 2008)

Classics: Titles that have stood the test of time

The Reckoning by David Halberstam (Morrow, 1986)

My Years with General Motors by Alfred P. Sloan Jr. (Doubleday/Currency, 1963)

lacocca: An Autobiography by Lee lacocca (Bantam Books, 1984)

The Critical Path: Inventing an Automobile and Reinventing a Corporation by Brock Yates (Little, Brown, 1996)

Comeback: The Fall and Rise of the American Automobile Industry by Paul Ingrassia & Joseph B. White (Simon & Schuster, 1994)

Owner's manuals: Titles that shed light on the origins of today's crisis

Six Men Who Built the Modern Auto Industry by Richard A. Johnson (Motorbooks, 2004)

Billy, Alfred, and General Motors: The Story of Two Unique Men, a Legendary Company, and a Remarkable Time in American History by William Pelfry (Amacom, 2006)

Trust and Power: Consumers, the Modern Corporation, and the Making of the United States Automobile Market by Sally H. Clarke (Cambridge University Press, 2007)

The End of Detroit: How the Big Three Lost Their Grip on the American Car Market by Micheline Maynard (Doubleday, 2005)

Riding the Roller Coaster: A History of the Chrysler Corporation by Charles K. Hyde (Wayne State University Press, 2003)

The People's Tycoon: Henry Ford and the American Century by Steven Watts (A.A. Knopf, 2005)

Henry and Edsel: The Creation of the Ford Empire by Richard Bak (John Wiley & Sons, 2003)

Toyota Culture: The Heart and Soul of the Toyota Way by Jeffrey K. Liker, Michael Hoseus & the Center for Quality People and Organizations (McGraw-Hill, 2008)

How Toyota Became #1: Leadership Lessons from the World's Greatest Car Company by David Magee (Portfolio, 2007)

-- compiled by Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Downtown & Business branch

Driver's choice: Journalistic perspective, Cold War echoes

50 Years with Car and Driver by Martin Padgett (Filipacchi, 2005)

Cars of the Soviet Union: The Definitive History by Andy Thompson (Haynes Publications, 2008)

NEW PAGES TO TURN

The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Great Depression and the New Deal by Robert P. Murphy, Ph.D. (Regnery Publishing)

Released this past Tuesday, the latest installment in Regnery Publishing's series of "Politically Incorrect Guides" presents revisionist history regarding the Great Depression, New Deal and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt --familiar turf to those who've read Amity Shlaes' "The Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression." Author Robert P. Murphy, who earned his doctorate in economics at New York University, is a former professor at Hillsdale College who is now an adjunct scholar at the Ludwig von Mises Institute, a senior fellow at the Pacific Research Institute and an economist with the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and the Institute for Energy Research. He argues that the Crash of '29 was caused by the then-new Federal Reserve's easy money policy, not by capitalism; that President Herbert Hoover made the Depression worse by abandoning the laissez-faire approach; that government intervention caused the 1930s' bank runs and double-digit unemployment that lasted a decade; and that net investment that was less than zero during much of the Depression should be blamed on FDR's policies toward business.

Shut Up, America!: The End of Free Speech by Brad O'Leary (WND Books)

From the title to the publisher's blurbs to the book's content, there's no doubt where author Brad O'Leary is coming from: He sees a major threat to First Amendment rights in the Obama administration, which he argues wants to set up "commissar committees" to police and censor the airwaves, including talk radio, impose a version of the Fairness Doctrine on the Internet and classify Christian radio as "hate speech." He also offers advice about what Americans who love freedom can do to stop those O'Leary identifies as the real enemies of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Paine. President of ATI-News and publisher of the O'Leary Report, both online, O'Leary is the author of 12 books including "The Audacity of Deceit: Barack Obama's War on American Values" and "Are You a Conservative or a Liberal?" He is drawing praise for "Shut Up," which was released on April 14, from such like-minded figures as talk-radio stars Roger Hedgecock and G. Gordon Liddy and National Rifle Association executive vice president Wayne LaPierre.

The Power Problem: How American Military Dominance Makes Us Less Safe, Less Prosperous, and Less Free by Christopher A. Preble (Cornell University Press)

New this month and written by the Cato Institute's director of foreign policy studies, a former commissioned Navy officer, "The Power Problem" sides with Americans' desire for a reduced U.S. military presence abroad, combined with other nations taking more responsibility for self-defense and regional security, and against foreign policy experts who view the public's stance with disdain. Christopher A. Preble argues that vast U.S. military power conflicts with the Founders' intent and has helped shift power away from citizens to the central government and away from the legislative and judicial branches to the executive branch. Being able to wield such military power constantly tempts Washington, D.C., policymakers to overreach and to redefine the "national interest" more broadly, according to Preble, who asserts that the only legitimate use of U.S. military power is in the interests of preserving American security, which he contends has an easy, unchanging definition, and furthering other objectives through military might is illicit and should be resisted.

Too Busy to Shop: Marketing to 'Multi-Minding' Women by Kelley Murray Skoloda (Praeger Publishers)

With "Too Busy to Shop," which hit shelves on March 30, Pittsburgh-area resident Kelley Murray Skoloda aims more at marketers and business owners, though consumers will find insights here, too. A Seton Hill University graduate who holds an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh's Katz Graduate School of Business and a partner/director of Ketchum's global brand marketing practice, Skoloda asserts that <u>women</u> now make more than 80 percent of purchasing decisions in American households. For today's <u>women</u>, she says, multitasking is the past; now, they're "multi-minding," which means juggling home, family, work, social and financial obligations. Conventional marketing doesn't work with these <u>women</u>, who use digital video recorders to skip through commercials and find new-product displays an inconvenience, according to Skoloda. Citing studies, she says friends and family are an increasingly important source of shopping advice for <u>women</u>, who make purchasing decisions before entering stories and are attracted to products from companies involved in issues they consider meaningful.

A Page of Books, written and compiled by Alan Wallace, appears on the last Saturday of each month.

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Body

International

IRAQI PRESS FACES CLASH

Of Principles and Entitlements

Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki of Iraq pledged the government would give plots of land to thousands of journalists, for a nominal price or possibly even free. The pledge might be seen as an attempt to buy favorable coverage ahead of important provincial elections in Iraq, and illustrates the challenges newfound democratic principles face when they clash with entitlements and cozy relationships that previously went unquestioned. PAGE A5

AID STALLED EN ROUTE TO GAZA

A normally quiet border crossing between Egypt and Israel has become a holding area for stalled humanitarian aid, with essential supplies sitting and baking in the sun. Officials and volunteers in Egypt blame the Israelis, saying they have limited when the aid can flow. But Israeli officials said that Egypt had not done enough to coordinate the aid coming to Gaza. PAGE A5

SOMALI CITY UNDER ISLAMIC LAW

The Shabab, one of the most militant Islamist militias fighting for control of Somalia and which had seized Baidoa, the provisional capital, moved to consolidate their control of the town and announced that they were imposing Islamic law there. PAGE A6

Hamburg Journal

A Tete a Tete Over Tots

A day care center lodged in a handsome villa in Hamburg sits empty -- for now at least -- as a lawsuit over the noise made by its tiny charges made its way to Germany's highest court. At the center of the disagreement are two socially desirable but, for now, mutually exclusive goals: noise abatement and increased fertility. PAGE A6

BOMBING SPARKS GAZA CLASH

INSIDE THE TIMES: January 28, 2009

An explosive device killed an Israeli soldier just outside Gaza, which prompted Israel to retaliate with incursions that killed one Palestinian and wounded another, in the first serious confrontations between <u>Hamas</u> and Israel since the tentative cease-fire began. PAGE A8

CHURCH ELECTS NEW PATRIARCH

After a race for the patriarchal throne that played out like a contemporary political campaign, the Russian Orthodox Church elected Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad, an outspoken critic of declining moral values, to succeed Patriarch Aleksy II, who led the church for nearly two decades in the post-Soviet era. PAGE A10

U.N. Hospital Shelled in Sri Lanka A13

National

BLAGOJEVICH'S RELEASED TAPES

Leave a Sour Taste With Many

As part of Rod R. Blagojevich's impeachment trial over accusations that he tried to sell the Senate seat vacated by President Obama, a handful of the phone calls were played aloud in public for the first time. Although the recordings had no mention of the Senate seat, some lawmakers were deeply affected by what they heard. PAGE A19

Statehouse Journal

Swinging Toward the Center

Had Texas, known as a Republican stronghold, had its way, Senator John McCain would be in the Oval Office. So it is hard to imagine a recent coup by moderate Republicans against the arch-conservative speaker, Thomas Craddick. They then engineered the election of Joe Straus, above, a decidedly centrist politician from San Antonio, to the speaker's office. PAGE A14

CONGRESS APPROVES CIVIL RIGHTS BILL

Congress gave final approval to a civil rights bill providing <u>women</u>, blacks and Hispanics with powerful new tools to challenge pay discrimination in the workplace. It is likely to be the first significant legislation signed by President Obama. PAGE A14

WARNING ON U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE

With more than a quarter of the nation's bridges structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, and leaky pipes losing an estimated seven billion gallons of clean drinking water every day, the American Society of Civil Engineers assigned an overall D grade to the nation's infrastructure. It would take an estimated \$2.2 trillion to repair the damage. PAGE A16

\$20 Million Settlement for Veterans A16

MAN KILLS FAMILY AND HIMSELF

A Los Angeles man shot and killed his wife and five young children, including two sets of twins, before taking his own life, apparently out of despair over the couple's losing their jobs at a hospital, the police and city officials said. PAGE A19

BIG INSURER QUITS FLORIDA MARKET

With the state rejecting its proposal to raise its rates by nearly 50 percent, State Farm Florida announced that it would shutter its property insurance business in Florida. PAGE A19

INSIDE THE TIMES: January 28, 2009

SCIENTISTS CRY FOUL PLAY IN F.D.A.

Nine dissident scientists at the Food and Drug Administration who say they were forced to approve medical devices inappropriately sent a letter to President Obama saying that agency officials may have made them the targets of a criminal investigation into their complaints. PAGE A19

New York

DRAWING FIRE ON IMMIGRATION,

Gillibrand Reaches Out

Kirsten E. Gillibrand earned a reputation as tough on illegal immigration, a safe stance in the traditionally Republican district she represented in the House. But her appointment to the Senate has meant that Ms. Gillibrand has had to pivot, reaching out to Hispanic elected officials and pledging to reconsider some of her positions. PAGE A21

'... AND I'M DATING A BANKER'

The bad news on Wall Street has had adverse affects on the personal relationships of bankers, and some of the **women** in their lives have started Dating a Banker Anonymous, a support group founded in November to help each other cope with the inevitable relationship fallout from, say, the collapse of their investment banking firm or a particularly bad day in the markets. PAGE A21

Business

YAHOO'S NEW CHIEF

Faces Tough Challenges

Yahoo posted a net loss of \$303 million for the quarter on a number of one-time charges, and sales were slightly down as marketers tightened their belts in the face of the global recession. And while the results exceeded analysts' expectations, they have heightened the pressure on Carol A. Bartz, who recently took over as chief executive. PAGE B1

MAPPING OUT A PLAN

The eclectic group that sits on the board of Bank of America -- General Tommy Franks, the Public Broadcasting System and the publisher of a Spanish newspaper, among others -- will meet on Wednesday to figure out how to steer the company through its troubled merger with Merrill Lynch. PAGE B1

REVIEWING THE STIMULUS PACKAGE

David Leonhardt takes a look at the stimulus package proposed by President Obama, and finds much to like -- as well as a major flaw. PAGE B1

HOME PRICES FELL IN NOVEMBER

According to the Standard and Poor, the home values in 20 of America's biggest metropolitan areas fell even further in November. Prices in 11 of the 20 metropolitan areas surveyed fell at record rates, and 14 areas reported double-digit declines from November 2007. PAGE B4

Verizon Misses Quarterly Projections B3

JAPAN TO TAKE STAKES IN COMPANIES

Japan's government outlined a plan to put money into ailing small and medium-size companies in exchange for equity stakes, a move that echoes the partial nationalization of some troubled financial firms in the United States and Europe. PAGE B3

BRITAIN GIVES AID TO AUTOMAKERS

Britain announced a \$3.2 billion aid package to its automotive industry, after months of pleas from unions and executives of Jaguar Land Rover and Vauxhall, a General Motors brand. But the country's business secretary emphasized that the "industry is not a lame duck and this is no bailout." PAGE B3

FIRING LEAVES QUESTIONS FOR SAG

Hollywood faces a lot of uncertainty in the wake of the firing of Doug Allen, the guild's executive director and chief architect of its hard-line approach to labor negotiations. Is a strike now off the table? Is the guild ready to accept a contract offer from the studios? And who, if anyone, is running the show? PAGE B7

New York Fed Names New President B8

Sports

EX-N.F.L. PLAYER FOUND TO HAVE

Brain Damage Common in Boxers

Tom McHale, a former N.F.L. lineman who died in May at 45, was the sixth deceased former N.F.L. player age 50 or younger to suffer brain damage commonly associated with boxers. The condition, known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy, is a result of repetitive head trauma. But there is debate between many doctors and the league over the significance of the findings. PAGE B11

THE DRAMA-FILLED OLD DAYS

Joe Torre gave his first interview on "The Yankee Years," his book that has gotten a lot of attention since news articles about it began appearing over the weekend. In the interview, the Dodgers manager played down friction with Brian Cashman and discussed his fraught relationship with third baseman Alex Rodriguez -- all of which sounded remarkably like, well, the Yankee years. PAGE B11

KITSCH FOR THE BIG GAME

The 43 logos from Super Bowls, generally clunky and bold, have been heavy on symbolism, though what they're supposed to symbolize is anyone's guess. Their annual unveiling is often greeted with indifference, but it's a big score for the graphic designer whose idea is chosen. PAGE B11

A BIG HITTER BOUNCES BACK

After a surgery to remove his spleen, Ryan Clark of the Pittsburgh Steelers found himself in a hospital, weak and out of commission. It was a role reversal for the hard-hitting free safety, who has developed a reputation as being dirty and looking to injure opposing players. Harvey Araton, Sports of The Times. PAGE B11

Arts

USING THE BUBBLEGUM

To Sell the Pop

The Clique Girlz, a pop group from New Jersey, have been pitched as "Hannah Montana" in triplicate, but have failed to take off despite heavy promotion from their label. A promotional deal with Topps, the candy and collectibles company owned by the former chief of Disney, Michael Eisner, could finally propel them to stardom. A similar deal

with Topps helped catapult the Jonas Brothers into stardom among the children's demographic, as tweens are among the few remaining reliable buyers of music. PAGE C1

REVISING A NOVELIST'S LEGACY

The reputation of the acclaimed Chilean novelist Roberto Bolano has only grown since his death in 2003, at the age of 50 -- helped in part by a reputation as a hard-living literary outlaw. But his widow, from whom he was separated at the time of his death, and an American agent she recently hired are now challenging part of that image, particularly the author's own suggestion in interviews of a heroin habit. PAGE C1

OUTCRY FOR BRANDEIS MUSEUM PLAN

The Massachusetts attorney general's office said it would review Brandeis University's decision to sell the entire holdings of its Rose Art Museum, a move the struggling university hoped would help shore up its finances. But the museum's board and its director said the university was cannibalizing its cultural heritage to pay its bills. PAGE C1

Books of The Times

Childhood in Minus-40 Weather

Life is hard in "Fifty Miles From Tomorrow," William L. Iggiagruk Hensley's new memoir about growing up in Alaska's sunless hinterlands. Several of the author's relatives die after eating bad flipper meat, a tragedy that gets less space than one might expect. The author insists his childhood was not without its fun: the children played a game in which they accidentally fell through the ice, Dwight Garner writes in his review. PAGE C1

AN EVENING IN BLACK AND WHITE

Young Jean Lee, the playwright of "The Shipment," has given herself over to a seemingly masochistic task: sitting among the audience during performances of her show. The play tries to challenge racial biases of theatergoers, and Ms. Lee has gritted her teeth and felt her skin crawl at times while white and black audience members have audibly reacted -- often along racial lines -- to it. PAGE C3

A WAR HERO IN HER PRIME

"Blessed Is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh" by Roberta Grossman documents the courage of Ms. Senesh, a volunteer paratrooper with the British Army. She joined a 1944 mission to rescue European Jews, but was captured and executed for treason. But Jeanette Catsoulis writes that in lionizing its subject, the film ignores any attempts to delve into Ms. Senesh's personality. PAGE C6

THOSE MEDDLESOME HIGH NOTES

Despite their ability to draw audiences, the soprano Anna Netrebko and the tenor Rolando Villazon became known for their wildly uneven performances. Sometimes they were wonderful. Other times they were shaky. Their sold-out performance of "Lucia di Lammermoor" at the Met had its magical moments, Anthony Tommasini writes, but both were humbled by tricky top notes. PAGE C7

Editorial

CARING FOR THE CAREGIVERS

With more jobs being lost all the time across the board, there should be comfort in the fact that one sector, health care, continues to add jobs. Unfortunately, one of the fastest-growing areas within the health care field -- home care for the elderly -- also is one of the lowest paid and most exploitable. Page A30

ALBERTO GONZALES, THE SEQUEL

Alberto Gonzales, the former attorney general, should have considered himself lucky when he was allowed to resign in disgrace without being hauled into Congress on perjury or contempt charges. Instead, he is trying for some sort of comeback by painting himself as an upstanding man victimized by a "mean-spirited town." Page A30

PROGRESS ON FAIR PAY

Congress has given a significant lift to civil rights by approving legislation to overturn a 2007 Supreme Court decision that made it much harder for employees to challenge unlawful pay discrimination based on gender, race, age and disability. Page A30

Op-ed

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

This columnist has been credited with practically reading the mind of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia before, so he tries to do so again -- this time by writing a letter to President Obama to suggest a five-state solution for Arab-Israeli peace. Page A31

NEWS YOU CAN ENDOW

How can American newspapers survive in the 21st century? In an Op-Ed article, David Swensen and Michael Schmidt, from Yale's investment office, argue that the big dailies should be turned into nonprofit endowed institutions. Page A31

Dining

THE NEXT USUAL SUSPECT OF ILL HEALTH: SODIUM

Don't worry, the granulated stuff in those clever shakers you got as a gift is safe. Having successfully waged wars on smoking, trans fats and calories, New York City's health department is putting the makers of processed food in the lineup. Eighty percent of the sodium in the average American diet is in packaged and mass-produced food. Page D1

THE CULINARY OLYMPICS

For a chef, the games took place not in Beijing, but in Lyon, France, at the Bocuse d'Or, a two-day international culinary contest. There are 24 participating countries, an audience of more than 1,000 and a small army of journalists, judges, inspectors, sponsors and organizers. The event? Beef and seafood dishes in just over five and a half hours. Page D1

Feed Me

Recycling Never Tasted So Good

Eli Zabar is a lesson in contradictions between his rather expensive restaurant and his gourmet food market, where he practices the alchemy of reinvention. For those of you with leftover jelly doughnuts comes a recipe for Jelly Doughnut Pudding. Page D2

The Minimalist

Hungry in Ancient Italy

An ancient Italian snack recipe calling for horsemeat, a full-bodied wine and spices becomes a treatment for ribeye steak. Page D3

DID WE MENTION A WAR ON SALT?

This might be that struggle's Battle of Gettysburg. Take bacon, add sausage and slather with barbecue sauce for the Bacon Explosion. Who's unhappy? Health nuts, vegetarians, your arteries and, of course, the pigs. Page D1

The Pour

Custom Wine by the Barrel

The City Winery wears a few hats. It's a winery, of course, but also a music venue a restaurant and, for the New Yorkers so inclined, an opportunity to custom-create their own wine. Page D5

Food Stuff

Italy on New York's Waterfront D3

FrenchFlour Ideal for Pastries D3

Fresh White Anchovies D3

Restaurants

The Anti-Eat-and-Run Spot

Cabrito appears to be the answer to the prayers of Mexican-food lovers everywhere. A relaxed and comfortable atmosphere couples with a capable menu for both food and cocktails, Frank Bruni writes. Page D6

The "21" Club Loosens Up D7

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Graphic

PHOTOS (PHOTOGRAPH BY DON IPOCK FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES) (pg.A3)

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Body

Punctuation, politics and the knack of catching tadpoles . . . Julia Gillard reveals what she learnt during her childhood in Adelaide.

ULIA Gillard is a grammar obsessive. A serious nut. What else can you say about someone who has her own grammar chant? Or someone who draws cats with hats on correspondence with grammatical errors? Maybe it's an insight into the kind of well-ordered mind that it takes to become the nation's first <u>female</u> Deputy Prime Minister and perhaps the best-performed member of the first Federal Labor Government in 11 years.

Of course, she could just be a little strange.

The nation can thank Mitcham Primary School and a teacher called Mr Crowe for the Deputy Prime Minister's and Minister for Education's predilection for apostrophes.

The story of the 47-year-old Gillard does not begin and will probably not end in Adelaide, but a signifi cant portion of her formative years and experiences were in South Australia. Her desire to take on the education portfolio is partly driven by her experiences at Mitcham Primary and Unley High schools. Her interest in industrial relations started with her unionist parents.

Gillard's ascent started with the Student Representative Council at Unley High and then student politics at the University of Adelaide. She has lived in Melbourne since moving there at age 20 to become vice-president of the Australian Union of Students, but says Adelaide still feels like home. Her parents, sister, niece and nephew live here.

It's been a remarkable journey and one that still shocks her sister Alison. Julia was "quiet and timid" when growing up, says her older sibling, No longer.

The once-shy red-haired girl in pigtails has a different demeanour today. She loves a stoush and says girls are just as ready for the argy-bargy of politics as blokes. But the memories of Adelaide schooldays and the lessons learnt remain strong and their influence is obvious.

She lists her pet grammar hates with a certain relish.

"I am a complete apostrophe nut. The misplacement of commas. The modern need to put a comma before the word and in every sentence. What is going on with that? Dashes. Why does one need dashes in a properly constructed sentence? Sentences that start with and. An inability to work out how to use its and it's."

It gets worse. Working for Melbourne law firm Slater & Gordon she instituted a grammar chant. "I used to have them all chanting 'one cat's hat, two cats' hats.

Where do the apostrophes go?' "If I got a letter with it done wrong I would draw a cat with a hat at the bottom in the hope it would come back right the next time. They all thought I was kind of strange." Indeed.

If there is something of the obsessive in Gillard it's probably not surprising. She has one of the largest workloads in government as minister for both education and industrial relations. If that isn't enough, she was acting Prime Minister for 80 days in 2008 while Kevin Rudd was overseas or on leave.

The day we meet she faces up to a morning press conference fielding questions about the Israeli-<u>Hamas</u> conflict, credit card fraud in the Defence Forces, Aboriginal literacy, youth drinking, union dissatisfaction with new industrial relations laws and the carbon pollution reduction scheme.

She assures me this is a quiet day.

The amount of information the Gillard brain has to process each day is staggering. Briefings, cabinet papers, meeting notes. It's a mountain of paper.

Every morning she will also have to absorb the Government's "Round the World" briefing which has an explanation and suggested answer for every question she is likely to face.

In the past year Gillard has shepherded through parliament massive changes in both education and industrial relations and done it in a style that marked her as one of the government's most formidable performers.

She clearly loves the theatre of question time.

There is often a broad smile when she approaches the despatch box to rip into some real or imagined Liberal calumny. And she knows how to strike deep.

Her closing performance in Question Time last year was emblematic. Stirring the Opposition with news of a Batman remake starring Malcolm Turnbull as Bruce Wayne, Christopher Pyne as the Boy Wonder and Julie Bishop as Catwoman, it was the kind of rabblerousing performance that backbenchers love.

But, as with most of Gillard's work, it involved preparation.

Her office developed the scenario for the best part of a week before it was delivered in the chamber on the last sitting day of the year.

It is with undisguised fondness that Gillard recalls her Adelaide childhood. We meet for lunch at Stamps restaurant in Mitcham, not far from where she grew up. Nearby is the family home in Kingswood, her primary and high schools, and Brown Hill Creek where Gillard would spend whole days in the holidays.

Brown Hill Creek is clearly a special spot, and the place she nominates to have her picture taken for SA Weekend.

Gillard grew up in a close and loving family unit, as might be expected from British migrants who arrived in Adelaide knowing only two other people - and they were fellow passengers they met on the boat coming over. The Gillards were part of a great wave of postWorld War II migrants. They were among the million "ten pound Poms" who arrived in Australia between 1945 and 1972 to help populate a vast continent and help build its future.

Gillard was born in the town of Barry in south Wales but the family left because the young Julia suffered bronchial pneumonia and in the cold and wet climate of Wales risked regular chest infections.

Her first memories are as a four year old in the migrant hostel at Pennington, where she and her parents, John and Moira, and older sister Alison, arrived in May, 1966.

Gillard marvels at the bravery of her parents in taking such a decision: setting out for an unknown land, deserting family and friends and familiarity to start again.

The Gillards' new home was never meant to be Adelaide, either. Melbourne was first choice until a chance meeting aboard the ship with an Adelaide couple from Wales changed their destiny.

"So they changed their destination to Adelaide," Gillard says. "They were just picking names off a map, they didn't really have any image of what the individual cities would be like."

It's kind of fun to imagine young Julia in Adelaide, making sandwiches with her sister, packing a bag and setting out for a day exploring in Brown Hill Creek to catch tadpoles with Alison and friends Helen and Angela.

The four would often walk from the Gillards' Truro Ave home and be gone for the day. "You look back on it now and think there is no way in the world you would let four young girls that age go to a park that distant from home for a whole day," she says.

"We never had any trouble, not once. We got caught in this really bad thunderstorm once, we clambered to this hill just behind Brown Hill Creek ... and we got muddy and wet and cold and all the rest of it. This man said 'do you girls need a lift home?' We said 'oh yeah', and of course he dropped us off home. I'm not too sure how all that adds up in the city of the Beaumont children [the three disappeared without trace on Australia Day, 1966, from Glenelg], but it was a more innocent age."

It's from this time Gillard formed her basic values and can be seen most obviously in how she wants to shape the nation's education system. Truro Ave was the centre of a life that spread out to the nearby Mitcham Demonstration School (now Mitcham Primary) and then Unley High.

"I liked school," she says. "I was a quiet kid, a good kid, a well-behaved kid. So much of life has changed.

You were bloody terrified of your teachers when I was growing up. The concept of being routinely naughty is not something that would have occurred to you. Terror was instilled into our hearts by teachers in those days."

What Gillard takes from her schooldays is the value of getting a basic education. There's a slightly messianic zeal in her voice when discussing what needs to change. Yet, perversely, as Federal Education Minister she probably wields less power than some of her state counterparts, or even some state teachers' unions, who run the system. But she has one big advantage: a big bucket of money.

"We went to state schools. I think they were very vigorous in teaching the basics to people. I am not romanticising the past, I am not suggesting no one failed, or no one got stigmatised, or excluded for the wrong reasons," she says. "I do think our teachers were very rigorous in making sure kids succeeded in the basics.

I think we have lost some of that rigour and I think it's important that some of that rigour is there."

The Rudd Government will bring in a national curriculum, focusing on the building blocks of education, which will be written by independent experts. It has mandated greater transparency in the education system, requiring the states to publish comparable results for schools.

It's strongly opposed by some teachers and state ministers, but Gillard says "shining a light on a problem is the best way to get it solved".

"I am really strong on people getting a good grounding in basic education. If you can't write, you can't spell, you can't count, you can't multiply then it's just fantasyland to think you are going to get the world of higher learning." Gillard says hers was not an overtly political household. Her parents were not members of the Labor Party but they "barracked for Labor". They also instilled a sense of social justice and an interest in current affairs. Her father John,

a shift-working psychiatric nurse, was "outraged" by the dismissal of Gough Whitlam's Labor government in 1975. A year later, just 15, Gillard joined the ALP.

Sister Alison is still surprised at the way things turned out. Julia was "quiet and timid" and the "last person in the universe" she thought would go into politics. Julia must have inherited her father's love of it, she thinks.

"The three of us would be in the lounge room watching the television; he would sit in the kitchen, never watching television," Alison says. "He would always have parliament on the radio. He loved Australian politics and was involved in his union. I don't know whether she absorbed it by osmosis; she never seemed that interested in it around the home."

Gillard believes it is from her father that she inherited the inner strength to cope with life at the top of the political tree. He is still an active presence in her political life.

"Dad loves a chat about politics so whenever I ring them I get the value of his opinions," she says. "One of the many great things about family is that they have known you too long for you to be anything other than just you.

I think that works for you in the best of times and probably works for you in the worst of times as well."

Listening to Gillard talk about her parents you sense where some of her individuality and toughness originates.

One example is how they ended up in Kingswood.

"They are quite canny people," she says. "The whole system was kind of geared up to funnel people to Elizabeth, trying to develop that as a satellite city, and Mum and Dad thought to themselves 'if they are herding people one way it actually makes sense to go the other'. Go against the flow."

Gillard was elected at the "GST election" of 1998 when Kim Beazley lost to John Howard. She took the Melbourne seat of Lalor, succeeding former Hawke government minister and guiz show king Barry Jones.

Her rise through the ALP was swift. She won her first shadow cabinet position (population and immigration spokeswoman) in 2001, was shadow minister for health for three years, and then took on education and industrial relations. She emerged strongly from a period of chaos and uncertainty in the ALP which put up Simon Crean, Mark Latham and Kim Beazley as leaders before Rudd took control.

Gillard has been painted by her opponents as a raging leftie, a heartless ideologue who's out of touch with Australia because she is childless and never married.

There also are a few in Labor who believe that. She has worn more than most in the mud-slinging that political battle routinely brings. Then there is that voice and that hair. Both seemed for a while to become almost a national obsession. She admits with some relief that the interest in her hair has receded.

Over lunch a different Gillard emerges. She laughs a lot, particularly at herself, and seems driven to be more than just a cardboard cut-out of a politician. Even that famous sandpaper voice seems a little softer. She retains a sense of herself amid the madness that her life entails, and brushes off the attack from Liberal Senator Bill Heffernan that she was unfit to lead the nation because she was "deliberately barren". Heffernan later apologised. Gillard says the controversy had no effect on her.

"I think obviously people are interested in you, and the fact I haven't got kids. I don't get the sense it interests them in an adverse way. The Bill Heffernan 'barren stuff' I didn't worry about one way or the other.

"People can be very generous during those times.

I was walking in [the Melbourne suburb of] Altona, a woman went past and wound her window down in the car and yelled out 'if you need kids you can have mine'.

She had a back seat full of kids. I think she meant for keeps as well.

"It can only hurt you privately if you let it. I have always been really clear in my head that you can't let the media perception of who you are define your perception of who you are."

One of the things that can rub her up the wrong way is any suggestion <u>women</u> can't be just as competitive and bloody-minded as men in politics. "Certainly five or 10 years ago people would have the view 'if only there were more <u>women</u> in politics somehow it would be a less adversarial, more caring and sharing environment'.

I have always thought that was bloody nonsense. One of the things I have always wanted to show is that it doesn't matter whether you are a man or a woman, you can thrive in an adversarial environment. This kind of image that somehow we are too gentle for it, I resent that."

Eventually, she believes, it will be totally unremarkable whether a politician is <u>female</u> or male and the only thing that matters is how well they can do the job. Gillard says politicians are fair game regardless of gender. Australians, she says, have a healthy lack of deference when it comes to their political leaders.

"The quintessential example," she recalls. "At a shopping centre in Hopper's Crossing [I was] handing out stuff. I am standing next to a clapperboard with my korflute [an election poster] on it with a studio shot, handing out stuff. This old guy comes out of the supermarket, looks at me, looks at the korflute, looks at me, looks at the korflute, then turns back to me and says:

'taken on a good day wasn't it love?' "I said, 'and you'd be bloody Robert Redford would you mate?' He goes, 'Oh, I vote for you', and I said, 'you'd bloody better after that'."

All this helps keep a sense of reality in what can be an unreal world. Parliament House in Canberra exists as its own universe. Reality has to fight its way in. In some ways it must help that partner Tim Mathieson, by trade a hairdresser, comes from a completely different background. But partners, no matter the background, soon get sucked into the political whirlpool and Gillard says last year's mini-storm surrounding Mathieson's appointment as a volunteer men's health ambassador was perplexing.

"Even some of the media professionals we have in and around government were a bit surprised by how big that story got for a position that is an honorary position," she says.

But what it does do is reinforce the sanctity of the couple's private time. Gillard estimates she would spend two nights a week in her own bed.

"One of the things about being in the public eye is that your private space becomes even more precious. Tim is happy to hang out in Altona and we'll watch a film, just ordinary things, to get a bit of time together."

The likelihood is that time together will be further squeezed as the 2010 election looms. But Gillard is not looking too far ahead. She calmly deflects a question about whether she would ever be interested in the top position, insisting deputy is "a very, very good job".

Anyway, she already has a future planned out with her true calling at its centre: grammar.

"I am going to be the kind of 80-year-old who gets the newspaper and dashes off a letter to the editor 'in respect of the misuse of an apostrophe in the third line of your lead story'. And they will go, 'there's that nutty lady who writes in all the time'. I am going to be one of those. I can feel it coming on."

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Body

Here's what will keep that pile of books by your bed growing this year.

WE CAN look forward to a wave of books about the gloomy economy, balanced by an outpouring of hope about President Obama. Australian political authors will produce the latest analyses of the Howard years. The Middle East and climate change remain hot topics for nonfiction; immigration and international tension are background to many novels. Fantasy and crime writers will try to find the next Harry Potter, Twilight and Underbelly. In the medical field, there are more books about the brain as our ageing population tries to keep its memory working. Sudoku, anyone? But first, get ready for a thorough re-examination of Charles Darwin's life and work, as 2009 marks both the 200th anniversary of his birth and the 150th anniversary of On The Origin Of Species.

Nonfiction

Among the Darwin titles: Evolution In The Antipodes (UNSW Press, February) by Tom Frame, an Anglican bishop who writes that Darwin was deeply influenced by a brief Australian visit in 1836. Cambridge University Press's library of Darwin books includes an illustrated edition of Darwin In Australia by Frank Nicholas. Darwin's Armada (Penguin, March) is by Iain McCalman, a Sydney historian who argues it was the South Seas, not the Galapagos Islands, where most of the discoveries that led to the theory of evolution were made. Darwin's Island: From The Galapagos To The Garden Of Eden (Little, Brown, March) by British geneticist Steve Jones explores Darwin's work in England.

The New Yorker writer Adam Gopnick has written Angels And Ages (Murdoch Books, February), linking Darwin and Abraham Lincoln, born on the same day in 1809. In The Wake Of The Beagle (UNSW Press, May), edited by Nigel Erskine and Iain McCalman, places Darwin in the context of modern science debates. Lamarck's Evolution (Pier 9, August) by Ross Honeywill tells the story of Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, who created the first evolutionary theory in 1809. Mr Darwin's Incredible Shrinking World (Pier 9, October) by Peter Macinnis focuses on the year 1859, when Darwin published his theory of evolution.

Darwin's Notebook: The Beagle Adventures Of Charles Darwin (Five Mile Press, \$29.95) is presented with drawings, maps and notes as if for Darwin's children. There's even a children's picture book, One Beetle Too Many: The Extraordinary Adventures Of Charles Darwin (Candlewick Press, January), by Kathryn Lasky and Matthew Trueman.

Politics and the economy

The Herald's political editor, Peter Hartcher, has inside sources for To The Bitter End (Allen & Unwin, April), his analysis of the Howard government's downfall. Expect a less dispassionate look at the same era in And So It Went (Penguin, June) by Bob Ellis. The Australian's editor-at-large, Paul Kelly, compares the first two Australian prime ministers of the globalised age in The Keating-Howard Years (MUP, October). In A Conservative's Manifesto (MUP, August), Tony Abbott looks back on his party's government and where the Liberals are headed. The Statute of Liberty: How To Give Australians Back Their Rights (Vintage, March) by Geoffrey Robertson argues for an Australian bill of rights.

Hartcher returns with The Australian Model (Black Inc, October), explaining why Australia's institutions relatively insulate us from the world's financial, social and health crises. However, we were not protected from the internet bubble of 1999-2000, as Kate Askew reminds in DotBomb (A&U, November).

House Of Cards (Allen Lane, May) by William D. Cohan narrates last year's collapse of the 85-year-old global bank Bear Stearns. Catching The Wolf Of Wall Street (Hachette, March) by Jordan Belfort continues the author's best-selling memoir begun in The Wolf Of Wall Street (now being filmed by Martin Scorsese with Leonardo DiCaprio) of wild money-making schemes in the 1990s.

The Great Depression Ahead: How To Prosper In The Crash That Follows The Greatest Boom In History (Black Inc, February) by Harry S. Dent predicts a depression lasting a decade or more. Kevin Phillips also gives dire warnings in Bad Money: Reckless Finance, Failed Politics And The Global Crisis Of American Capitalism (Scribe, February). Peter Singer, the renowned Australian ethicist, provides an antidote to arrogant excess in The Life You Can Save (Text, February), an argument for philanthropy.

War and the Middle East

Coming out in time for Anzac Day is Gallipoli: The End Of The Myth (UNSW Press, April) by Robin Prior, who makes the case that the misjudged naval campaign on the Gallipoli peninsula was not "almost won" by the allies but decisively lost. In The Battle Of Beersheba (MUP, April), Paul Daley turns to a redeeming win for the Anzacs and asks why it has slipped through the cracks of Australia's historical consciousness.

The Battle For Normandy (Viking, May) by the British historian Antony Beevor is said to be the definitive account of D-Day. Prisoner Doctors: Australian Doctors In Japanese Captivity (A&U, July) by Rosalind Hearder tells the story of the 106 doctors who helped 22,000 Australian prisoners of war survive appalling conditions.

Paul Ham, the author of Vietnam: The Australian War, has edited a soldier's 1968 diary, Captain Bullen's War: A Vietnam Diary (HarperCollins, May). Alchemy Of Loss (Hodder, March) by Abigail Carter is the memoir of a New Yorker whose husband died in the World Trade Centre, the prelude to our latest wars.

The Herald's chief correspondent, Paul McGeough, has a timely history of <u>Hamas</u>, Kill Khalid (A&U, March). Once Were Radicals (A&U, May) by Irfan Yusuf is the author's story of growing up Muslim in the Australian suburbs; the manuscript won the 2007 Iremonger Award for Writing on Public Issues.

Things I've Been Silent About: Memories (William Heinemann, February) is a memoir of growing up in Iran by Azar Nafisi, author of the bestseller Reading Lolita In Tehran. The House Of Wisdom: How The Arabs Transformed Western Civilisation (Bloomsbury, April) by Australian journalist Jonathan Lyons shows how Arab thinkers helped lay the foundations of the Renaissance. Nine Lives (Bloomsbury, November) by William Dalrymple, author of White Mughals and The Last Mughal, chronicles his travels among India's wanderers, Sufis and sages.

True crime

Herald journalist Robert Wainwright recounts a Sydney murder investigation in The Killing Of Caroline Byrne (A&U, April), which ended with last year's conviction of Gordon Wood.

Ladykiller (A&U, April) by Candace Sutton and Ellen Connolly covers the disappearance of Kerry Whelan from a Parramatta car park in 1997 and the detective work that led to the conman-murderer Bruce Burrell. True Colours

(HarperCollins, May) by Lisa Davies is the story of Lauren Huxley, violently attacked at home, and the family that helped her survive.

Smack Express (A&U, April) by former police officer Clive Small and Tom Gilling investigates the organised crime connections behind the Australian drug trade. Firepower (A&U, May) by the Herald's Gerard Ryle details the great Australian commercial scam in which a businessman raised money for a "magic pill" to increase fuel efficiency and spent it sponsoring sporting teams.

Biography and autobiography

How did Kristin Williamson stand back from her playwright husband to write David Williamson: Behind The Scenes (Penguin, April)? A year after Brian Matthews's biography of the historian comes another, Manning Clark: A Life (MUP, September), by political scientist Mark McKenna.

Edmund Capon, the director of the Art Gallery of NSW for 30 years, tells some of his story in I Blame Duchamp: My Life's Adventures In Art (Penguin, November), a collection of essays. The Mind And Times Of Reg Mombassa (Random House, November) is Murray Waldren's biography of the New Zealand-born artist and musician. Chez Muse (A&U, October) by Janine Burke explores the connection between creativity and place for artists and writers such as Claude Monet, Ernest Hemingway and Emily Kame Kngwarreye.

Through A Glass Darkly: A Journey Of Love And Grief With My Father (ABC Books, April) is a memoir by Caroline Jones, who as an ABC journalist and presenter has shared many people's struggles. So, she wonders, why did she handle her beloved father's death so badly? In Waiting Room (Scribe, April), Gabrielle Carey writes about her mother's diagnosis with a brain tumour and investigates her life.

The Night My Bum Dropped (Penguin, July) is Gretel Killeen's encounter with her midlife crisis. The former <u>women</u>'s magazine editor Mia Freedman examines her earlier-life crisis in Cereal For Dinner (HarperCollins, September). For fashion followers, Vogue At 50 (HarperCollins, September) by Kirstie Clements and Lee Tulloch will be a treat, collecting images and articles from Australian Vogue.

The latest from the prolific Peter FitzSimons is Charles Kingsford Smith And Those Magnificent Men (HarperCollins, June), about the war hero and aviation trailblazer. Gordon Barton (A&U, February) by Sam Everingham is the life story of the entrepreneur who built a commercial empire and founded the Australia Party. A Global Life (Pan Macmillan, August) is the autobiography of James D. Wolfensohn, the Australian former president of the World Bank. Bra Boys (HarperCollins, June) by Sean Doherty is the biography of the four Abberton brothers, stars of the surf and gang culture of Maroubra Beach.

International biographies include Byron In Love (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, March) by the Irish novelist Edna O'Brien and Michel Roux: A Life In the Kitchen (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, April), ghost-written for the famous French chef by Suellen Dainty. An authorised biography of Roald Dahl (HarperCollins, November) by Donald Sturrock has used the Dahl archives to flesh out this magical storyteller, gruff provocateur and enigmatic adventurer.

Environment, travel, history

The Face Of Gaia (Allen Lane, March) by James Lovelock is the 90-year-old scientist's account of travelling into space to look at the planet. He Knew He Was Right: The Irrepressible Life Of James Lovelock And Gaia by John Gribbin and Mary Gribbin is the biography of the man once considered a crackpot but now considered "Britain's greatest living scientist".

Following Elizabeth Gilbert's best-selling memoir, Eat, Pray, Love, in The Last American Man (Bloomsbury, April) she takes on the life of a man who left suburbia at 17 to live in the wild. Andrew Gottleib parodies Gilbert in Drink, Play, F@#k (Hodder, March), his travel adventures after his wife leaves him.

The Red Highway (Black Inc, May) is Nicolas Rothwell's reflective account of his journey through Australia's north. In King Brown Country (A&U, June), Russell Skelton draws a portrait of Papunya, a western desert community in

crisis despite its reputation as an Aboriginal art centre. Aboriginal lawyer and activist Noel Pearson collects his thoughts in Up From The Mission: Selected Writings (Black Inc, May).

Shooting Balibo (Penguin, June) is Tony Maniaty's account of returning to East Timor as consultant on the coming film Balibo, 33 years after covering the war for ABC-TV news. The historian and broadcaster Michael Cathcart worked for many years on the story of water in Australia told in The Water Dreamers (Text, August). The Bone Readers: Atoms, Genes And The Politics Of Australia's Deep Past (A&U, March) by Claudio Tuniz, Richard Gillespie and Cheryl Jones is expected to be controversial as it re-examines the facts and myths about human arrival in Australia.

The Colony (A&U, July) by Grace Karskens is a history of Sydney in its early years. The Letters Of George And Elizabeth Bass (A&U, April) by Miriam Estensen tells of Bass's disappearance on a trading voyage that left Sydney in 1802 while his wife waited in Britain.

The Search For The HMAS Sydney (HarperCollins, date unconfirmed) by David L. Mearns pieces together the mystery of the Sydney's disappearance and Mearns's expedition which found it. All Hands (Pan Macmillan, August) by Les Kennedy tells the story of his uncle, a stoker who went down with HMAS Sydney.

Science and psychology

Dr Mohamed Khadra, a urologist and author of Making The Cut, continues his insider story in The Patient: One Man's Journey Through The Australian Health-Care System (William Heinemann, February). The Yipping Tiger And Other Tales From The Neuropsychiatric Unit (UNSW, July) by Perminder Sachdev presents case studies to illustrate the workings of the brain.

The Sex Diaries (MUP, March) by Bettina Arndt looks at Australia's intimate pleasures and tensions, asking how couples negotiate when, for example, a man wants more sex than his partner does. Bodies (Profile, March) by Susie Orbach, who wrote the bestseller Fat Is A Feminist Issue, examines the growing pressure to perfect our bodies.

Sex, Drugs And Chocolate: The Science Of Pleasure (HarperCollins, March) by Paul Martin reveals the history of pleasure and how it can become an addiction. The Pleasures And Sorrows Of Work (Hamish Hamilton, April) by Alain de Botton, author of The Consolations Of Philosophy, takes the same witty approach to the meaning of work.

One of the year's oddest books may be Dear Editor: The Collected Letters Of Oscar Brittle (UNSW, April) by Glenn Fowler, Christopher Smyth and Gareth Malone, who sent letters under a pseudonym to Australian newspapers on topics from global warming to pole dancing.

Australian fiction

Ransom (Random House, April) is David Malouf's first novel in more than 10 years and retells Homer's Iliad. Sons Of The Rumour (Picador, October) by David Foster is a historical fiction about Islam and the West.

Butterfly (Penguin, February) by Sonya Hartnett, winner of the international Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for children's writing, is an adult novel about a girl on the brink of 14 who wants her life to change. Bridge Of Clay (Picador, November) is Markus Zusak's long-awaited follow-up to The Book Thief and is a contemporary tale about family and bridges, both physical and emotional.

Wendy Squires debuts with a racy novel about a woman working in network television, The Boys Club (Bantam, March), which might be based on her 12 months as Channel Nine publicity director. Kate Legge's second novel, The Marriage Club (Penguin, April), begins with a woman being killed by her husband and becomes an examination of marriage and friendship. My Hundred Lovers (A&U, September) by Susan Johnson is a woman's story told through her sensual experiences. Reunion (HarperCollins, May) by Andrea Goldsmith brings together a group of university friends in Melbourne after 20 years.

Nikki Gemmell's The Book Of Rapture (HarperCollins, July) is inspired by her love for her children after the London bombings in July 2005. She also has a nonfiction book, Why You Are Australian: A Letter To My Children (HarperCollins, November), which examines the life and identity of the expat.

Dog Boy (Text, March) by Eva Hornung (formerly Eva Sallis) enters the world of a Russian boy raised by beasts. Novelist, poet and librettist Peter Goldsworthy returns to short stories in Shooting The Dog (Penguin, August). The Australian Long Story (Penguin, September), edited by Mandy Sayer, brings together shortish fiction by Malouf, Goldsworthy, Helen Garner, Tim Winton, Peter Carey, Elizabeth Jolley, Louis Nowra and Nam Le.

In Valley Of Grace (A&U, March), Marion Halligan writes about a philosopher and a young couple in Paris who long for a child. Cate Kennedy, known for her short stories, has written the novel The World Beneath (Scribe, September), about a father trying to reconnect with his teenage daughter on a hike in Tasmania. A Most Immoral Woman (HarperCollins, March) by Linda Jaivin fictionalises the life and love of China correspondent George Ernest Morrison. The Lost Life (HarperCollins, April) by Steven Carroll, the 2008 Miles Franklin Award winner, begins in 1934 with two young lovers observing T. S. Eliot and his friend Emily Hale.

M. J. Hyland, whose Carry Me Down was shortlisted for the 2006 Man Booker Prize, has written This Is How (Text, July) about a young man who goes to jail for murdering a fellow boarding-house resident. Musician Nick Cave's second novel in 20 years, The Death Of Bunny Munro (Text, August), is, he says, "about a door-to-door salesman who works the south coast of England. And it's funny and it's sad."

The year's fiction will conclude, as always, with a No. 1 bestseller from Bryce Courtenay, The Dangerous Dance Of Danny Dunne (Penguin, November), about several generations of Irish publicans in Sydney.

The Macquarie PEN Anthology Of Australian Literature (A&U, August), edited by Nicholas Jose, is an important survey of Australian literary writing, from the beginning to the present and covering all genres of fiction and non-fiction.

Crime fiction

Deep Water (A&U, April) by Peter Corris takes the beloved Cliff Hardy series to the US. Truth (Text, August) is Peter Temple's prequel to his award-winning The Broken Shore and takes up the story of Stephen Villani, acting head of the Victorian Police homicide squad. The Dark Mirror (A&U, June) by Barry Maitland combines poetry and poisoning in London's research institutions. Cold Justice (Pan Macmillan, September) by ambulance officer Katherine Howell, the winner of the 2008 Davitt Award for best crime fiction, is her third novel about Detective Ella Marconi.

International fiction

Alexander McCall Smith's many fans never have to wait long for his next book. Tea Time For The Traditionally Built (Little, Brown, February) is the latest in the The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series, set in Botswana.

The Booker Prize-winner Anita Brookner's 24th novel is Strangers (Fig Tree, April), about a lonely retired bank manager who has to choose between an old girlfriend and a demanding younger woman. Nocturnes (Faber, May) by Kazuo Ishiguro is a story cycle about love, music and the passing of time. The Girl On The Landing (Weidenfeld & Nicolson) by Paul Torday, author of Salmon Fishing In The Yemen, is a ghost story in which a middle-aged stick-in-the-mud meets a woman from a painting. From Marina Lewycka comes We Are All Made Of Glue (Fig Tree, June), about a woman unhappy with her husband, her son and her job at an online adhesives trade magazine, who befriends an older woman.

Jay McInerney's The Last Bachelor (Bloomsbury, February) is a collection of post-September 11 New York stories. Let The Great World Spin (Bloomsbury, November) by Colum McCann is about seven lives in Manhattan in 1974, when Philippe Petit made his tightrope walk between the World Trade Centre towers.

Brooklyn (Picador, June) by Colm Toibin is a coming-of-age story set in Ireland and the US.

The <u>Women</u> (Bloomsbury, March) by T. C. Boyle examines the chaotic personal life of the architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Invisible (Faber, November), by Paul Auster, is about a student who, fearing the draft to Vietnam, has a series of obsessive sexual relationships. Handle With Care (A&U, April) will be another hit from Jodi Picoult, about a girl born with a brittle-bone disease, and her mother's legal and ethical battle.

Twelve years after her Orange Prize-winning Fugitive Pieces, Canada's Anne Michaels returns with The Winter Vault (Bloomsbury, April), about a husband and wife trying to find each other in a world of displacement. The Year Of The Flood (Bloomsbury, September) by Margaret Atwood is set in a future world where gene-splicing is the norm.

The Museum Of Innocence (Faber, November) by Orhan Pamuk, the Turkish Nobel laureate, is a novel of obsessive passion set in Istanbul between 1975 and the present. The Thing Around Your Neck (HarperCollins, April) is by another Orange Prize-winner, Chimamanda Adichie Ngozi, and its stories straddle the cultures of Nigeria and the West.

One of the year's most challenging books - for size and content - is The Kindly Ones (Chatto & Windus, March) by Jonathan Littell. Written by the American author in French, this is the fictional memoir of a former SS intelligence officer who wants to "set the record straight". In France the book sold 260,000 copies in six weeks and won top literary awards.

Carlos Ruiz Zafon made a dashing debut with Shadow Of The Wind, which has sold 10 million copies worldwide, and returns with its prequel, The Angel's Game (Text, June), a story of literary intrigue set in 1920s Barcelona.

A first novel creating buzz this year is The Selected Works Of T. S. Spivet (Random House, May) by Reif Larsen, about a 12-year-old boy who draws maps so well that his teacher secretly sends them to the Smithsonian Institute.

Graphic

TWO PHOTOS: One Beetle Too Many . . . one of many books on Charles Darwin to be released in 2009. Illustration: Matthew Trueman Markus Zusak . . . a long-awaited new novel from The Book Thief author. Photo: Ben Rushton

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Length: 3919 words **Byline:** Peter Wilson

Body

London socialite Lady Renouf courts global attention as the attractive face of Holocaust denial. Who would guess she was once plain Michele Mainwaring, a beauty queen from the NSW central coast? Peter Wilson meets her.

At 22, Michele Mainwaring was a beauty queen from the NSW central coast whose titles included "Miss Zhivago" for being judged the local woman who looked most like Julie Christie in the biggest film then showing. By 42, she was a London socialite with a grand house and ballroom who called herself "Countess Griaznoff" and posed for family portraits with her Russian husband and two daughters in costumes that could have been designed for Omar Sharif's film.

Now, at 62, she is known as Lady Renouf, from her short-lived second marriage, and on the wall of her apartment in upmarket Kensington, London, is a photo of her being kissed by Omar Sharif during the brief period they dated about a decade ago.

But it is not her glamorous social life that has recently made Miss Newcastle-Hunter Valley 1968 mildly famous in Britain, Germany and Australia. "This woman is especially dangerous," says Dr Efraim Zuroff, the chief Nazi-hunter at the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Jerusalem, "because she is so attractive and can put a pretty face on a very ugly movement."

That movement is Holocaust denial, a decades-old attempt to play down the Nazi atrocities against Jews and other minorities.

After showing no interest in Jews or World War II until her 50s, Renouf now travels the world speaking at conferences, alongside former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke and other extremists, arguing that the Holocaust has been massively exaggerated and that in any case the Jews are to blame. The only prominent <u>female</u> denier, the girl from The Entrance, NSW, has met Iran's Holocaust-denying president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and lauded him as a champion of free speech and democracy despite charges by human rights groups that his regime tortures dissidents and stifles free speech.

Some experts are worried that, as the last witnesses of the Holocaust die, the deniers could gain ground in the West by focusing their propaganda on students at university and high school. The deniers were bolstered last month by Pope Benedict's acceptance back into the Catholic Church of ultra-conservative British bishop Richard Williamson, who claims that historical evidence is "hugely against six million having been deliberately gassed in gas chambers as a deliberate policy of Adolf Hitler ... I believe there were no gas chambers". The political and public

outcry across Europe at the pope's decision - not least in his native country, Germany, where Holocaust denial is a crime - shows the depth of feeling that surrounds the issue.

Other Holocaust historians such as Zuroff say the deniers' biggest impact is in the Arab world and among Muslims in countries such as Britain. "For political and religious reasons there is just a closed mindset [in the Arab world] and that is where people openly say the Holocaust never happened," he says. "Or they invert it against Israel - that we are the new Nazis and the conflict right now is us committing a Holocaust against the Palestinians."

With fears of rising anti-Semitism in Europe, and Israel under growing pressure over its conflict with the Palestinians, the denial movement is becoming more than "a loopy fringe group that can be ignored", says Zuroff. "That is why this woman is just perfect for people like the Iranians ... they have this blonde, pretty woman speaking in an English accent in Tehran [at a 2006 Holocaust denial conference] and on Iranian TV telling them they are right and the Jews are evil. This is a dangerous person."

My first contact with Michele Renouf is via the intercom of her Kensington apartment. I had just learnt that Dr Fredrick Toben, Australia's best-known Holocaust denier, had been released after 50 days in London's Wandsworth prison and was staying in Renouf's apartment.

British police had used a European Union arrest warrant, issued by Germany, to pluck Toben from a plane transiting through Heathrow last year. A legal team organised by Renouf beat an attempt to extradite him to Germany, where he is wanted on charges carrying a fiveyear jail sentence. Renouf tells me through the intercom in her posh English accent that Toben is standing beside her but will not talk to me until he has safely returned to Australia. (Adelaide-based Toben, once back on home soil, would announce his intention to return to Germany to "thrash it out" with prosecutors.)

Several days after talking through the intercom with Renouf she invites me to a press conference that she is holding in the small Cranley Gardens Hotel, near her apartment, to discuss Toben's victory. Smiling and immaculately groomed in a woollen pantsuit, she is as handsome as one would expect of a woman who has for decades worked as a model in TV and print commercials, now often cast as a well-to-do woman of a certain age.

The British press has stayed away and the small conference room she has rented holds about a dozen Toben supporters, including David Irving, the British historian who was labelled an anti-Semite and a falsifier of history by a High Court judge in a 2000 libel trial.

Renouf announces that Toben has left for Australia "but in his stead we have an expert who has come especially from France". Dr Robert Faurisson will discuss "the meat of the issue", the deniers' rejection of the mainstream account of the Holocaust. At this news Irving scurries from the room - fearful, Renouf explains later, that being involved in such a conference would threaten his ability to visit the US.

"Conference" is a loose description. I am the only reporter listening to Faurisson's 80-minute speech, which Renouf films for the internet. Like every other dedicated Holocaust denier outside the Arab world, Faurisson is not a professional historian. An 80-year-old former professor of literature, he began disputing the Holocaust in the'70s and has been repeatedly convicted in France, one of 10 countries that outlaw Holocaust denial. Faurisson's basic claim is that Jewish leaders invented the Holocaust to win sympathy and gain a homeland in Israel. There is no proof that Hitler and the Nazis planned genocide, he says, the toll of six million dead does not add up, and the gas chambers at Auschwitz were not used to kill people. Instead, he insists, the gas chambers were aimed at helping the Jews by using the poison Zyklon B to kill lice in order to fight typhus.

"In Auschwitz I visited by myself what is called Crematorium One," he says. "I immediately saw that it could not be a gas chamber." The room was not sealed properly, one of its doors had a fragile glass window, and the holes in the roof through which the Nazis supposedly dropped gas pellets had been added after the war, he says.

He claims that a plaque displayed at Auschwitz in the 70s stated that four million people had been killed there. That number has now been revised down to just over one million but the "Holocaust industry" still claims that six million Jews died, even though the plaque's toll was out by three million, he says.

Not long after hearing Faurisson I visit Auschwitz. All the time I am there, ringing in my head are Faurisson's claims that the "Hollywood version" of its terrible history is untrue. The camp, in Poland, does have a powerful effect on a visitor but not the one claimed by Faurisson and Renouf.

The Nazis dynamited the largest gas chambers as Soviet soldiers approached in January 1945 and the surviving chamber that Faurisson refers to is the oldest, smallest and most primitive. His arguments crumble a few seconds after one enters that grim, dark room. The thin glass window that he cited proves nothing: it is obviously a reconstruction.

A guide at the camp confirms to anyone who asks that what one now sees in Auschwitz was largely rebuilt after the war by the Polish communists. The four holes in the roof that Faurisson talks about were also part of a clumsy postwar reconstruction but it is easy to see the outlines of the original holes, which are now sealed up.

Renouf wants a televised debate between Faurisson and Laurence Rees, a BBC documentary-maker who did a six-part series on Auschwitz in 2005. Rees tells me he would never take part in such a debate, a position shared by almost all leading historians, who say it is valid to debate details of the Holocaust but not the basic fact that the Nazis deliberately killed something like six million people, 90 per cent of them Jews, and largely with gas chambers.

"It is pointless discussing history with Holocaust deniers," Rees says. "It would be like discussing climate change with members of the Flat Earth Society. My experience is that they do not want to know the answers and they want to suck you in so as to publicise themselves and pretend this is a 'legitimate debate'. It isn't legitimate and it isn't a debate.

"Since the existence and working practice of the gas chambers has been established as a 100 per cent historical fact, getting involved with these questions is like trying to debate the Norman Conquest with someone who maintains that the Battle of Hastings never happened and that William the Conqueror might have been a Martian.

"Can you 'prove' that William the Conqueror wasn't really a Martian? How can you 'prove' he didn't have a funny green pointed head - in fact, isn't that almost certainly why the Normans wore those funny helmets?"

A few days after Renouf's press conference I sit down with her in the foyer of the Cranley Gardens Hotel for what turns out to be a five-hour interview over several cups of tea. Polite and friendly but with a well-mannered reserve, she is quite guarded at first. When she appears on extremist and anti-Semitic radio programs and Iranian TV shows she is billed as a "human rights activist", "political commentator", or "filmmaker", as she has begun making and selling her own films questioning the Holocaust and slamming Israel.

She says she is not anti-Semitic because, while she criticises Judaism, she has nothing against Jews. Her critics "always say I am charming but sinister. But if you meet me you actually don't find this hate that they speak about. You find criticism but you don't find hate ... Jews who know me like me."

That's a view not supported by my conversations with several Jews who know her. Their anger is not hard to fathom. Over a few hours of conversation an increasingly relaxed Renouf expresses views that do not make her popular in polite society, Jewish or otherwise.

Jews, she says, follow a religion which is dishonest, inhumane, supremacist, hate-fuelled, predatory and treacherous. In fact "it does not deserve to be called a religion at all".

"The definition of a Jew is antigentile," she insists, and it is their own selfish behaviour which has provoked anti-Semitism over the centuries, making them responsible for their own persecution.

While we share biscuits with our tea she trots out cliches - how Jews control Hollywood, the media, banking, advertising, academia and Western foreign policy. "Australia, like Britain, is an occupied country: occupied by proZionist policy," she says. What is more, Hitler had no choice but to put Jews into concentration camps because international Zionist leaders had "declared an economic war on Germany in 1933 to try to destroy Germany".

"So you have to, to protect your own people, put the enemy into the camp. And when you put people into a camp, the risk in close quarters of disease and so on are multiplied. So there were gas chambers, sure, but for delousing. Whether there were gas chambers for murderous intent I cannot say because I have not heard a proper debate."

A shared view of Judaism has made her something of a fan of hardline Islamists. Israel has no moral right to exist, she insists, <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah are "wonderful and noble", and jihadist suicide bombers "are reacting to our appalling decision to go to war [in Iraq] on a lie. So we are the culprits".

Praising Muslim attitudes to <u>women</u>, she volunteers that she "would be on the side of the Muslim leader in Australia who said our <u>women</u> are looking like meat" - a reference to Sheik Taj Din alHilali, who provoked a storm in 2006 by saying that **women** who did not dress conservatively were like "uncovered meat" and invited sexual attack.

The life-long advertising model says she disagrees with compulsory burqas but feels that "the way Muslim <u>women</u> dress basically is better for us than the way <u>women</u> are encouraged to dress in the Western, Judeo-influenced societies, consumer societies which promote the baseness of us ... The Jewish influence in fashion, in Hollywood and so on creates the ethos of this kind of womenserving-men value system."

Renouf, who has received death threats, expresses these views without any open anger or venom, and often seems surprised when people take offence. She complains that she has been cast as "the most notorious woman in London".

That clearly rankles with someone who values social status - she mentions more than once that she can trace her father's family back to 1086 and the Domesday Book - but it does not worry her enough to make her tone down her views. In 2003 she was expelled from London's prestigious Reform Club for using the club to champion Irving and his views on Hitler, and she has been kicked out of other social groups.

She admits her two adult daughters disagree with her views and "can't bear what I do ... because they obviously don't want me to be at risk, and also they have been conditioned like anybody else".

She met their father, Daniel Ivan Zadeh, an Australian psychiatrist of Russian descent, during a trip to the Gold Coast in 1968 as part of her prize for winning Miss Radio 2HD Newcastle Beach Girl. The couple shifted to London in 1970, where they married.

IvanZadeh had always been plain "Mr" or "Doctor" but Renouf says the family had once claimed a title through his great-uncle, so she began styling herself as Countess Griaznoff "for my charity work". No such title exists in the major lists of European noble families such as the Almanach de Gotha or Burke's Royal Families of the World.

They divorced in 1990 and the following year, at 44, she married Sir Frank Renouf, the Kiwi financier 28 years her senior who'd recently emerged from an acrimonious split with Susan Rossiter-Peacock-Sangster-Renouf.

The press swooped, obtaining a copy of the new wedding certificate. Michele had listed her father, Arthur, as a deceased hotelier but the press found him alive in NSW. The retired courier driver and photographer for the Port Macquarie News said he had never owned a hotel.

Sir Frank felt humiliated and the marriage did not survive the six-week honeymoon in New Zealand.

Asked about the misleading marriage certificate, Renouf says her grandparents owned a country pub in NSW. Her parents separated when she was 10 and she never really knew what her father did for a living, she says. She'd had no contact with him for several years before the wedding and "I knew that he was dying of cancer and someone had sent me a condolence card so I assumed that meant that he had died".

She says Sir Frank tried to patch things up but she refused and he divorced her in 1995 on the grounds of her alleged "unreasonable behaviour" with a Bulgarian fencing champion, an allegation she denies. Sir Frank died three years later.

She says she did not ask for a settlement and she now funds her activities "with some difficulty". Jewish advertising executives have been giving her less work due to her Holocaust views, she says.

She devotes much of her time to the cause of Holocaust "revision", travelling to Austria, Canada, France and Germany to witness trials of deniers and speaking at a Holocaust review conference held by the Iranian Government in Tehran in 2006.

At that conference she gave a fiery denunciation of Israel and Judaism and afterwards was elected to a committee to organise another conference, alongside Toben and Dr Christian Lindtner, a Danish Holocaust-denier to whom she was briefly engaged in 2007. Theirs was a romance launched by Holocaust denial - they first met early in 2006 at a Danish conference and they next spent time together at the Tehran conference.

What I kept wondering, though, was where her obsession with Judaism had come from. By her own account, "growing up in Australia I never heard anybody even talk about Jews. I certainly had no predisposition, my world was not divided into Jew and gentile. In fact, I thought they all died out like the Pharisees and all the other Biblical sects that you heard about in school."

She says she first became interested in the Holocaust in 2000 when David Irving lost his high-profile libel action against an American historian for branding him a Holocaust-denier.

But she had already been interested for several years in "the anti-gentile nature of Judaism". In 1997 she wrote and published a booklet that appalled academics by rejecting the widely held view that Hitler's favourite composer, Richard Wagner, had expressed antiSemitism in his operas. She met Toben the following year when she was promoting her booklet at the Adelaide Festival.

In 1999 she enrolled in a master's degree in the psychology of religion at the University of London's Heythrop College to pursue her obsession.

But where did it all start? According to Renouf, it was a 1997 argument about a dish of suckling pig. She'd set up a committee of 25 friends to help her organise a dinner to fund a new dressing room for Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, but trouble blew up over the menu.

"I had asked the caterers, The Ivy restaurant, if they could give us perhaps a choice in the main course," she says. "And they suggested for an Elizabethan feast why don't you have suckling pig, a good vegetarian choice and perhaps sea bass, because sea bass is sort of regarded as a glamorous dish.

"When I presented that choice to my coterie one Jewish girl said, 'We regard your offering a choice in the main course as tyrannical and if you are going to insist upon it I am going to resign.' Eventually she said, 'You cannot expect Jews to sit at the table where others might choose pork ... '

"The really interesting thing was the fear in the room of the other 24 people. They said, 'Please let's not pursue this issue,' and I said, 'Why, what is your fear?' They said, 'It is anti-Semitic.' I said, 'But for heaven's sake, what is anti-Semitic about discussing food?' We weren't eating eyeballs or something that was frightful to us, it wasn't such an astonishing thing, we weren't eating horse or cat or something outrageous.

"It got me terribly interested because it meant that sensible people were being dictated to by this woman's religion even though I happen to know that she eats bacon and eggs. She resigned from the committee and the two other Jews in the room resigned with her."

She refuses to name the woman who objected to her menu, but mentions that she had been prominent in the International Churchill Society. Through that Churchill link I later track down the woman, a retired American art gallery owner named Wylma Wayne, and I speak to her and two other <u>women</u> who were on Renouf's fund-raising committee.

Wayne says Renouf's version of the fight is nonsense. "From what I can remember that [argument] was not really about religion or eating pork at all. She was just being domineering and I objected to her behaviour. I thought it was ridiculous and selfaggrandising to spend all this money on an elaborate menu when the aim was to raise money."

Another member of the committee tells me that at least one of the other **women** who resigned in support of Wayne was not Jewish.

I put this to Renouf when I meet her for a second extended interview, a four-hour session in her apartment over smoked salmon and cucumber sandwiches, tea and scones. She stands by her version of the suckling pig affair, saying she believes that those who resigned from the committee were indeed Jewish.

I raise another question from the past: while she claims to have graduated from Sydney's prestigious National Art School, I understand that she studied in Newcastle. She says she did some classes in Newcastle but that she definitely graduated from the NAS. The NAS has no record of her studying there, but other archives show that in 1968 she graduated under her maiden name, Michele Suzanne Mainwaring, with a Diploma in Art (Education) from Newcastle Technical College.

Another question concerns her speech to the Holocaust conference in Tehran, in which she said she had been expelled from Heythrop College for criticising Judaism in her essays.

"I was 'asked to study elsewhere'," she told the conference, lambasting Christian "collusion" with Judaism.

The Reverend Dr John McDade, the principal of Heythrop College, remembers things differently and checked Renouf's file to confirm that her account was inaccurate. "She was not expelled at all," he says. "She failed. She simply did not submit her work so she was failed. I have the letter here in which she was formally told that she could not come back because for two years in a row she did not submit her core work for assessment."

When I put that to Renouf she is adamant she'd been expelled. She says the Jesuit-run college had appointed a Hasidic Jew with the power to veto any student and that person had rejected her essays. The college's registrar tells me later it had never had any Jewish person in such a position.

Finally we return to the Holocaust, and the great store she places in Robert Faurisson's nonsense about the plaques at Auschwitz. Time and again she argues that "there is a deficit now of three million people but it is called Holocaust denial if you point out that six minus three equals three, not six".

The fact is that the figure of four million on the '70s plaque was part of Polish communist propaganda and has nothing to do with the current consensus among historians that about six million died in the Holocaust.

Experts say up to 3.4 million were killed at the main death camps - 1.1 million to 1.3 million at Auschwitz, 875,000 at Treblinka, 600,000 at Belzec, 250,000 at each of Chelmno and Sobibor, and 100,000 at Majdanek. At least 1.5 million more were killed by mobile SS death squads in eastern Poland and the Soviet Union, while the rest were killed in various ways such as shootings in Poland and deaths in smaller camps around Europe.

Renouf listens politely but after I have cited those figures she seems not to have heard me. She just repeats that "six minus three does not equal six" then changes the topic.

Perhaps sensing my frustration in the ninth hour of our interviews, Lady Renouf becomes more direct. Her main reason for not believing "the Hollywood version" of the Holocaust, she says, is that she doubts anything said by Zionist leaders. "I loathe Judaism ... and I see things through that prism."

She certainly has no plans to drop her obsession. In fact, she intends to move on to what she considers "the new front line" of the Holocaust issue, the school system. Deniers in Denmark have set up a website encouraging schoolchildren to be sceptical about the Holocaust and she wants to run a similar campaign. "This is what we need in this country and this is what I want to do next," she says. "I am determined to get the truth out there."

Peter Wilson is The Australian's European correspondent. His previous story for the magazine was "The family guy" (December 13-14, 2008), about director Ron Howard.

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Byline: By JOSHUA HAMMER

Joshua Hammer is the author of "A Season in Bethlehem: Unholy War in a Sacred Place."

Body

THE FEDERAL AGENT, a black-haired, middle-aged Virginian, stared at me for a while before asking, "Have you ever considered becoming an informant for the F.B.I.?"

We were in a large conference room on the second floor of the old U.S. Mission in Berlin. He sat at the end of a long, blond-wood conference table, scribbling on a legal pad and sipping coffee from a plastic foam cup. To his left was his partner, a taciturn man in his early 30s. Windows partly concealed by blue drapes looked out over Clayallee, a wide boulevard running through the Western part of the city.

"No," I said. "I haven't."

"We can make it worth your while," said the second man.

"You'd be serving your country," added the Virginian.

"No, thanks," I said.

The F.B.I.'s offer came in October of last year, at the end of a three-hour conversation -- a private debrief -- in the nearly deserted building that had been a center of intrigue in cold war Berlin. (Most U.S. Foreign Service staff members had moved across town to the newly opened embassy near the Brandenburg Gate.) Now the building was the location for another intrigue, involving the murder of a U.S. citizen in Bethlehem and a boastful confession that one of his killers made to me in 2002, when I was Newsweek's Jerusalem bureau chief. That man was Jihad Jaara, a former Bethlehem commander of the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, the armed group linked to the political party Fatah. Jaara called himself a freedom fighter battling the enemies of the Palestinian people. Israel considered him a prolific killer, responsible for the murders of Israeli settlers, soldiers and accused Palestinian collaborators.

Under ordinary circumstances, Jaara would have been a prime target for assassination or arrest by the Israel Defense Forces. But Jaara has been living in exile for seven years, guarded by police, in a secret location on the outskirts of Dublin, protected by a multilateral agreement made to end the 39-day siege of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in the spring of 2002. For several years, U.S. investigators pursued legal avenues to get Jaara, gathering evidence against him around the world. They first approached me in 2005, and now they were reaching out again.

THE WINTER OF 2002 was an anarchic time in the West Bank and Gaza. Nearly a year and a half earlier, in September 2000, Ariel Sharon, then the leader of Israel's right-wing Likud Party, made a provocative visit to the Al Aksa mosque, one of Islam's holiest sites, in Jerusalem. Palestinians responded by throwing rocks and firebombs at Israeli troops across the occupied territories: It was the beginning of the second intifada. The Israel Defense Forces fought back, killing dozens and igniting a full-scale armed uprising. That winter, the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades began carrying out sniper attacks on Israeli settlers and soldiers, and by spring *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad were dispatching suicide bombers across the then-unprotected Green Line marking the border between Israel and the West Bank. Israel retaliated with assassinations and incursions into Palestinian-controlled territory.

Jihad Jaara was an officer in the Palestinian Authority's Preventive Security Service at the time the uprising broke out. In October 2000, while watching Israeli troops at a checkpoint outside Jericho fire on a crowd of rock-throwing teenagers, he later told me, he turned his rifle on the soldiers, killing one. Pursued by Israel, Jaara became a fugitive, going first to Ramallah, then settling in Bethlehem. Jaara joined the local Al Aksa cell, which consisted of several hundred armed men who spent their days extorting money from Christian shopkeepers and their nights shooting at Israeli soldiers and settlers. Soon Ibrahim Abayat, the Al Aksa commander in Bethlehem, made Jaara one of his lieutenants.

Meanwhile, Avi Boaz, a 71-year-old New York-born emigre to Israel who had never given up his American citizenship, was living a complicated life in the same city. Boaz came to Israel in 1961, but his Zionist ardor faded and, while befriending a family of Palestinian Christians in the village of Beit Jala, adjacent to Bethlehem, he learned Arabic and began designing architectural projects in the West Bank. Boaz commuted to Palestinian-controlled territory while living with his wife and daughter in the Jewish settlement of Maale Adumin. As the violence worsened in 2001 and Israeli settlers became targets, he shrugged off the warnings of friends and family members that he was risking his life; he insisted that his American citizenship, familiarity with Arabic and many Palestinian friends would protect him. On Jan. 15, 2002, Boaz was stopped at a checkpoint inside Palestinian-controlled territory near Bethlehem. The gunmen climbed into Boaz's car, drove him around the city, then took him to a deserted soccer field. There, as he sat behind the wheel of his car, Boaz was killed. The Palestinian police -- who conducted only a cursory investigation and made no arrests -- counted 19 bullet holes in the windshield.

Weeks after Boaz's murder, I arranged to meet Ibrahim Abayat and a dozen other gunmen from the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades at a restaurant in Manger Square, beside the Church of the Nativity. Bodyguards carrying two-way radios and M-16 rifles took up positions by the door. Then Abayat -- trim, glowering, with several days' growth of beard -- swept into the room. He was accompanied by a lieutenant, Rami Kamel, a stocky, brooding figure who lost an arm in a grenade explosion several months earlier. The sound of Israeli combat helicopters flying over the Judean Desert filtered through the restaurant. Abayat, chain-smoking Marlboros, leapt up at one point in the course of the meal to run outside and scan the skies. He admitted that he and his men shot dead a *female* settler in her car on a settler bypass road two days earlier. "None of Sharon's operations can deter us," Abayat boasted. "If we die, we are martyrs, and if we succeed, it is another nail in the coffin of the Israeli occupation." Then he picked up his gun and motioned to Kamel and his bodyguards, and they all rushed out of the restaurant together.

On March 29, 2002, Sharon, now prime minister, launched Operation Defensive Shield, sending thousands of Israeli troops and hundreds of armored vehicles into West Bank towns to arrest and kill Palestinian militants. Jaara was accidentally shot in the leg by one of his own men. He was bleeding heavily when his comrades carried him into the Church of the Nativity. Abayat, Jaara, Kamel and about 200 others took refuge inside the 1,700-year-old basilica's walls, living off macaroni and cans of meat and tuna stockpiled by priests. A number of them were shot by Israeli snipers. After the 39-day siege, U.S. officials, including the station chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, were able to broker a deal to end the stalemate. Israel agreed to remove its forces from Bethlehem; in return, the European Union accepted 13 of the most-wanted militants. The E.U. granted the men temporary refugee status under national and international laws and left vague the exact terms of their exile and return. Abayat was flown to Spain. Jaara and Kamel were dispatched to Ireland.

Not long after, I began to research a book about the church siege and the events leading up to it. Members of the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, Israeli intelligence officers and Palestinian officials all suggested that Jihad Jaara, rather than his superior Ibrahim Abayat, organized the Boaz murder, one of the acts that galvanized Israeli public opinion.

In July, my Arabic interpreter and I traveled to the hills of central Spain, where we interviewed Abayat, then living with two other militants in a government hunting lodge built for Gen. Francisco Franco. He denied any involvement in Boaz's killing and hinted that Jaara was involved. Two months later, Jihad Jaara agreed to meet me in Dublin.

The lobby of the Royal Dublin Hotel was crowded with tour groups of elderly Americans on a gray, chilly Sunday afternoon in October 2002. It was nearly a half-hour after the appointed time when the glass doors opened and Jaara walked into the room, with Rami Kamel behind him. Square-jawed, with a gap between his lower front teeth, a shock of oily black hair and hollow eyes, Jaara clasped my hand. Kamel looked very different from the menacing fighter I encountered at the Bethlehem restaurant; he was wearing a rugby shirt and tight, pressed jeans, and his stump was fitted with a state-of-the-art bionic arm, paid for, he said, while wriggling his fleshlike fingers, with European Union funds. Jaara led the way into a dim lounge with red carpets and vinyl booths, and the four of us sat at a center table. An older Irish couple sipped tea at the table beside us, glancing over in curiosity. Jaara apologized for their tardiness; they weren't supposed to meet journalists, he explained, and it had taken them a while to shake off their police guards.

Jaara lighted a Marlboro; his hands trembled slightly. I tried to put him at ease. I told him about my visit with Abayat, describing the conditions of his house arrest in the hunting lodge. Jaara listened intently, asking for more detail. We talked about the Church of the Nativity siege, and he grew relaxed, even voluble, stabbing the air with his cigarette. I didn't have a tape recorder -- my interpreter had warned that it would make the men nervous -- so I was scribbling in a notebook. Kamel joined in, correcting wrong impressions, facts and chronology. Then, 45 minutes into the discussion, I brought up the murder of Avi Boaz. Jaara nodded when I mentioned his name.

You knew him? I asked. He nodded again.

Do you know why he was killed?

Jaara paused. He took a drag on his Marlboro.

"Avi was killed because he was an Israeli," he said. "He worked for Israeli intelligence. He enlisted many people to be collaborators. He was encouraging the Israeli settlements."

But there was a more immediate reason, he added. Raed Karmi, the head of the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades in the town of Tulkarem, was assassinated by Israel the day before Boaz's murder. "I did this in revenge for Raed Karmi's death," Jaara said.

Jaara said the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades had set up a checkpoint on the road that Boaz used to commute to work in Bethlehem. There, an Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades gunman named Riad Al-Amur seized Boaz and took him in Boaz's own car to a rendezvous point not far from the Church of the Nativity. Three other militants climbed into Boaz's vehicle: Jaara and Ibrahim Abayat and his cousin, Ismail Abayat. They headed toward Beit Sahour, a village at the edge of the Judean Hills. But Ibrahim Abayat was against the idea of harming Boaz. "He said, 'Do not shoot him,' "Jaara said. "[I] said, 'Get out of the car, this is not your business.' We let him out."

With Ismail Abayat at the wheel, Boaz in the front passenger seat and Al-Amur and Jaara in back, the car moved south along a canyon filled with olive trees. The village of Beit Sahour lay just ahead of them. "Avi Boaz was scared, talking in English," Jaara recounted. "I talked to him in Hebrew. 'Don't get scared.' We were all in Avi's car. Avi confessed that he had purchased lands from Palestinians, that he owned a house in Har Homa, that he'd invested in Har Homa." Har Homa was a West Bank settlement then under construction. Jaara said he told Boaz that the settlement's growth was "hurting" the Palestinian people.

Back in Bethlehem, Ibrahim Abayat was on his cellphone, trying to persuade Jaara and the others not to harm Boaz. Jaara told me: "He kept calling us: 'Do not do anything to him. I repeat this!' " The men passed unhindered through a Palestinian police checkpoint and descended a steep dirt road that led to a soccer field. "Riad and I went ahead to the playing field. Ismail also got out of the car and started walking. Avi got behind the wheel." After Boaz started to drive, Jaara said, Riad Al-Amur "raised his rifle" and killed the elderly American with a fusillade fired through the windshield. "Riad did the killing," he said.

Jaara paused and lighted another Marlboro. I exchanged a glance with my interpreter. Recklessness, nationalistic pride, the belief that he couldn't be touched in Ireland, the fact that he hadn't pulled the trigger -- whatever the motivation, Jaara had made an admission that, though we didn't know it at the time, would come back to haunt him.

IN THE SUMMER of 2005, a "Dateline NBC" producer, Adam Ciralsky, phoned me. He was working with the investigative reporter Lisa Myers on a piece about Jaara. Would I be willing to talk about my interview? The segment was shown that fall. It described Jaara as a "legendary Palestinian terrorist" who had led a "double life" as a security-force officer and militant. Myers reported that Jaara was still stirring up trouble overseas. In 2005, he used a fake passport to visit Ibrahim Abayat in Spain and, two weeks later, was caught by the Guardia Civil and deported back to Ireland. Myers cited Israeli intelligence sources who claimed Jaara was working with Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia militant group, to funnel money to Palestinian militants. In an interview Myers conducted with Jaara, she asked him whether he had committed the murder of the "American architect" Avi Boaz:

Jaara: "That's not true, absolutely no."

Myers: "You've never killed an American?"

Jaara: "No. My conflict between me and the Israel."

But Western intelligence and law-enforcement sources told Myers that Jaara masterminded the killing. And my own contribution to the "Dateline NBC" report -- a five-second sound bite -- cast further doubt on Jaara's denial: "[Jaara] told me in no uncertain terms that he had organized the kidnapping and the murder of Avi Boaz." The segment ended with Myers's reading aloud a U.S. Department of Justice statement that it "will not be satisfied until all of those responsible for the murder of Boaz are brought to justice."

The Justice Department decided I might be of use toward that end, and on a Tuesday morning in 2005, in the Charles Hotel off Harvard Square, I met two assistant U.S. attorneys and an F.B.I. agent. One, a sandy-haired Midwesterner in his mid-30s, carried a copy of my book, "A Season in Bethlehem," with the section about the Boaz murder underlined in red ink. He was part of a small unit inside the Justice Department that investigated killings of American citizens abroad. He had begun looking at the Boaz case and, after my book was brought to his attention, he reached out to me.

"Mr. Hammer," he asked, "would you be willing to come to Washington and tell your story to a grand jury?"

He would put me on the witness stand for about one hour, he said, and would not ask me to say anything beyond what I had written in my book. He told me the government was contacting other witnesses as well. If all went according to plan, the grand jury would return an indictment of Jaara and the Irish government would be pressured into turning him over to the United States to stand trial.

According to a representative for the European Union, any of the Palestinian exiles charged with a crime could be extradited from an E.U. state as long as the state in which the exile resided approved the request. Since the acceptance of the Palestinians was an E.U. "common action," Ireland, in the Jaara instance, would be expected to consult with the other E.U. states; but the ultimate decision would be Ireland's. Other E.U. legal experts said the request could be turned down if the crime in question were deemed political in nature.

The Justice Department lawyer warned me that my involvement might not end with the grand-jury hearing. I could be called back to testify against Jaara at his murder trial. He told me that, while I was not legally barred from discussing or writing about my testimony, he hoped I would respect the sensitivity of the investigation. He would not compel me to testify but, should I decide to do so voluntarily, he would provide me with the excuse of a federal subpoena. "Take your time and think about this," he said.

My employers at Newsweek offered little guidance, saying that the testimony was connected to my book, not my magazine reporting. My publisher, Simon & Schuster, raised no objections. I reassured myself that I wasn't betraying a source and that everything I would testify about had appeared in print. Moreover, I felt little sympathy for a figure who helped organize the execution of an unarmed man in his 70s. (By contrast, my Palestinian interpreter

refused to cooperate after prosecutors approached him. When I asked him about his decision, he cited the potential dangers and the political context of the crime: "He wasn't Daniel Pearl. He was an Israeli settler, and the U.S. government is trying to turn him into a big American patriot.") But the proposal continued to nag at me. Should journalists take part in the prosecution of a source or subject? Wasn't there a degree of entrapment in eliciting a confession for the sake of an article or book, then turning around and using that information in court? Did it not constitute an act of betrayal?

After the Balkan conflict, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia asked several reporters to testify against Bosnian Serb military commanders who were indicted for war crimes. The Washington Post fought the request; its former correspondent, Jonathan Randal, argued that reporters should not be called upon to play the role of an "auxiliary of justice." Randal, who conducted a damning interview with a Bosnian Serb leader, published in The Post in February 1993, about the extremists' ethnic-cleansing strategy, later told me: "It's difficult enough getting armed groups or radical groups to talk to us. If they thought we were going to turn around and testify, they would refuse to talk -- or they would kill us." But several other journalists agreed to appear, including Peter Maass, who is a contributing writer for The Times Magazine, and the British correspondent Ed Vulliamy, who later wrote an essay in The Observer calling such testimony by correspondents a moral obligation. "The court needs reporters to stand by their stories on oath," Vulliamy wrote in the British paper. "Why should journalists of all people -- whose information will be of such value -- perch loftily above the due process of law?"

After a week of deliberation, I sent an e-mail message to the U.S. attorney in Washington, telling him that I was willing to take the witness stand. Later that fall he contacted me in South Africa, where I was then working: the grand-jury hearing had been scheduled. Could I get on a plane to Washington in 10 days?

AN F.B.I. AGENT met me in the lobby of a small hotel, near Washington's Chinatown, where the government put me up. Dazed with jet lag after a 32-hour trip from South Africa, I followed him into a black town car for the short ride to the federal courthouse. I still had doubts about testifying, but in truth, those misgivings went along with mounting excitement: I was thrilled to be part of an international investigation of a murder.

The two young prosecutors were waiting on the asphalt plaza in front of the courthouse. We spent the previous day at the Department of Justice, reviewing my notes, rehearsing. One lawyer explained that he wanted to create a "narrative" that would "draw in the grand jury" and convey the full impact of Jihad Jaara's crime. Now, as we entered the building, he warned, "It's going to be a mob scene in there." Judith Miller of The Times was scheduled to appear that morning before a grand jury in the adjacent courtroom. After spending 85 days in jail on contempt charges for refusing to reveal the White House source who leaked the identity of the C.I.A. covert operative Valerie Plame, Miller had capitulated and agreed to testify.

The elevator door opened on the third floor -- and my escorts and I faced a throng of journalists waiting behind a rope barrier for Miller's arrival. I rushed through the corridor, avoiding eye contact, shielded by my escorts, and took a seat on a bench inside a waiting room. Fifteen minutes later, a bailiff appeared at the door.

An F.B.I. agent escorted me down the hall and into the courtroom adjacent to Miller's. The grand jurors sat in four rows. I sat at a wooden table in the front of the room. For 90 minutes, I was led by the government's lawyer through the events of the intifada, ending with the encounter with Jaara in the lounge at the Royal Dublin Hotel. At the end of the hearing, the lawyer thanked me and turned me back over to my F.B.I. escort. We shook hands, and I got on a plane back to South Africa. And that, I hoped, would be the end of it.

But it wasn't. The case went fallow for a while. Then a new team began interviewing new witnesses and reinterviewing old ones. The re-emergence of the Jaara case after a three-year silence rekindled my interest. I was not surprised to discover that he remained a troublesome figure in exile. In August of last year, he gave a plaintive interview to a Dublin journalist, lashing out at the Irish government for refusing to provide him with a job and for not getting him back to the West Bank as quickly as possible. (Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian Authority president, has made the return of the Palestinian exiles a priority in talks with the Israeli government.) "P.L.O. Militant: Let Me Go Back Home; Plea of Siege Gunman Exiled in Dublin After Church Stand-Off," read The Sunday Mirror's headline. Jaara, who was now 37, said he was lonely, living in limbo, unable to see his family (including his

youngest son, born the day he was dispatched to Ireland) and bored. Along with the boredom came moments of terror: The Irish Evening Herald reported in 2005 that the Irish police intercepted a Mossad team that was trying to kill Jaara. Last summer, reports surfaced on Middle Eastern Web sites that shots were fired on him in a Dublin street and that Jaara's car was forced off the road and into a ditch, leaving him slightly injured. The Israeli government, the Irish police and the Palestinian Authority all called these reports baseless. A senior Israeli general during the second intifada told me it was unlikely that Israel was hunting Jaara, "but if he's worried, let him be worried." As for the Irish, a government spokesman told me, "It's fair to say he's 'of interest' to us," adding that the Garda, the Irish police, "keeps a close eye on him. He's somebody who's been active in the past."

Despite all these difficulties, the Bethlehem exile resettlement has been cited by some E.U. leaders as a precedent for resettling the 60 or so Guantanamo detainees that the Obama administration is hoping to turn over to Europe. Ireland is among the few countries that has said it would grant asylum to some of the Guantanamo prisoners.

LAST MONTH I flew to Dublin: I wanted to find out if Jaara knew the F.B.I. was after him, if he had any regrets about the Avi Boaz murder, if he really thought Israel tried to kill him and if he thought Ireland -- one of the European countries considered most sympathetic to the Palestinian cause -- would protect him in the event of a U.S. indictment. Jaara had already said through Hikmat Ajuri, the Palestinian Authority's representative in Ireland, that he didn't want to talk to me. "He feels he has been burned by the press," Ajuri said. Two days after arriving in Dublin, I got an address from an Irish source, and within an hour I was riding north from Dublin along the coast in a commuter train. The sky was gray, and the wind was picking up. Drops of cold drizzle trickled down the windows.

After I got off the train, I walked along the coastal road from the station. On the right was an expanse of mud and kelp, extending for half a mile toward the Irish Sea. Brick row houses, each with an identical red-tile roof, brick chimney and postage-stamp lawn, lined the road and extended inland for what looked like a mile. It did seem to be a good place to hide.

A gray BMW was parked in the driveway of the house I was seeking. I approached, peered through thin white curtains into an empty living room and rang the bell. Jaara, in a gray sweatsuit, appeared in the doorway. He looked at me quizzically. I knew who he was instantly -- the square jaw, the gap between the lower teeth, the thick black hair, the haggard features. He didn't recognize me, though, from our meeting years before.

"Jihad Jaara?" I said. He had an expectant, half smile. "I'm from The New York Times. Would it be possible to ask you a few questions?"

"Who told you I was here?" he demanded. Then he shouted: "Who told you?"

"I tracked you down through some friends in Dublin," I said. "I -- "

Jaara wasn't listening. "Who brought you here? Was it the C.I.A.? Did the C.I.A. bring you here?" He began pacing about the hallway, agitated, making a half turn, then reaching for the telephone. "I'm going to call the police," he said.

"Jihad, I've got nothing to do with the C.I.A. I just want to -- "

"Ken," he said, shouting into his phone. "There is a journalist here. I want to know how he got this address. Did the C.I.A. give it to him? You know that my life is in danger. They have already tried to kill me. Find out who brought him here!"

Jaara handed me the phone. "I advise you to leave," the voice on the other end said. "Do not engage this person in conversation. Just walk out the door, and do not come back."

I handed the phone back to Jaara. "Can I just ask you a couple of questions before I go?" I asked. He glowered. I turned and walked away down the street in heavy rain.

Minutes later the BMW screeched to a stop in front of me. The passenger door opened. At the wheel was Jaara. "Get in," he said. He stared at me, his arm extended against the door. I hesitated. "O.K.," I said, climbing inside.

Jaara stared straight ahead. "You should not have come to my door. And now you must tell me, or tell the police, who gave you my address. You will hand over the name."

"Jihad, I'm not at liberty to do that."

We drove back to Jaara's house; he stepped out and opened the door. I hesitated. "You're not going to hurt me?" I asked.

"I am a freedom fighter, not a killer," he said. "I have never killed anyone. Go inside."

We stepped into the blandly furnished living room. James Belushi's cop-meets-German-shepherd movie, "K-9," was playing on the flat-screen TV. A Palestinian flag hung from a wall. Moments later a Palestinian physician, who also served as a leader of the Palestinian community in Dublin, walked through the front door. Jaara rushed to him, pointed to me and began talking agitatedly in Arabic. Then he swept back across the room, lighted another cigarette and flopped into an easy chair. "Do you know that a Mossad hit team was intercepted by the Irish special branch, on their way to kill Jihad?" the physician asked. "You have to understand that this man is terrified."

Jaara stood up and exhaled a cloud of smoke. "Everything is easy for you journalists, isn't it?" he said. "But I am the one whose life is in danger. The Mossad tried to kill me. Israel wants me dead."

"Please," the Palestinian physician said. "Give us the name of the person who gave you this address. Jihad is terrified because his security has been so easily breached."

"I'm really sorry," I said, standing up. "I can't do that."

"You must help us," Jihad said, angry, moving toward me. "They want to kill me."

"Give us the name," the physician said. "It could be a matter of life and death."

I looked at Jaara, sweating, sucking on a Marlboro, eyes wide with fear. I supposed he spent most of his exile holed up like this, watching bad movies and smoking Marlboros, waiting for the day when Mossad or the C.I.A. burst through the door. "Will you give me the name?" Jaara said, one more time. I again said no. Then two uniformed officers from the Garda arrived and, after a quick interrogation, they ordered me to leave. Jaara was trembling; the Palestinian physician placed two hands on his shoulders to steady him. He was still shaking when I slipped out the door and walked as fast as I could toward the train station.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

PHOTOS: Avi Boaz, an American emigre to Israel, was murdered in his car near Bethlehem in 2002. (PHOTOGRAPH FROM ZOOM,77/ASSOCIATED PRESS)(PG. MM46-47)

THE EXILE: Jihad Jaara, who was accidentally wounded by one of his own men, received temporary asylum in Ireland after the siege at a church in Bethlehem in 2002. (PHOTOGRAPH BY PHILIP MARK/ASSOCIATED PRESS) (PG. MM51)

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Section: SUPPLEMENT; Pg. 4

Length: 13401 words **Byline:** Tony Falkner

Body

345 The Big Read

The Big Read invites everyone throughout NSW to come together over one book.

Held in partnership with the Cheltenham Literature Festival, there are many ways to participate, from local bookclubs, library events, online book clubs and special events. The Big Read title for 2009 is F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby. Visit www.swf.org.au for updates of Big Read events taking place around NSW.

1 Fire: A World of Flavour with Christine Manfield

May 5, 7-10pm

UR

Join Christine Manfield over dinner and enjoy recipes from Fire, a book which took

her across the globe in search of inspiration.

\$140 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

2 Gatz

May 15-31

SOH-P

Gatz, the extraordinary stage version of The Great Gatsby, is not a reworking of Fitzgerald's novel but a reading of the entire book - brilliantly brought to life by New York's Elevator Repair Service. Presented with the Sydney Opera House.

Tickets from \$50

Information and bookings 9250 7777

www.sydneyoperahouse.com

9 Traditional Bookbinding Tools at Work

May 17, 10.30am-3.30pm

PHM

Wayne Stock of Australian Bookbinders Inc answers bookbinding questions, shows samples of work and tools, and explains techniques. Accompanied by a display by Australian Bookbinders Inc. Presented with the Powerhouse Museum.

Free with museum admission (\$10/\$6)

MONDAY, MAY 18

27 Advance Australia ... Where? Is it Beyond Our Control?

May 18, 6.30-7.30pm

PCC

Hugh Mackay discusses Australia's shifting engagement with big-picture political and social issues over the past decade and how we deal with big-picture threats - climate change, the global financial crisis - that seem beyond our control. Presented with the City of Sydney Library.

Free. Bookings essential 9265 9464, library@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

28 NSW Premier's Literary Awards Dinner

May 18, 6.30-11pm

AG

Prizes totalling \$320,000 will be presented by the Premier and Minister for the Arts.

\$145 Bookings at pla2009@dasr.nsw.gov.au

TUESDAY, MAY 19

20 The Artist's Lunch at Lucio's

May 19, noon-3.30pm

LIR

Join photographer Sarah Rhodes and writer Alice McCormick with artists Wendy Sharpe, Anne Zahalka, Jason Benjamin, Nell, Luke Sciberras and Gria Shead as they discuss over lunch what it is that fuels an artist's creativity.

\$140 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

37 The Mint Project

May 19, 1-2pm

TM

Program Sydney Writers' Festival www.swf.org.au

An event to launch The Mint Project, a book examining the history of The Mint and the redevelopment that transformed the dilapidated building into an award-winning conservation design. Co-presented with the Historic Houses Trust as part of trustwords. Free

42 Writers Talk

May 19, 5-6.30pm

ST-RW

School teachers Karla Aspden, Eve Mayes and Donna McGufficke discuss using Writers Talk, a series of online interviews with authors, to bring the writing process to life.

Free. Bookings essential 9715 8271

46 Spoken Synergies

May 19, 6.30-9.30pm

TM

This performance is an exploration of electronica, voice and bass: a collaboration between Synergy Percussion's new ensemble Synergy PUSH and spoken-word artist Miles Merrill. Co-presented with the Historic Houses Trust as part of trustwords.

\$40/\$30 Bookings 8239 2211

47 Serendip. A Sri Lankan Journey

May 19, 6.30-10pm

FF

Join Flying Fish chef Peter Kuruvita as he shares his childhood memories of Sri Lanka and enjoy cuisine from his book, Serendip. Supported by Murdoch Books.

\$95 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

56 Talks After Noon. Book Conservation in Australia

May 20, 12.30-1.30pm

PHM

Hear the tales of conservator James Elwing, who works with books of great age, rarity and personal value. Presented with the Powerhouse Museum.

Free with museum admission (\$10/\$6)

57 Ross Gibson The Summer Exercises

May 20, 1-2pm

TM

Program Sydney Writers' Festival www.swf.org.au

Ross Gibson has captured the world of 1946 Sydney - sordid and bruised after decades of depredations. The Summer Exercises, an artistic re-invention of history, draws on more than 170 photographs generated by NSW police. Co-presented with the Historic Houses Trust as part of trustwords. Free

61 Science Biography

May 20, 4-5pm

US-MM

How does a biographer wrestle with complex subject areas while informing readers about the subject's personality? In this Darwin-themed event, two scientists and two historians discuss their approaches.

Free. Bookings essential 9036 5253

macleaymusem@usyd.edu.au

62 Stuff White People Like in Newtown

May 20, 6-7pm

NT

In just over a year, Christian Lander's blog stuffwhitepeoplelike

.com has received 56 million hits and been made into a book. He charts his journey from blogging to quitting his job and writing a New York Times bestseller. Presented with the City of Sydney Library.

\$10 at door

Bookings essential, Newtown Library, 8512 4250, library@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

64 Spoken Synergies

May 20, 6.30-9.30pm

TM

This performance is an exploration of electronica, voice and bass: a collaboration between Synergy Percussion's new ensemble Synergy PUSH

and spoken-word artist Miles Merrill. Co-presented with Historic Houses Trust as part

of trustwords.

\$40/\$30 Bookings 8239 2211

65 Opening Address presented by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

May 20, 6.30-8pm

ST

One of the most applauded new voices in fiction, Nigerian writer and Orange Prize-winner Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie presents the 2009 opening address. A young writer already acquiring prodigious literary celebrity, Adichie illuminates the complexities of human experience inspired by events in her native Nigeria.

\$35/\$25 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

67 Darlinghurst Nights

May 20, 8.30-10.30pm

LOW

A celebration of the work of Kenneth Slessor and of the area he wrote about. Dramatised performances with music by Ashley Chatto and friends,

and visuals by J.D. Young. Presented by Wordjammin' and the Poets Union.

\$25 Bookings 1300 438 849 www.moshtix.com.au

Twenty per cent off dinner for show guests

THURSDAY, MAY 21

68 Poets Paint Words at the Wharf

May 21-24, 10.30am-1.30pm

HP-CS

Paintings from the Newcastle Region Art Gallery and the poems they inspired will be projected in the Heritage Pier Cafe. Runs Thursday 21 to Sunday 24. Free

30 The Literary Life. Portraits by Juno Gemes

May 21-24, 1.30-4.30pm

HP-CS

Portraits of previous Sydney Writers' Festival guests by artist, photographer and filmmaker Juno Gemes. Runs Thursday 21 to Sunday 24. Free

69 The Artist's Lunch Portraits by Sarah Rhodes

May 21-24

HP-CS

An exhibition of images by photographer Sarah Rhodes, who journeyed into the homes of Australia's most prominent and distinguished artists to capture moments in their lives. Runs Thursday 21 to Sunday 24. Free

70 George Friedman Business Breakfast

May 21, 8-9.30am

CS

Geopolitics expert George Friedman discusses what we can expect around the world during the 21st century, including where and why future wars will erupt, which nations will gain and lose economic political power and how our way of life will alter.

\$95 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

Program Sydney Writers' Festival www.swf.org.au

74 Richard Holloway on ABC Radio National's Book Show

May 21, 10-11am

HP-MS

One of the most outspoken figures in the modern church, Richard Holloway, recently stood down as the bishop of Edinburgh. The author of 23 books, he talks to Ramona Koval in a live broadcast of The Book Show.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

75 The Sydney Poetry Reading I

May 21, 10-11am

BM

Outstanding contemporary Australian poetry with a variety of insights and perspectives. With readings from three prize-winning poets Judy Johnson, Stephen Edgar and J.S. Harry. Presented by the Poets Union. Free

76 Lived Lives

May 21, 10-11am

BT

Robert Gray's family memoir paints the landscape of his youth. Antigone Kefala's

Sydney Journals displays her skill as a diarist. Abbas El-Zein's memoir tells his

story of growing up in war-torn Beirut. They share readings from their memoirs. Free

77 Australian Literary Lions

May 21, 10-11am

ST

Stella Miles Franklin, Elizabeth Jolley and Manning Clark all deeply influenced Australian literary culture. Their biographers, Jill Roe, Brian Dibble and Brian Matthews, discuss these extraordinary lives and their legacies.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

78 Blind Conscience

May 21, 10-11am

SDC2/3

Using the direct experience of activists, psychiatrists, lawyers, politicians and prison guards to tell the broader story, Margot O'Neill examines how Australian society has been affected by the mandatory detention of asylum seekers. Free

79 Ochre And Rust

May 21, 10-11am

ST-RW

Philip Jones talks about his Prime Minister's Literary Award-winning non-fiction book Ochre And Rust, which takes Aboriginal artefacts from their museum shelves and traces their biographies, revealing charged and nuanced moments of encounter in Australia's history.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

80 Kirsty Gunn in Conversation

May 21, 10-11am

SPC

Kirsty Gunn is the author of several internationally acclaimed works of fiction. Her most recent book, 44 Things, is a collection of personal reflections over the course of one year. She talks about her work. Free

81 From Hot Copy to Hard Cover

May 21, 10.30-11.30am

SDC4

The Walkley Non-Fiction Book Award recognises the growing contribution of journalists to the field of literature. Asa Wahlquist and Maureen Helen discuss topics of significance to Australia with Jenny Tabakoff. Presented by the Walkley Foundation for Journalism. Free

82 Suspending Belief

May 21, 10.30-11.30am

SDC1

Louis Nowra, Gary Bryson and Andrew Davidson's latest novels play with realism and our willingness to believe. They talk about their work. Free

83 Norman Doidge in Conversation with Caroline Baum

May 21, 11.30am-12.30pm

ST

The discovery of neuroplasticity, that our thoughts can change the structure and function of our brains even into old age, is the most important breakthrough in our understanding of the brain in 400 years. Norman Doidge explores with Caroline Baum the profound implications of the changing brain.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

84 Writing "Popular" History

May 21, 11.30am-12.30pm

HP-MS

The divide between popular and academic history is perceived as a matter of professors versus amateurs. Academic history drowns in jargon and tends to the obscure, whereas popular history is dumbed down and, well, populist. James Palmer and David Hill explore the differences between popular and academic history.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

85 Birdsong and Poetry

May 21, 11.30am-12.30pm

BT

Focusing on American and Australian poets, as well as his firsthand experiences as a birder, Devin Johnston considers imagining avian life. In a time of ecological crisis, our imagination of the natural world becomes critical. Introduced by Bret Walker. Free

86 Directions in Indian Publishing

May 21, 11.30am-12.30pm

SPC

Visiting international publishers from India, Saugata Mukherjee and Chiki Sarkar, provide an overview of the Indian publishing scene and discuss their relationship with UK branches, including export versus local publishing. Chaired by Michael Moynahan. Presented by the Australia Council for the Arts Visiting International Publishers Program. Free

87 Facts and Suppositions

May 21, 11.30am-12.30pm

ST-RW

Non-fiction can often have the quality of a bald narrative of events. Kate Summerscale and Evelyn Juers talk about the strategies behind transforming the cold facts of research into hot topics.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

88 For Whom the Arts Serve

May 21, 11.30am-12.30pm

SDC2/3

Drawing on their long careers as artists and arts advocates, contributors to Griffith REVIEW 23. Essentially Creative - Frank Moorhouse, Robyn Archer, Helen O'Neil and Geoffrey Atherden - discuss the urgent need for new ways for the

arts to connect with the community and secure stable funding. Presented with Griffith REVIEW. Free

89 Darwin in Verse

May 21, 11.30am-12.30pm

BM

Through her poems, Emily Ballou saves Charles Darwin's humanity from the legend, capturing the textures of his work and dreams, his inner doubts and questions. She talks to Johanna Featherstone. Free

90 Prose Writing v Screenwriting

May 21, noon-1pm

SDC4

Underbelly co-writer and co-producer Greg Haddrick has won six AWGIE awards for scriptwriting and his credits often extend to the creator/producer role. He talks about the advantages and disadvantages of prose writing versus screenwriting. Free

91 Hugh Mackay in Conversation

May 21, noon-1pm

SDC1

Australia's best-selling social analyst Hugh Mackay talks about his new novel, Ways Of Escape, which is the first-person story of a burnt-out clinical psychologist. Free

92 The Editorial Relationship

May 21, 1-2pm

BM

US writer and editor David Ebershoff joins a panel of Australian editors to discuss the processes, politics and protocols of the editorial relationship. Includes the announcement of the Beatrice Davis Fellowship. Free

93 Adult Orphans

May 21, 1-2pm

HP-MS

The sadness, the heightened sense of one's own mortality, the comfort taken in bequeathed treasures: the passing away of a parent can rechart the course of their grown children's lives. Caroline Jones talks to Suzanne Leal about Through A Glass Darkly, her recent book about the adult experience of parental loss.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

94 The Long and Short of It

May 21, 1-2pm

ST-RW

Novellas and short stories versus the novel. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Robert Drewe and Amanda Lohrey have all written novels but selected shorter forms for their latest books. They explain their attraction to these precise forms.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

95 Assassination Plots

May 21, 1-2pm

SDC2/3

Paul McGeough and Mohammed Hanif discuss fact and fiction in their political assassination plots. McGeough's Kill Khalid details the plot to kill the then head of <u>Hamas</u>'s political bureau in Jordan. Hanif picks up on who killed Pakistani president General Zia ul-Haq. Free

96 True Crime Stories

May 21, 1-2pm

ST

Tom Gilling and Clive Small's true crime story Smack Express was a primary source for Underbelly 2. Robert Wainwright and Paola Totaro's Born or Bred? tells the back story to Martin Bryant. They discuss documenting the darker side of human nature.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

97 The Stories in Things

May 21, 1-2pm

BT

Philip Jones and Ross Gibson have taken visual objects - artefacts and photos - to produce rich and compelling narratives of Australian history. They discuss their work. Free

98 Manning Clark and Gough Whitlam

May 21, 1-2pm

SPC

Biographers Brian Matthews and Jenny Clark consider the lives of two highly influential Australians of the past half-century - Manning Clark and Gough Whitlam. Free

100 Irreverence

May 21, 1.30-2.30pm

SDC1

Larrikin irreverence is dear to the Australian heart. The typist who drinks Ben Canaider and The Chaser 's Dominic Knight talk about taking the mickey with Mark Dapin. Free

102 And So It Went

May 21, 1.30-2.30pm

SDC4

In his latest review of the world at large, Bob Ellis evokes a host of public figures including Obama, Rudd, Palin, Rees, Ramos-Horta, Blanchett, Bhutto, Howard and Carr. How it was in 2007-08, when the world irrevocably changed. Free

104 Capturing Contemporary Australia

May 21, 2-3.30pm

MOS

In his latest book, James Arvanitakis deciphers our chaotic and rapidly changing world. He facilitates a discussion, sharing personal experiences to explore how we can analyse the dynamics of our everyday lives to challenge and change ongoing injustices. Co-presented with the

Historic Houses Trust as part

of trustwords.

\$10/\$5 Bookings 8239 2211

105 A Stout Pair Of Boots

May 21, 2.30-3.30pm

HPB

Peter Stanley is a leading military historian and author. A Stout Pair Of Boots is based on his research of Australia's battlefields in many parts of the world. Co-presented with the Historic Houses Trust as part

of trustwords.

\$10/\$5 Bookings 8239 2211

106 Launch. Harbour City Poems

May 21, 2.30-4pm

BM

Readings of historical Sydney poems by actors, followed by readings of contemporary Sydney poems by their authors. Jack Thompson launches the new anthology. Presented by the Poets Union. Free

107 The Poet's Voice

May 21, 2.30-3.30pm

BT

An aural treat featuring readings from poets Emma Jones, Robert Gray, Emily Ballou, Devin Johnston and Marjorie Evasco. Free

108 Graeme Blundell in Conversation

May 21, 2.30-3.30pm

ST

In his memoir, Graeme Blundell writes about Australian life in the '40s, '50s and beyond, with the insight of someone

who was always part of the action - whether he wanted to be or not.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

109 Nava Semel in Conversation with Alan Gold

May 21, 2.30-3.30pm

ST-RW

Nava Semel is a foremost voice of the Israeli "second generation", children born

to Holocaust survivors.

She has received numerous awards, including the Israeli Prime Minister's Award for Literature and Woman of the Year in Literature - The Tel Aviv Award 2007. She talks to Alan Gold.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

110 Philipp Meyer in Conversation

May 21, 2.30-3.30pm

HP-MS

Drawing comparisons to Hemingway, Cormac McCarthy and Richard Russo, Philipp Meyer's debut novel, American Rust, has taken the US by storm. He talks about his dark and timely vision of small-town life with Geordie Williamson.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

111 The Female Libido

May 21, 2.30-3.30pm

SDC2/3

Author of A Most Immoral Woman, Linda Jaivin, and clinical psychologist and author of The Sex Diaries, Bettina Arndt, talk about feminine sexual desire in fact and fiction. Free

112 The Mother of Mohammed

May 21, 2.30-3.30pm

SPC

Born and raised in Mudgee, Rabiah Hutchinson seems an unlikely jihadist but to Western intelligence analysts she is "the matriarch of radical Islam". Sally Neighbour explores this mysterious woman who has Western governments so unnerved. Free

113 Lupine

May 21, 3-4pm

SDC4

Perhaps more than any other animal, wolves have featured in stories as villains, as antiheroes, as mysterious benefactors or dark threats. Kirsty Gunn and Mark Rowlands share wolfish tales. Free

114 Fact and Fiction. Navigating the Borderlands

May 21, 3-4pm

SDC1

Matthew Ricketson, Estelle Blackburn, Tony Maniaty and Merlinda Bobis discuss the issues arising when non-fiction and fiction have their beginnings in real lives and real events. Presented with the University of Technology, Sydney. Free

115 Child Protection and The Arts

May 21, 4-5pm

SDC2/3

The Henson case sparked new debate on the rights of the child and the definition of

art. David Marr leads a discussion on the best way for a community to ensure children's welfare in their representation in the arts. Chaired by Rowena Danziger. Free

116 Laura Lippman in Conversation

May 21, 4-5pm

HP-MS

Laura Lippman, one of the finest writers of detective fiction in America today and creator of the award-winning Tess Monaghan series, talks to Christine Cremen about her new novel, Life Sentences.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

117 Sonya Hartnett in Conversation

May 21, 4-5pm

ST

Sonya Hartnett's fiction crosses territories and genre and she has written for children, young people and adults on topics such as family breakdown, aggression,

suicide, incest, obsession and loneliness. She talks to Sandra Yates about her new novel, Butterfly.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

118 Expats in China

May 21, 4-5pm

ST-RW

China hand Mark Kitto and historian and travel writer James Palmer talk about their experiences in the Chinese media and why they have made China their home.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

119 Launch. Motherlode (Puncher and Wattman)

May 21, 4-6pm

BT

Motherlode is the first major collection of Australian <u>women</u>'s poetry since 1995. Hear 12 Sydney poets traverse nature, iconography, pregnancy, birth, loss, daily grind, politics and ageing. Edited by Jennifer Harrison and Kate Waterhouse, launched by Elizabeth Webby. Free

120 On Grief

May 21, 4-5pm

SPC

Susan Varga, Caroline Jones and Amanda Lohrey take on the subject of death and bereavement, and what it means to pick up the pieces afterwards. They discuss writing about grieving and reconnecting with life after a tragedy. Free

121 The Debut

May 21, 4.30-5.30pm

SDC4

The road to becoming published can be littered with joy and anguish, and a lot of technical things of which the uninitiated would never have dreamed. Gary Bryson, Catherine Therese and Jennifer Mills share their experiences of first-time publication. Free

122 Launch. And So It Went - Bob Ellis (Penguin)

May 21, 4.30-6pm

BM

Join Penguin Books for the launch of And So It Went by Bob Ellis. Free

123 Risky Business. Building Resilience into the Arts

May 21, 4.30-5.30pm

SDC1

Griffith REVIEW essayists Robyn Archer, Nicholas Jose, Nicolas Low and Elizabeth Ann Macgregor discuss how to build a resilient creative society able to take risks. With chair Julianne Schultz. Presented with Griffith REVIEW. Free

125 The Man Booker Prize

May 21, 6-7pm

HP-MS

The Man Booker Prize is the ultimate accolade for many writers. Former judge Kate Summerscale and former long and short listees, Monica Ali and Mohammed Hanif,

share their experience of the Man Booker ride. Supported by Man Investments.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

126 Musings on Mr Darwin's Shooter with Roger McDonald

May 21, 6-7.30pm

MT

Join author Roger McDonald for an evening of readings and conversation centring on his award-winning novel, Mr Darwin's Shooter, and its themes, including the reconciliation of science and religion. Presented by the Royal Botanic Gardens.

\$15 Includes light refreshments

Bookings 9231 8134

127 The 57th Book Design Awards

May 21, 6-10pm

PHM

Each year, the Australian Publishers Association honours those talented designers who have broken boundaries, pushed envelopes, thought outside the square and smashed preconceptions. Celebrate the best in Australian book design with cocktails and canapes. Presented by the Australian Publishers Association.

\$66 Bookings

www.publishers.asn.au

128 The Baader Meinhof Complex. Screening and Q&A with Stefan Aust

May 21, 6-9pm

DOQ

The Baader Meinhof Complex chronicles the notorious Red Army Faction, which was responsible for carrying out murders, shootings, bombings, kidnappings and a plane hijacking. After the film, writer Stefan Aust will take questions from the audience. Presented with Dendy Opera Quays.

\$18/\$15 Bookings 9247 3800

129 JÃ, rn Utzon's Sydney Opera House

May 21, 6.30-7.30pm

CH-BLR

JÃ, rn Utzon's Sydney Opera House is a labour of love by German photographer

Katarina Stuebe in collaboration with the architect himself and, later, his son

Jan. Stuebe and Jan Utzon speak with Alan Saunders. Presented with the City of

Sydney Library and the Consulate General of Denmark, Sydney. Free

Bookings essential

9242 8555 library@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

131 The Poet's Life Works with M.T.C. Cronin

May 21, 6.30-8pm

ST-RW

The Red Room Company launches The Poet's Life Works, installations celebrating the work and life of four Australian poets. Featured poet M.T.C. Cronin delivers the Red

Room "Minislec" address. Presented with the Red Room Company. Free

132 Listening to the 20th Century. Alex Ross in Conversation with Ramona Koval

May 21, 6.30-7.30pm

ST

Alex Ross's The Rest Is Noise is a sweeping musical history that goes from the salons of prewar Vienna to New York lofts of the '60s and '70s, by way of Stalin's Soviet Union, Hitler's Germany and Cold War America. Supported by the Macquarie Group.

\$25/\$20 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

133 Wine and Words Richmond Grove Wine Dinner

May 21, 6.30-10.30pm

OC

Sydney Writers' Festival wine sponsors Richmond Grove invite you to an evening of fine dining and first-class wines with Christian Lander and other festival guests at Ottoman Restaurant. Includes four courses and wines from Richmond Grove's Limited Release collection. MC Simon Marnie.

\$110 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

136 Golden Age of Jazz

May 21, 7-10pm

VΗ

Enjoy the word prowess of jazz diva and poet Edwina Blush as she performs with the Tony Gardener Jazz Orchestra. Includes a tour of Vaucluse House and supper in

the Tearooms. Co-presented with the Historic Houses Trust as part of trustwords.

\$65/\$60 Bookings 8293 2211

139 The Imperial Panda Festival Presents: Erotic Fan Fiction

May 21, 7.30-9pm

HP-CS

Erotic fan fiction is an amateur cultural phenomenon that began in the darkest corners of internet chatrooms when amateur writers - spurned by the more discerning members of the literati - decided to put their celebrity fantasies into print. Written and read by some of Australia's newest and most exciting voices, this event promises to conjure up a different kind of magic in an adults-only kind of way. Hosted by actor Virginia Gay with stories by Tim Derricourt, Marieke Hardy and Eddie Sharp. Presented with the Imperial Panda Festival.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

347 An Evening with Germaine Greer

May 21, 7-8pm

CRH

Since storming into public consciousness in 1970 with The <u>Female</u> Eunuch, her acerbic attack on sexist culture, Germaine Greer has been kicking up dust of one type or another. She presents a lecture on "The Australian Way: The Influence of Australia and Australians on British Politics and Politicians" in which she traces the influence of the Australian example on British politics, first as the inspiration for Thatcherism and then as the rationale of New Labour. The most recent example is the adoption by the British Government of the points system for immigrants. Supported by Overland.

\$35/\$30 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au or 8256 2222

www.cityrecitalhall.com

140 Darlinghurst Nights

May 21, 8.30-10.30pm

LOW

See Event 67 on May 20 for details.

141 Late Nights at Number One

May 21, 9.30-11.30pm

N1

A relaxed Quayside wine bar, Tony Bilson's Number One is the place to be for all writers and readers looking for a post-event drink or bite and some very fine words. Guest readings nightly from Thursday to Saturday. Check www.swf.org.au for more details. Free

FRIDAY, MAY 22

206 The Poet's Life Works. A Red Room Installation

May 22-24

HP-CS

This installation celebrates poet M.T.C. Cronin with the display of her "room", containing objects and ephemera linked to her life and work. An artist will complete her portrait within the display. Presented with the Red Room Company. Runs Friday 22 to Sunday 24. Free

146 Eva Hornung in Conversation

May 22, 10-11am

ST-RW

The earlier novels of Eva Hornung (previously Eva Sallis) examine themes of exile and loneliness through cultural displacement. Dog Boy shifts these to animal and human nature. She discusses her retelling of the timeless tale of an innocent living among beasts.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

147 The Future of Journalism

May 22, 10-11am

SDC2/3

Journalism is changing and reportage is no longer left to professionals. Now, "citizen journalists" armed with mobilephone cameras and laptops offer their own views. Should this be celebrated? Free

148 David Williamson. Behind the Scenes

May 22, 10-11am

ST

Don's Party and The Removalists have made David Williamson a national treasure. Now the woman who knows him best has documented his life. David and Kristin Williamson share backstage stories with Caroline Baum. Supported by The Sydney Morning Herald.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

149 Cees Nooteboom on ABC Radio National's Book Show

May 22, 10-11am

HP-MS

Frequently mentioned as a candidate for the Nobel Prize in Literature, essayist, poet and novelist Cees Nooteboom is one of Holland's most revered writers. He talks to Ramona Koyal in a live broadcast of The Book Show.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

150 State of the Nation. Directions in the US Publishing Market

May 22, 10-11am

SPC

Catherine Drayton joins international publishers Nita Taublib and Charlie Conrad to examine US publishing trends and the books that are successful, with chair David Kent. Presented by the Australia Council for the Arts Visiting International Publishers Program. Free

151 The Sydney Poetry Reading II

May 22, 10-11am

BM

Outstanding contemporary poetry from Australia and the US. Devin Johnston, Bob Adamson and Anthony Lawrence each have a deep interest in the natural world. They share their responses and concerns. Presented with the Poets Union. Free

152 The Inside Out of Book Design

May 22, 10.30am-noon

BT

Supported by visual presentations, a panel of prominent designers discuss how, in Australia, we consistently produce some of the best-designed books in the world. Presented with the Australian Publishers Association. Free

153 From Hot Copy to Hard Cover

May 22, 10.30-11.30am

SDC4

The Walkley Non-Fiction Book Award recognises the growing contribution of journalists to the field of literature. Paul Ham and Paul Rea discuss their historical research on war with Christine Wallace. Presented by the Walkley Foundation for Journalism. Free

154 Philosophy in Sydney

May 22, 10.30-11.30am

SDC1

James Franklin considers how Sydney philosophers - typically realist, sceptical of "deep" but confused ideas and interested in scientific thought - have presented a vision of the world different from the mainstream. Presented with the school of philosophy and bioethics, Monash University. Free

142 First Tuesday Book Club

May 22, 11am-12.30pm

ABC

First Tuesday Book Club is ABC TV's first nationally televised book club. Two festival guests join host Jennifer Byrne and panellists Jason Steger and Marieke Hardy for literary debate and conversation.

Free. Bookings essential

8333 3644

155 Launch. Sydney Ideas Quarterly (University of Sydney)

May 22, 11.30am-12.30pm

BM

The University of Sydney launches Sydney Ideas Quarterly, a journal featuring reports and writings on contemporary issues stirring up the intellectual world. Launched by Geoff Gallop. Presented with the University of Sydney. Free

156 And He Shall be Called Barack Obama. The Makings of a Mythic Presidency

May 22, 11.30am-12.30pm

SDC2/3

After Barack Obama's vowing to usher in a new era of responsibility, some argue that he has shown a willingness to compromise between campaign rhetoric and Washington realities. Peter Hartcher and John Barron discuss this with the BBC's Nick Bryant. Free

157 The Brain That Changes Itself. Judge for Yourself

May 22, 11.30am-12.30pm

ST

Norman Doidge discusses how the human brain can change its own structure and function with thought and experience, turning on its own genes to change its circuitry, reorganise itself and change its operation.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

158 Tash Aw in Conversation with Kevin Rabalais

May 22, 11.30am-12.30pm

ST-RW

The Harmony Silk Factory was Malaysian writer Tash Aw's highly acclaimed and award-winning debut. He talks to Kevin Rabalais about Map Of The Invisible World, set during the tumultuous "year of living dangerously" in postcolonial Indonesia.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

159 Projecting and Finding History

May 22, 11.30am-12.30pm

SPC

History has been politicised over the past decade and there is a need for new ways of telling and engaging with history. Historians Ann McGrath, Ann Curthoys and Maria Tumarkin explore the issue. Presented with Griffith REVIEW. Free

160 Historical Fiction

May 22, 11.30am-12.30pm

HP-MS

David Ebershoff and Linda Jaivin discuss whether the historical novel might sometimes come closer to the truth than the "straight" history.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

161 Memory and Forgetting in China

May 22, noon-1pm

SDC4

Acclaimed fiction writer Ye Xin and leading Shanghai publisher Peng Lun join Nicholas Jose to discuss personal experiences of the past in China. This event is bilingual (Mandarin and English). Free

162 Children's Literature for Adults

May 22, noon-1pm

SDC1

Visiting international publishers Sarah Odedina and John McLay are joined by acclaimed Australian fiction writer Margo Lanagan to discuss the increasing adult market for children's books. With chair Laura Harris. Presented by the Australia Council for the Arts Visiting International Publishers Program. Free

163 China Cuckoo, Mark Kitto in Conversation

May 22, 12.30-1.30pm

BT

In booming Shanghai, Mark Kitto hit the big time. But in 2004 he lost his business empire and suffered repeated court battles to recover it. He tells his story to Chip Rolley. Free

165 David Hill, 1788

May 22, 1-2pm

TM

David Hill speaks about his new book, 1788, in which he artfully reconstructs the

story of the First Fleet using diaries, letters and official records. Introduced by Rowena Danziger. Co-presented with the Historic Houses Trust as part of trustwords. Free

166 The Lives of Animals

May 22, 1-2pm

HP-MS

Mark Rowlands lived with a wolf for 11 years. Eva Hornung's novel traces the life of a child raised by a pack of dogs. Steven Conte's novel considers the suffering of animals during wartime. They discuss what our animal nature brings to

our humanity.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

167 Losing My Religion

May 22, 1-2pm

SDC2/3

Richard Holloway, Michael Bachelard and Tom Frame discuss the challenges of writing objectively about a subject such as religious belief when controversy

and debates abound.

Supported by Barclays Capital. Free

168 Conversations from the Bottom of the Harbour

May 22, 1-2.30pm

BM

Six poets from the Sydney-based group Harbour City Poets present a reading of poems responding to poems, celebrating contemporary city life. Presented by the Poets Union. Free

169 Robert Dessaix in Conversation with Drusilla Modjeska

May 22, 1-2pm

ST

Arabesques sees Dessaix journeying from Europe to the edge of the Sahara and features meditations on such varied subjects as why we travel, growing old and illicit passions. He talks to Drusilla Modjeska.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

170 Tackling The Big Themes

May 22, 1-2pm

SPC

Andrew Davidson and Andrea Goldsmith discuss the potential of fiction to take on the big topics: memory, friendship, death, obsession, love, faith. Free

171 Coming of Age

May 22, 1-2pm

ST-RW

Sonya Hartnett and Craig Silvey's new novels illuminate that terrible and wonderful moment full of promise and misery that is 13 going on 14. They discuss writing about a defining period of adolescence and the revelations it engenders.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

174 Stories That Travel

May 22, 1.30-2.30pm

SDC1

Visiting international publishers Elena Ramirez, Elisabeth Ruge and Wanda Gloude consider how some writers' works translate differently and experience different levels of success. With chair Michael Heyward. Presented by the Australia Council for the Arts Visiting International Publishers Program. Free

175 The Road to a Bestseller

May 22, 1.30-2.30pm

SDC4

Visiting international publishers Amy Einhorn, Charlie Conrad and Nita Taublib talk about their greatest commercial fiction and non-fiction successes with chair Fiona Henderson. Presented by the Australia Council for the Arts Visiting International Publishers Program. Free

176 Mortgage Mania/Mortgage Meltdown

May 22, 2-3.30pm

MOS

Our love affair with real estate has brought the global financial system to its knees. Are we now over property pornography? Has the market returned to homebuyers and left speculators behind? Co-presented with the Historic Houses Trust as part of trustwords.

\$12/\$8 Bookings, 8239 2211

177 Terms of Engagement

May 22, 2-3pm

BT

A new generation of indigenous writers, leaders and thinkers is ready to break the mould with new thinking, activism and engagement to offer a positive way forward. Megan Davis, Sarah Maddison and Wesley Enoch discuss these issues with Julianne Schultz. Presented with Griffith REVIEW. Free

178 From Hot Copy to Hard Cover

May 22, 2.30-3.30pm

SDC2/3

The Tall Man, in which Chloe Hooper reports on the story of Palm Island, was shortlisted for the 2008 Walkley Non-Fiction Book Award. She talks to Christine Wallace. Presented by the Walkley Foundation for Journalism. Free

179 Underbelly 2. The Tale of a Sequel

May 22, 2.30-3.30pm

ST

While the show's creators were cooking up Underbelly, Clive Small was writing his own underworld story which became a primary source for the second Underbelly series. Greg Haddrick, Peter Gawler, Clive Small and Tom Gilling talk about how Underbelly 2 came into being.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

180 Peter Corris in Conversation with Graeme Blundell

May 22, 2.30-3.30pm

HP-MS

Peter Corris recently published the 34th title in his Cliff Hardy series - his 60th book of fiction. He also has a swag of non-fiction books to his credit. He talks to Graeme Blundell about his prolific writing life.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

181 Rock 'n' Roll Lives

May 22, 2.30-3.30pm

SPC

Two icons of Australian music - former Cold Chisel keyboardist and songwriter Don Walker and The Sports' Stephen Cummings - have recently published their memoirs.

They talk about music-making and much more with Mark Mordue. Free

182 Biography and Intimacy

May 22, 2.30-3.30pm

ST-RW

The role of friendship in writing a biography is an interesting one. Brian Dibble and Michelle McDonald discuss whether or not intimate knowledge of a person gives the writer truer, less conjectured access to what is below the surface. Chaired by Peter FitzSimons.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

183 Continental Philosophy in Australia

May 22, 3-4pm

SDC1

Paul Patton considers some of the ways Australian philosophers have both engaged with and contributed to contemporary European philosophy and how this has enriched our intellectual life. Presented with the school of philosophy and bioethics, Monash University. Free

184 The Last Whale

May 22, 3-4pm

BM

Chris Pash has told the human story of the whalers and the anti-whaling activists who risked their lives to stop them in Greenpeace's first direct action in Australia. Join Pash in conversation with the book's major character, Jonny Lewis, Free

185 Parents and Children

May 22, 3-4pm

SDC4

Amanda Curtin, Gabrielle Carey and Amanda Lohrey discuss writing about parent/child relationships, exploring the sometimes fraught territories of interdependence, protection and establishing the necessary balance of distance and closeness. Free

186 Launch. UTS Writers' Anthology, On the Side

May 22, 3.30-5pm

BT

From the writing program at the University of Technology, Sydney comes the 2009 UTS Writers' Anthology, On The Side. Launched by Charlotte Wood, with readings from contributors. Free

187 The Ethical Responsibility of the Writer. George Eliot Meets Elizabeth Costello

May 22, 4-5pm

SDC2/3

Moira Gatens brings George Eliot and J.M. Coetzee into conversation in order to ask "What is the ethical responsibility of the writer?" Presented with the school of philosophy and bioethics, Monash University. Free

188 The Baader Meinhof Complex. Stefan Aust in Conversation

May 22, 4-5 pm

ST

The Baader-Meinhof group turned to terrorism in the '70s to fight against perceived imperialism and the lingering spectre of the Nazis. Stefan Aust co-wrote the screenplay of the film The Baader Meinhof Complex based on his book of the same name. He talks with Martina Mollering. Supported by the Macquarie University Innovative Universities European Union Centre.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

189 Literary Journals

May 22, 4-5pm

SPC

For 150 years, writers have launched their careers through the nation's literary journals. Can literary journals rise to the challenge of the digital age? Sophie Cunningham, Jeff Sparrow and Julianne Schultz discuss this with Susan Hayes. Free

190 Biography with a Twist

May 22, 4-5pm

ST-RW

Evelyn Juers' portrait of Heinrich Mann and Nelly Kroeger-Mann challenges conventional understandings of biography. Kristin Williamson is exceptionally close to her subject, husband David Williamson. They talk about navigating the traditional terrain of biography.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

191 Paul McGeough in Conversation

May 22, 4-5pm

HP-MS

Paul McGeough discusses his account of the attempted assassination of Palestinian Khalid Mishal, then head of <u>Hamas</u>'s political bureau in Jordan, and the scramble to save his life that involved the Israeli prime minister, the king of Jordan and the US president. Supported by The Sydney Morning Herald.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

192 Investigative Journalism

May 22, 4.30-5.30pm

SDC4

David Marr, Michael Bachelard, Robert Wainright and Paola Totaro discuss their eye-opening research and resulting books covering the Henson controversy, the Exclusive Brethren and the Port Arthur massacre. Chaired by Peter FitzSimons. Free

193 Playing Poker with the SAS

May 22, 4.30-5.30pm

SDC1

In 2006, comedian Tom Gleeson went to entertain Australian troops in the Middle East. Confirming that he'll do anything for a laugh, he fired machine guns, drove tanks in a drag race and played poker with the SAS. He talks about his life-changing trip. Free

194 Murong Xuecun in Conversation with Mark Kitto

May 22, 4.30-5.30pm

BM

In 2002, Murong Xuecun's first novel, Leave Me Alone, Chengdu, took China by storm. He talks to Mark Kitto about his tragicomic take on love and life in modern China, with translation by Harvey Thomlinson. Free

195 Robert Harling in Conversation

May 22, 5.30-6.30pm

ST

American writer and film director Robert Harling is best known for Steel Magnolias,

his play made into a film, and screenplays Soapdish, The First Wives Club and

Laws Of Attraction. He talks about his career and life in Hollywood. In association with Blackbird Productions.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

342 Fictionalising Jewish Experience

May 22, 5.30-6.30pm

SDC2/3

As the memory of the trauma and exile of the Holocaust shifts into future generations, Navel Semel and Alice Nelson discuss writing Jewish experience in their novels. Free

343 Poetry in the Mother Tongue. Marjorie Evasco

May 22, 5.30-6.30pm

SPC

Marjorie Evasco reads from her work and discusses her decision to write in Cebuano-Visayan and become a bilingual writer, a political and artistic choice in the context of postcolonial acts of language. Free

214 Celebrity Chefs Exposed

May 22, 5.30-6.30pm

HP-CS

Cuisine Du Moi by Gavin Canardeaux, the creation of Ben Canaider, is a biting (pun intended) satire on the recent rise of celebrity-chef culture. Canaider provides an exposé on what the current crop of celebrity chefs is getting away with and how. With Sandra Yates. Free

197 NSW Premier's Literary Awards

May 22, 6-7pm

ST-RW

Chloe Hooper, Louis Nowra, Rachel Perkins and Tohby Riddle discuss their NSW Premier's Literary Awards' shortlisted works with Caroline Baum, sharing the inspiration behind their writing. Presented with Arts NSW. Free

198 Son Of A Lion Screening and Q&A with Benjamin Gilmour

May 22, 6-8pm BT

Son Of A Lion is a delicate and real portrait of a father-and-son relationship from first-time director Benjamin Gilmour set in the tribal region of north-west Pakistan near the Afghan border. Eleven-year-old Niaz dreams of studying at school but his stern father wants him to continue in the family business of making guns. Followed by a post-screening Q&A session with director Benjamin Gilmour. Free

201 Is this the End for You, Me and Capitalism? The Friday Night Salon

May 22, 7-9pm

HP-CS

The world is in global recession and it's clear something systemic has failed. With governments forced to intervene, is this the end for freewheeling capitalism? Vivienne Bath, George Friedman and Ross Gittins debate with Shaun Davies and James Stuart. Presented with Non-generic Productions.

\$20/\$15 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

202 An Evening with Wendy Harmer

May 22, 7-8pm

PTH

Wise and witty, the impressively multi-talented Wendy Harmer is Australia's best-known humourist. She also has a swag of books under her belt. In this session, she talks about Roadside Sisters, the story of three very different friends, reluctantly approaching middle age, who take a road trip up the east coast of Australia.

\$25/\$20 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

203 Nocturnes. Kazuo Ishiguro in Conversation

via video link

May 22, 8-9pm

ST

Master storyteller Kazuo Ishiguro is the author of six novels, including the international bestsellers The Remains Of The Day (winner of the 1989 Man Booker Prize) and Never Let Me Go. From London, he talks to Sydney Writers' Festival chair Sandra Yates about his sublime story cycle Nocturnes, a quintet that ranges from Italian piazzas to the Malvern Hills, a London flat to the "hush-hush floor" of an exclusive Hollywood hotel. Supported by The Sydney Morning Herald.

\$20/\$15

Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

204 Darlinghurst Nights

May 22, 8.30-10.30pm

LOW

See Event 67 on May 20 for details.

205 Late Nights at Number One

May 22, 9.30-11.30pm

N1

A relaxed quayside wine bar, Tony Bilson's Number One is the place to be for all writers and readers looking for a post-event drink or bite and some very

fine words. Guest readings nightly from Thursday to Saturday. Check the Sydney Writers' Festival website, www.swf.org.au, for more details. Free

SATURDAY, MAY 23

208 Lakelands Olives Oil Tasting

May 23, 9.30am-5.30pm

Pier 4/5

Many cooks and chefs regard olive oil as the one ingredient they can't live without. Lakelands Olives produces some of the most delicious varieties available in the country and will provide free tastings for festival-goers. Free

210 Marcus Chown in Conversation with Fred Watson

May 23, 10-11am

HP-MS

The two towering achievements of modern physics - quantum theory and Einstein's general theory of relativity - together explain virtually everything about our world, yet most people still haven't the slightest clue what either is about. Radio astronomer and author Marcus Chown explains to Fred Watson why Quantum Theory Cannot Hurt You.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

211 Monica Ali in Conversation with Claire Scobie

May 23, 10-11am

ST

Monica Ali's new novel In The Kitchen opens with a mysterious death in a cosmopolitan hotel. Over ensuing pages, Ali peels back the layers of polyglot London to reveal the melting pot existing below. She talks to Claire Scobie. Supported by The Sydney Morning Herald.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

212 Auburn Rising. The Sky Belongs to Everyone II

May 23, 10-11am

BM

Celebrate the International Year of Astronomy with Auburn Poets and Writers Group. This multilingual performance explores the sky as an inclusive space and probes a planet they experience differently beneath one sky. Free

213 Andrea Goldsmith in Conversation with Drusilla Modjeska

May 23, 10-11am

ST-RW

Acclaimed Australian writer Andrea Goldsmith talks to Drusilla Modjeska about her new novel, Reunion, a story of friendship, obsessive love and untimely death.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

215 The Block

May 23, 10-11am

SPC

Bill Simon was stolen, beaten and used as child labour. He spent eight years in a boys' home, after which a life of self-abuse and crime finally saw him imprisoned. Today Simon helps other members of the Stolen Generations find a voice. He talks to John Maynard. Free

346 Richard Flanagan in Conversation

May 23, 10-11am

SDC 2/3

One of Australia's literary giants, Richard Flanagan's multi-award-winning novels, Death Of A River Guide, The Sound Of One Hand Clapping, Gould's Book Of Fish and The Unknown Terrorist, have been published to popular success and critical acclaim in 25 countries. He talks about his latest novel, Wanting. Free

216 The Happiness Mistake

May 23, 10.30-11.30am

SDC1

Happiness is a psychological good that many people seek. But what if there is no such thing? Caroline West explores what happiness could be and what it could not be. Presented with the school of philosophy and bioethics, Monash University. Free

217 Research and Writing

May 23, 10.30-11.30am

SDC4

Paul Ham, Catherine Jinks and Babette Smith were shortlisted for "The Nib": CAL Waverley Library Award for Literature, which recognises excellence in research. They speak with Ashley Hay. Presented by Waverley Library and Copyright Agency Limited. Free

218 Will the Real Writer Please Stand Up?

May 23, 10.30-11.30am

BT

Who gets to call themselves a writer and why? Singer/songwriter Sarah Blasko, spoken-word artist Miles Merrill and adventurer/journalist Chris Bray dissect their various approaches to being writers with Benito di Fonzo. Free

222 Launch. Peril Magazine Issue 7 "Fashion, Fetish"

May 23, 11.30am-12.30pm

BM

Peril, an online Asian-Australian arts and culture magazine, launches issue 7 with broadcaster and fashionista Annette Shun Wah. Visit

www.peril.com.au. Supported by the Australia Council for the Arts. Free

223 Drawn from Life or Drawn from the Imagination

May 23, 11.30am-12.30pm

SPC

Many would argue that all fiction comes from lived experience but the pitfalls around representing personal experience in fiction are legendary, particularly in first books. Veteran of 14 books, Laura Lippman, and first-timer Gary Bryson exchange notes on the interplay between real life and life on the page. Free

224 Mohammed Hanif in Conversation with Steven Gale

May 23, 11.30am-12.30pm

ST-RW

Mohammed Hanif talks to Steven Gale about A Case Of Exploding Mangoes, his superb Man Booker longlisted debut novel centred around the assassination of Pakistani dictator General Zia ul-Haq. Doing for Pakistan what DeLillo's Libra did for JFK conspiracy theory, its hilarious skewering of the Pakistani military and intelligence infrastructure is teasing, provocative and very funny.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

225 Stuff White People Like. Christian Lander in Conversation

May 23, 11.30am-12.30pm

HP-MS

Recycling, expensive sandwiches, standing still at concerts, natural medicine, irony, public radio, breakfast places, vegetarianism, organic foods and being an expert on ethnic cultures are just a few things that white people like.

Christian Lander's satirical blog skewered the sacred cows of lefty Caucasian culture, from the Prius to David Sedaris. Fifty-six million hits later, it became a book. He talks to newmatilda

.com's Ben Pobjie.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

226 Lives on Stage. Graeme Blundell and Julia Morris

May 23, 11.30am-12.30pm

ST

Two legendary Australian entertainers - 2008 Helpmann Award nominee Julia Morris and actor, director, producer and writer Graeme Blundell - trade tales from their memoirs and talk about making their private lives public.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

227 The Rise and Fall of Government

May 23, 11.30am-12.30pm

SDC2/3

On November 24, 2007, Australia resoundingly changed government. What really happened during that tumultuous year behind closed doors? Peter Hartcher, Sally Warhaft and Bob Ellis consider the rise of Rudd and the demise of Howard. With Tony Jones. Free

228 Don Walker in Conversation

May 23, noon-1pm

SDC1

Former Cold Chisel member and songwriter Don Walker talks to Suzanne Leal about his memoir, which evokes wild times in the '70s, life on the road, making music and more. Free

230 Craig Silvey in Conversation

May 23, noon-1pm

SDC4

Craig Silvey's first novel, Rhubarb, sold more than 15,000 copies and saw him acknowledged as one of The Sydney Morning Herald 's Best Young Australian Novelists.

He talks about his much-anticipated second novel, Jasper Jones. Free

231 Stephen Cummings in Conversation with Bernard Zuel

May 23, noon-1pm

BT

Legendary musician Stephen Cummings talks with Bernard Zuel about his tell-all memoir of 25 years in Australian music. He shares some inside truths about the music business, pulling no punches. Free

233 The Suspicions Of Mr Whicher

May 23, 1-2pm

ST

Kate Summerscale talks to Caroline Baum about her history of a sensational Victorian murder and its aftermath. Pioneer sleuth Inspector Jack Whicher's 1860 case of the murder of a small boy shaped detection, in fact and fiction, and transfixed the British, including Wilkie Collins and Charles Dickens. A riveting true-crime story, it is also the story of the birth of forensic science.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

235 The Stuff of the Past

May 23, 1-2pm

SDC2/3

Kate Grenville, Amanda Curtin and Nava Semel talk about turning history into fiction in their latest novels. With Alan Gold. Free

236 The Message

May 23, 1-2pm

HP-MS

Is it possible that wars can be fought, even won, via nonviolent media like film, music, books and blogs? Benjamin Gilmour, James Maskalyk and Emmanuel Jal talk about their messages of peace and calls to action through alternative media.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

237 Andrew Davidson in Conversation

May 23, 1-2pm

ST-RW

Andrew Davidson talks to Christine Cremen about his international literary

sensation The Gargoyle. The tale of doomed love was number one in Canada and

rode high on The New York Times bestseller list. It has been described as a contemporary Inferno.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

238 Irfan Yusuf in Conversation

May 23, 1-2pm

SPC

How does a middle-class kid from John Howard's electorate become convinced he should die for the Muslim cause? Irfan Yusuf shares his hilarious journey into and then out of political Islam. Free

239 Stories from The Stolen Generation

May 23, 1.30-2.30pm

BT

Pastor Bill Simon, the first Aboriginal minister to be ordained in Redfern, and Lorraine McGee-Sippel, a Yorta Yorta woman, share their stories of growing up. With poetry readings by Emma Jones and Elizabeth Hodgson. Free

241 On Marriage

May 23, 1.30-2.30pm

SDC1

Alice Nelson, Steven Conte and Siew Siang Tay discuss the vagaries of romantic love in their novels. Free

242 Conflict and Childhood

May 23, 1.30-2.30pm

SDC4

Tash Aw's novel is set during Sukarno's drive to purge

1960s Indonesia of its colonial past. Abbas El-Zein's memoir charts his childhood and

teens in war-torn Beirut.

They talk to Rowena Danziger about the effects of nations

in conflict on the lives of children. Free

245 Should the Critic be Fired?

May 23, 2-3.30pm

BM

A panel discusses the role of the professional critic in assessing the worth of a creative work. Includes the announcement of the winner of the 2009 Critic

of the Year Award. Presented with the Geraldine Pascall Foundation. Free

246 Smack Express

May 23, 2-3.30pm

JPM

Smack Express is a primary source for the second season of Underbelly. Former assistant police commissioner Clive Small and journalist Tom Gilling unravel the web of connections at the heart of organised crime in Australia and the illegal drug trade.

Co-presented with the Historic Houses Trust as part of trustwords.

\$10/\$5 Bookings 8239 2211

348 Patrick White Playwrights' Award 2008

May 23, 2.15pm-4.15pm

Sydney Theatre Company, Wharf 2

The winner of this prestigious award will be announced by Andrew Upton, co-artistic director of the Sydney Theatre Company, followed by a rehearsed reading of the play by the company's artists.

\$5 Bookings 9250 1777

www.sydneytheatre.com.au

247 Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in Conversation with Ramona Koval

May 23, 2.30-3.30pm

ST

Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, the Orange Prize-winning author of Half Of A Yellow Sun, talks to Ramona Koval about her new collection of stories The Thing Around Your Neck. Searing and profound, suffused with beauty, sorrow and longing, this new collection is a resounding confirmation of Adichie's prodigious storytelling powers. "Here is a new writer endowed with the gift of ancient storytellers." - Chinua Achebe

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

248 Shooting Balibo. Blood and Memory in East Timor

May 23, 2.30-3.30pm

HP-MS

Tony Maniaty covered the war in East Timor in 1975 for ABC TV. He came under shelling in Balibo and, a few days later, five other Australian journalists were killed. As consultant to the upcoming film Balibo, Tony returned to East Timor. He talks to Paul Ham.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

250 David Ebershoff in Conversation

May 23, 2.30-3.30pm

ST-RW

In The 19th Wife, David Ebershoff convincingly inhabits the voices of a 19th-century Mormon wife and a contemporary gay youth excommunicated from

the church. He talks about his combination of epic historical fiction with a modern murder mystery.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

251 News, Feature, Book. Journalism's Big Narrative Dig

May 23, 2.30-3.30pm

SDC2/3

Paul McGeough, Chloe Hooper and David Marr discuss the process of developing news events into long-form journalism and literary non-fiction. Presented with the University of Technology, Sydney. Free

252 Dominic Knight in Conversation

May 23, 2.30-3.30pm

SPC

The Chaser 's Dominic Knight talks about his first novel, Disco Boy, which explores the bleak experience of young people trapped in jobs they despise and opens up the cans of worms of sexual politics and Sydney society. Free

253 Stories from the Climate Change Front. A Forum and Launch of Overland 195

May 23, 3-4pm

SDC1

Are big polluters changing their ways or simply greening their public image? What action do we need? David Spratt, Sharon Beder and Tim Lambert discuss this with Jeff Sparrow. Presented by Overland magazine. Free

255 Ask Marcus Chown ANYTHING!

May 23, 3-4pm

SDC4

Marcus Chown is an award-winning writer and broadcaster, and currently cosmology consultant for New Scientist magazine. He has written about quantum physics, black holes, creation, how the entire human race could fit into the volume of a sugar cube, how every breath you take contains an atom breathed out by Marilyn Monroe. This is your chance to fire questions about the universe at Marcus. Ask Marcus Chown ANYTHING! Free

256 The Power of Performing Your Words

May 23, 3-4pm

вт

Five writers who perform their work demonstrate this, then dissect how and why they do it and discuss performance as an alternative to publishing. With Sonya Renee, Tom Gleeson, Edwina Blush, Tug Dumbly and Miles Merrill. Free

257 Launch. The Weight Of Silence by Catherine Therese (Hachette Livre)

May 23, 4-5.30pm

BM

Join Hachette Livre for the launch of Catherine Therese's achingly funny, heartbreaking childhood memoir The Weight Of Silence. Free

258 Don Walker in Conversation with Charlie Owen

May 23, 4-5pm

GL

Don Walker, respected songwriter and musician with Cold Chisel, has recently published his memoir Shots. He shares his story with fellow Tex, Don & Charlie band member, Charlie Owen, and together Don and Charlie play some of the songs that have accompanied this extraordinary journey. This is an outdoor event. BYO rug and picnic (no alcohol). First 60 bookings guaranteed wet-weather venue. Presented with the City of Sydney Library.

Free. Bookings essential 9298 3060

library@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

260 The CAL/Meanjin Lecture. Should Intellectual Property be "Owned"?

May 23, 4-5pm

SPC

With the rise of digital technology, the question of whether intellectual property can or should be owned is becoming increasingly relevant. Yet even as we make the push towards online content, our copyright system is baulking under the strain of the information boom. In this lecture, Lynne Spender considers the implication of Google's creation of a searchable database of the world's books before speaking on the ethics of reproducing writers' work, expanding on the issues brought to light in her essay in the June edition of Meanjin. Spender asks whether we need a cultural shift in the way we view knowledge and information sharing. Supported by Meanjin. Free

262 On Doubt, Luck and Humbug

May 23, 4-5pm

HP-MS

Robert Dessaix, Anne Summers and Leigh Sales have all contributed essays on some of the big themes of life. They discuss their thoughts on the subjects of doubt, luck and humbug, as well as the craft of the essay.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

263 Bad Boys and Bad Girls of China

May 23, 4-5pm

ST-RW

Murong Xuecun's novel depicts three young men beset by dead-end jobs, gambling debts, drinking, drugs and whoring. Linda Jaivin's novel focuses on China correspondent George Ernest Morrison's obsessive sexual relationship with an American nymphomaniac heiress. They share their stories of a saucier side of China.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

264 Truth in Fiction and Non-fiction

May 23, 4-5pm

SDC2/3

Gabriel Garcia Marquez once said, "In journalism just one fact that is false prejudices the entire work. In contrast, in fiction one single fact that is true gives legitimacy to the entire work." Hugh Mackay and Michael Meehan talk about truth in fiction and non-fiction. Free

265 High Surf

May 23, 4.30-5.30pm

SDC1

From Puberty Blues to Tim Winton's Breath, surf culture continues to hold a valuable place in our cultural landscape. Tim Baker, Nick Carroll and Sean Doherty discuss surfing and surf writing. Free

266 First Australians

May 23, 4.30-5.30pm

BT

Rachel Perkins, Louis Nowra and Bruce Pascoe talk about First Australians, the dramatic story of the collision of two worlds that created contemporary Australia, told from the perspective of Australia's first people. Free

267 Born or Bred?

May 23, 4.30-5.30pm

SDC4

From conversations with Martin Bryant's mother, teachers, friends, psychiatrists and lawyers, and using police transcripts and the Bryant family history, Robert Wainwright and Paola Totaro discuss what drove Bryant to commit the Port Arthur massacre. Free

268 The Author's Right to Speak

May 23, 5.30-6.30pm

ST

On February 14, 1989, the Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa against Salman Rushdie and his publishers over The Satanic Verses. The Rushdie affair introduced the question of how far free expression should be limited to avoid offending sensibilities in a complex society. Marking the 20th anniversary of the Rushdie fatwah, Monica Ali, Richard Flanagan, Anne Summers and David Williamson discuss the politics of freedom of expression, with chair Neil James. Supported by the Plain English Foundation.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

344 A Mother's Life

May 23, 5.30-6.30pm

SPC

Of all inter-generational relationships, the mother-daughter bond is often considered the most significant. Susan Varga and Gabrielle Carey discuss their recent books, which observe the mother-daughter relationship later in life. Free

269 Remembering David Foster Wallace

May 23, 6-7.30pm

BT

David Foster Wallace authored some of the most remarkable fiction of the past two decades, as well as spectacular journalism and essays. Kate Crawford chairs an evening

of talks with Nick Maniatis, Julian Murphet and Caroline Hamilton. Free

270 Launch. The Red Highway by Nicolas Rothwell (Black Inc.)

May 23, 6-7pm

BM

Join Black Inc. for the launch of Nicolas Rothwell's The Red Highway, a hypnotic and haunting story that evokes a mesmerising part of the country. Launched by David Marr. Free

271 An Evening Under the Stars with Kate Grenville

May 23, 6-8.30pm

SHE

Kate Grenville was inspired by the 1790 notebooks of astronomer William

Dawes while writing her best-selling novel, The Lieutenant. This talk by Kate Grenville is followed by stargazing through the telescopes. In partnership with the Sydney Observatory and The National Trust.

\$30/\$26 Bookings 9921 3485

www.sydneyobservatory.com

272 International Voices

May 23, 7-8.30pm

ST

Readings from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Tash Aw, Monica Ali, Mohammed Hanif, Cees Nooteboom and Philipp Meyer, hosted by Annette Shun Wah. Includes the presentation of 2009's Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Australian Novelist awards. Supported by The Sydney Morning Herald.

\$20/\$15 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

273 Spoken Four

May 23, 7-8.30pm

HP-CS

US poetry slam champion

Sonya Renee joins three of Australia's hottest spoken-

word stars, Tug Dumbly, Edwina Blush and Omar Musa. Hosted by the founder of

The Australian Poetry Slam, Miles Merrill.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

274 Penguin Plays Rough

May 23, 8-10pm

UKS

In this new monthly event, young emerging wordsmiths read their work in a huge crumbly room in Newtown.

Five programmed writers and five wild cards read their stories and everything is published in a zine. Presented with FBi 94.5FM. Free

275 Darlinghurst Nights

May 23, 8.30-10.30pm

LOW

See Event 67 on May 20 for details.

276 Late Nights at Number One

May 23, 9.30-11.30pm

N1

A relaxed wine bar, Tony Bilson's Number One at Circular Quay is the place to be for all writers and readers looking for a post-event drink or bite to eat and some very fine words. Guest readings nightly from Thursday to Saturday. Check the Sydney Writers' Festival website, www.swf.org.au, for more information. Free

SUNDAY, MAY 24

277 Christos Tsiolkas in Conversation

May 24, 10-11am

HP-MS

Would you slap a child who is not your own? Christos Tsiolkas talks about his blisteringly good novel, The Slap, where he turns his blowtorch on the belly of middle-class suburban Australia and its notions of child-rearing.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

280 The Blogosphere

May 24, 10-11am

SDC2/3

James Maskalyk's and Christian Lander's books found their genesis in the blogosphere. Antony Loewenstein's book is about bloggers who live and write under repressive regimes. They consider the power of the blog with newmatilda.com's Ben Pobjie. Free

281 Changing Worlds

May 24, 10-11am

BM

From Berlin to Hong Kong to Indonesia, Steven Conte, Alice Nelson and Tash Aw's novels are set against a background of nations in turmoil. They discuss the "character" of nation in their books. Free

282 Shaking the Kaleidoscope or the Religious Situation of Our Time

May 24, 10-11am

ST

In 2000, Richard Holloway resigned as bishop of Edinburgh in the Scottish Episcopal Church. He now describes himself as a "Christian agnostic". Holloway has written for many newspapers in Britain and presented his own series on BBC Television. His books include On Forgiveness, Looking In The Distance, Godless Morality, Doubts And Loves and Between The Monster And The Saint. He considers religious belief in the modern world. Supported by Barclays Capital.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

283 Literary Mysteries

May 24, 10-11am

ST-RW

In David Ebershoff and Michael Meehan's epic novels, events from the past shed light on contemporary mysteries and their protagonists' search for the truth. They discuss buried secrets and digging up the past.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

284 Hilary Charlesworth in Conversation with Larissa Behrendt

May 24, 10.30-11.30am

SDC4

Eminent human-rights academic Hilary Charlesworth talks to Larissa Behrendt about her most recent co-authored book, Bills Of Rights In Australia: History, Politics And Law. Free

286 Traditional Bookbinding Tools at Work

May 24, 10.30am-3.30pm

PHM

Wayne Stock of Australian Bookbinders Inc answers bookbinding questions,

shows samples of work

and tools, and explains techniques. Accompanied by a display by Australian Bookbinders Inc. Presented with the Powerhouse Museum.

Free with museum admission (\$10/\$6)

288 Zine Fair

May 24, 11am-5pm

MCA-F

Calling all zinesters, writers who self-publish, artists who work with words and general lovers of the independent press and the arts. Sell/trade your zines or browse the wares of others. Presented with the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Free. Stall fees \$15 a table, stall bookings 9245 2484

291 Kate Grenville in Conversation

May 24, 11.30am-12.30pm

ST

Kate Grenville talks about her latest novel, The Lieutenant, where she again visits the period of white Australian settlement to create her characters Daniel Rooke, a First Fleet soldier and astronomer, and Tagaran, a young Aboriginal girl he befriends.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

292 George Friedman in Conversation

May 24, 11.30am-12.30pm

HP-MS

George Friedman is an internationally recognised expert in geopolitics and forecasting whose one- and 10-year geopolitical and economic forecasts have become hot commodities at the Pentagon and on Wall Street. Divining

the events of the next century, he maps what he sees as the likeliest developments of the future.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

293 Sarah Blasko in Conversation with Bernard Zuel

May 24, 11.30am-12.30pm

ВМ

Singer-songwriter Sarah Blasko is one of Australia's most respected songwriters and impressive live performers. She talks about the art of songwriting with Sydney Morning Herald music critic Bernard Zuel. Free

294 Nicolas Rothwell in Conversation

May 24, 11.30am-12.30pm

ST-RW

Nicolas Rothwell is among Australia's most gifted writers. His new book, The Red Highway, explores death, friendship, travel and art, and evokes a unique and mesmerising part of the country. He shares his story of a quest.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

296 Wanderlust

May 24, noon-1pm

SDC4

What makes a true adventure? Is there any uncharted territory left to explore? Adventurers and travel writers Chris Bray, Lincoln Hall and David Smiedt discuss. Presented with Australian Geographic. Free

298 Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Novelists

May 24, 1-2pm

BT

Each year The Sydney Morning Herald names the authors it considers to be Australia's best young novelists. Susan Wyndham chairs a discussion and readings with the 2009 winners, who will be announced in the paper on May 16. Sponsored by The Sydney Morning Herald. Free

299 Dangerous Ideas

May 24, 1-2pm

ST-RW

Sometimes dangerous ideas enter the mainstream, such as the concepts that humanity may not have free rein with the world's resources, that mandatory detention of asylum seekers might not be appropriate policy, that environmental issues are not being solved by those tasked with their solution. Chris Pash, Margot O'Neill and Nicola Markus discuss their books of activism and social change.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

300 An Intruder's Guide To East Arnhem Land

May 24, 1-2pm

BM

Andrew McMillan talks about his book An Intruder's Guide To East Arnhem Land - part history, part journalism, part literature and part love story with a people and a place. Free

301 Australia and Human Rights. Issues for the Next Decade

May 24, 1-2pm

SDC2/3

Are human rights adequately protected in Australia? How can we improve the protection of human rights? Is judicial oversight of human rights antidemocratic? Which rights are worth protecting? Hilary Charlesworth considers debates over human rights in Australia. Introduced by Bret Walker. Free

302 David Williamson in Conversation with Andrew Upton

May 24, 1-2pm

ST

From the early sensations of Don's Party and The Removalists to smash hits

like Emerald City and Brilliant Lies, David Williamson's plays have been the way Australians have known themselves. He shares a lifetime of passion with Andrew Upton. Supported by The Sydney Morning Herald.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

303 Emmanuel Jal in Conversation

May 24, 1-2pm

HP-MS

Emmanuel Jal was only seven years old when he was taken from his family home to become a child soldier with the rebel army in Sudan's bloody civil war for nearly five years. Beaten, starved and brutalised, Emmanuel was put into battle in Ethiopia and southern Sudan carrying an AK-47 taller than himself. Now an internationally acclaimed hiphop artist spreading messages of peace and reconciliation, he talks about his memoir War Child: A Boy Soldier's Story.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

305 Playing with the Past

May 24, 1.30-2.30pm

SPC

Susan Coleridge, Robert Engwerda, Lisa Lang and Mary Lightfoot play with the past in different ways. All awarded Australian Society of Authors mentorships, these talented writers read from their work. Sponsored by the Australian Society of Authors/Copyright Agency Limited mentorship program. Free

308 The Bloody White Baron

May 24, 1.30-2.30pm

SDC4

James Palmer talks about the gripping life story of Baron Ungern-Sternberg, an anti-Semitic fanatic with a penchant for Eastern mysticism and a hatred of communists, whose actions foreshadowed the most grotesque excesses of the 20th century. Free

309 Classical Music in Popular Culture

May 24, 2-3pm

SOH-DT

What is the place for classical music in the age of YouTube and the MP3? Is it dying or is it in the midst of a surprising revival? Alex Ross, the music critic of The New Yorker and the author of the award-winning book The Rest Is Noise: Listening To The Twentieth Century, gives a talk on the present state of an ever-evolving art form.

\$30/\$28 Bookings 9250 7777 www.sydneyoperahouse.com

311 FBI 94.5FM's Out of the Box with Christos Tsiolkas

May 24, 2-3pm

MCA

Each week on FBi 94.5, Canvas delves into someone's

record collection and talks about the music he or she loves, his or her life and how the two interact. Here it explores Christos Tsiolkas's musical inspirations. Presented by FBi 94.5 and Cyclic Defrost Magazine. Free

313 Sunday Afternoon Tea and Readings

May 24, 2.30-4pm

HRB

Join host Geraldine Doogue and enjoy a refined and relaxed afternoon with a delicious high tea and readings from some of Australia's

most revered writers, Robert Dessaix, Kate Grenville and Robert Drewe.

\$55 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

314 The Philosopher And The Wolf. Mark Rowlands in Conversation

May 24, 2.30-3.30pm

HP-MS

Philosopher Mark Rowlands lived with his pet wolf, Brenin, for 11 years. By turns moving and funny, his account of their shared life offers every reason to look again at how we view animals, including human beings. He talks to Alan Saunders about the lessons on consciousness, animals and knowledge that he learned from his time with a wolf.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

315 Metaphors of Space

May 24, 2.30-4pm

BM

An architectural display and poetry reading on the theme of home and public space with Chris L. Smith, David Musgrave, Elizabeth Hodgson, Peter

Boyle, Pam Brown and Andy Quan. Presented by Mascara Poetry. Free

316 Shooting the Story

May 24, 2.30-3.30pm

ST

Son Of A Lion was shot in a hazardous corner of Pakistan. Balibo recreates events surrounding the shooting of five Australian journalists in East Timor. Directors Benjamin Gilmour and Robert Connolly talk about making films in difficult places.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

317 Poetry as Passion.

A Tribute to Dorothy Porter

May 24, 2.30-3.30pm

BT

One of Australia's most acclaimed poets, Dorothy Porter, died on December 10, 2008. She was 54 and, arguably, at the height of her creative powers. Dorothy Porter is remembered in this special event with readings by her peers of her own favourite poems. Free

318 Literary Activists

May 24, 2.30-3.30pm

ST-RW

Many of our greatest writers, including Helen Garner and Tim Winton, are intensely politically engaged. What drives these literary figures to become crusaders of the keyboard? Brigid Rooney explores the connection between writers and activism

in Australia.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

320 Grandma Magic

May 24, 2.30-3.30pm

SDC2/3

When it comes to their grandchildren, grandmas are renowned for being short on criticism and long on love. Janet Hutchinson talks to Anne Deveson, Annette

Shun Wah and Gabrielle Lord about the delights of being, or having, a grandma. Supported by the Sydney Community Foundation. Free

319 Creating a Participation Society

May 24, 3-4pm

SPC

Cheryl Kernot, Hugh Mackay, Susan Varga and Alan Attwood discuss the importance of community, the need for new models and the impact of the recession, the internet and social entrepreneurship. With Julianne Schultz. Presented with Griffith REVIEW. Free

321 DiVerse at the Margaret Olley. A Poetic Response

May 24, 3-4pm

SHE

Eight talented poets from the group DiVerse respond to Margaret Olley's images at the S.H. Ervin Gallery. The audience will receive chapbooks featuring the poems read at the performance. Presented by the Poets Union.

\$7/\$5 at the door

Includes gallery entry

322 Scandals, Crime and Corruption

May 24, 3-4pm

SDC4

Long before the gangland wars and decades before Mr Asia and George Freeman, 19th-century Sydney had its fair share of scandals, crime and corruption. Kirsten McKenzie and Bruce Kercher, with Stephen Garton. Presented by the History Council of NSW. Free

323 It's All Formulaic

May 24, 3-4pm

SDC1

Aficionados of literary novels often dismiss genre fiction as formulaic. Best-selling writers Laura Lippman, John Flanagan and Margo Lanagan discuss this issue. Free

324 Bloggers v Journalists, Round 378

May 24, 3.30-5pm

MCA

If bloggers are all wannabe journalists and journalists are all complacent hacks, why do so few manage to cross over? Rachel Hills talks to bloggers/journalists Erica Bartle, Tim Blair, Margo Kingston and Antony Loewenstein. Free

326 The Science of Parallel Universes. Could There be Copies of YOU Out There? A Cafe Scientific Event

May 24, 4-5.30pm

BT

New theories in cosmology claim that each of us has many exact replicas in other universes - in theory, you could meet your identical self in an identical world. Marcus Chown and Charley Lineweaver chat with Catalyst 's Paul Willis. Co-presented by ABC Science. Free

327 Julia Morris in Conversation

May 24, 4-5pm

ST

Julia Morris's hilarious new memoir is about moving to the UK, going broke, having too many overnight romances and learning that mojitos are not one of the five major food groups. She talks about leaving singing behind and channelling her inner Dickens.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

328 Auburn Rising. The Sky Belongs to Everyone III

May 24, 4-5pm

SO

Celebrate the International Year of Astronomy with Auburn Poets and Writers Group. This multilingual performance explores the sky as an inclusive space and probes a planet they experience differently beneath one sky. Free

329 James Maskalyk in Conversation

May 24, 4-5pm

HP-MS

James Maskalyk gave up his practice at a Toronto hospital to join Medecins Sans Frontieres. His assignment: a village on the border of northern and southern Sudan. He talks about Six Months In Sudan, his memoir of trying to heal a village on the brink of devastation.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

330 Meet the Makers of The Artist's Lunch

May 24, 4-5pm

SB

Join Alice McCormick and Sarah Rhodes as they talk about the experience of

creating The Artist's Lunch, which led them into the homes of Australia's most prominent and distinguished artists. Free

331 Men, Women and Sex

May 24, 4-5pm

SDC2/3

No one outside a marriage really knows its secrets, the hidden yearnings, the love, lust and the betrayals. Bettina Arndt and Lucienne Joy take Maxine McKew behind closed doors as they explore the sex lives of married couples. Free

332 Different Australias

May 24, 4-5pm

ST-RW

Mark Dapin crisscrosses Australia and meets undefeated dreamers, wild-hearted romantics, obsessed hobbyists and beautiful failures. Andrew McMillan takes us to Arnhem Land, which feels like foreign travel. They talk to Mark Mordue about their travels through hidden Australia.

\$15/\$10 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

333 Morris Gleitzman in Conversation with Sophie Cunningham

May 24, 4.30-5.30pm

SDC4

Morris Gleitzman has written 27 novels for children. He talks to Sophie Cunningham about his Holocaust novels, Once and Then, and some of the more adult aspects of writing for children. Free

334 Launch. extempore Issue 2

May 24, 4.30-5.30pm

BM

Issue 2 of this biannual journal inspired by jazz and improvised music features poetry, fiction, interviews, essays, photographs and a CD. Join in for the celebration, performance and readings. Free

335 Debating Darwin

May 24, 4.30-5.30pm

SDC1

Evolutionary theory has permeated many facets of modern life from economics to politics to theology. Is science just as fundamentalist as religion, claiming to know everything? Tom Frame and Iain McCalman examine Darwin's profound influence. Free

336 On Our Watch

May 24, 4.30-5.30pm

SPC

Nicola Markus believes Australia faces serious conservation challenges that are not being properly addressed by government. She discusses the real threats to Australia's natural environment and how everyone can become involved in conserving our environmental heritage. Free

164 Black Politics

May 24, 5.30-6.30pm

SDC2/3

Sarah Maddison's new book, Black Politics, builds a picture of the past 25 years of Aboriginal political history. With Larissa Behrendt, she explores the issue of why Aboriginal communities still struggle so hard to be heard in mainstream politics. Free

337 Much ado about Grammar

May 24, 5.30-7pm

HP-MS

Kevin Rudd's new national English curriculum aims to restore grammar, language, literacy and literary studies to the classroom. But many argue that the old-fashioned method at the level of the sentence compromises critical literacy. Mark Tredinnick, Neil James, Michael Meehan and others debate the issue. Supported by the Plain English Foundation. Free

338 Launch. Hair

May 24, 6-7.30pm

BM

Join editors Suzanne Boccalatte and Meredith Jones for the launch of Hair. This anthology of art and writing explores the cultural and historical significance of hair. Free

340 The Last Word with Richard Flanagan

May 24, 6-7pm

ST

Richard Flanagan seals a week of moving words with the 2009 closing address. Afterwards, please join the writers and the Sydney Writers' Festival board and staff for a glass of wine in the Sydney Theatre foyers.

\$20/\$15 Bookings 9250 1988 www.sydneytheatre.org.au

341 Darlinghurst Nights

May 24, 8.30-10.30pm

LOW

See Event 67 on May 20 for details.

Graphic

FIFTY FOUR PHOTOS: Christine Mansfield Christian Lander Alice McCormick Quentin Jones Sarah Rhodes Abbas El-Zein Judy Johnson Robert Drewe Linda Jaivin Paola Totaro Mark Kitto Robert Wainwright Sonya Hartnett Devin Johnston Cees Nooteboom Eva Hornung Monica Ali Alex Ross Jennifer Byrne Margo Lanagan Michael Bachelard David Ebershoff Georgia Blain - 41 Norman Doidge - 26 Wendy Harmer - 134 Mark Tredinnick - 196 Dominic Knight David Marr Andrea Goldsmith Tash Aw Stephen Cummings Kate Summerscale Paul Ham Graeme Blundell Julia Morris Marcus Chown Hugh McKay John Flanagan Mark Rowlands Antony Loewenstein Susan Wyndham Kate Grenville Christos Tsiolkas George Friedman Hilary Charlesworth Sarah Blasko Mark Rowlands Cheryl Kernot Hugh McKay Richard Flanagan Bettina Arndt

Load-Date: March 27, 2009



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Length: 14710 words

Byline: Anna Minton

Body

This Citywire AAA-rated manager Paul Mumford who is senior fund manager at Cavendish Asset Management has trimmed his stake in audio engineering group NXT Sound. Mumford cut his investment in the business from 5.49% to 4.9% or 7,334,989 shares worth £880,198. After the turbulence of the last 18 months, Mumford is one of a dwindling band of managers who are rated triple-A in the UK for their three-year, risk-adjusted performance. He holds the shares in the Cavendish Opportunities fund, a special situations vehicle which invests across the range of market caps. In a recent update to investors he said that for the first time since 1995 he was investing in undervalued larger companies. NXT offers advanced engineering services to organisations from a host of diverse industries around the world and was a pioneer of "flat panel" speakers which it has commercialised for use in a wide range of products such as car audio and portable MP3 players.

EVENING STANDARD COMMENT

IRANIAN ELECTION GIVES NEW HOPE TO THE WEST

AMID signs of a surge in support for the leading challenger to the incumbent president, fundamentalist and Holocaust denier Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Iranians are preparing to vote in their presidential election. The campaign by reformist Mir Hossein Moussavi has galvanised a country that is still a theocracy but which has seen the grip of the mullahs shaken by increasing freedom of expression via the internet and other media. Demonstrators last night protested against Mr Ahmadinejad's final address via state television.

For the Middle East, the stakes are high. This electoral battle will affect the direction of a state in hot pursuit of nuclear weaponry and lavish in its support of Hizbollah and <u>Hamas</u> militants in Lebanon and the Palestinian territories. Mr Ahmadinejad has used the nuclear programme and anti-Israel rhetoric to win electoral credit for standing up to the West. However, rising inflation, a sluggish economy and high unemployment have created disillusionment that has improved Mr Moussavi's chances. <u>Women</u>, chafing at religious restrictions on their rights, have been attracted by his wife's active campaigning. At the same time, President Obama's reaching out to the Muslim world in recent speeches and gestures of respect for Iran's civilisation may have addressed the anti-Western paranoia that in the past has reinforced the position of the mullahs.

Mr Ahmadinejad, meanwhile, has succeeded in upsetting some key clerics. That said, the influence of the Revolutionary Guards and powerful militia stack the odds in his favour. But even if the incumbent clings on, after this hotly contested struggle Iran will not be quite the same again. For the rest of the world, at risk from nuclear proliferation and wider instability in the Middle East, for London's many Iranian refugees, and for the country itself, tomorrow is a crucial day.

PM'S HALF-MEASURES

We are already getting a preview of the real political debate before the next election with the Prime Minister's insistence that spending will rise, when in inflation-adjusted terms it is set to fall. Given the condition of public finances, it seems remarkable that he can still suggest that cutbacks are anything but inevitable and necessary; for him to say otherwise is pure fantasy. Any government will have to make painful cuts.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister has given us his proposals for constitutional reform. Most are unlikely to be effected this side of a general election. They include plans for a written constitution and for lowering the voting age. Proposing an external regulator for MPs' expenses would be more impressive had it not come immediately after Shahid Malik's restoration to his ministerial post, without the publication of any of the findings from the expenses inquiry that cleared him. The Government's talk about transparency seems just that: talk.

It would help if the chairmen of select committees were elected by MPs. And if the Lords is indeed to be almost entirely elected, as Mr Brown wants, it must be constructed so as to be an effective revising chamber. But it is hard to escape the impression that Mr Brown's proposals are intended not so much to change the way things are run as to give an impression of purposeful activity from a beleaguered premier.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

IT is welcome news that trains are running on eight out of 11 lines despite today's Tube strike. However, amid reminders of RMT union leader Bob Crow's admiration for the defeated miners' leader Arthur Scargill, the rest of the world, viewing TV pictures of Londoners defiantly trudging to work, could be forgiven for thinking we were back in the 1970s. With the cost of the strike to Britain's economy estimated at £50 million a day, it is time for the Mayor to direct recruitment of reserve drivers, so that next time London can get to work regardless of the RMT's antics.

BEATING THE STRIK WITH A SWERVE AND A WOBBLE

ANDREW NEATHER

As a London cyclist I get yelled at by drivers on a tediously frequent basis, but this was a first: as I jumped a red light on to Battersea Bridge yesterday morning, a man on a bicycle tutted, "Red light?" I was so surprised that withering words failed me.

For this was a man on a bike rather than a genuine cyclist, clad in corduroys and a nondescript brown jacket. And goodness, there have been a lot like him out there during the Tube strike. Cyclists clog intersections, great flocks of them of so many that they prevent the usual hogging of cycle boxes at junctions by scooters and cars. And most of them weren't there on Monday. You can spot the newbies a couple of bus-lengths off, puffing along in clothing that's either simply impractical (tight jeans) or over-ambitiously fashionable (high heels). Or else they are clad from head to toe in gear so new you can almost see the factory crease marks in their reflective jackets. There are a lot of pale male legs on display. Their bikes are an equally odd bunch of more front-mounted baskets than a Tory party awayday, and gear systems that would provoke breathless excitement on Antiques Roadshow. Perhaps novices may think me condescending? Well, duh. Only a non-cyclist could think it sensible to ride in a Barbour jacket or boat shoes. Only someone whose bike is normally crammed in the shed between the lawnmower and boules set could fail to see the essential sexiness of precision-engineered Japanese steel or why sit-up-and-beg handlebars make us roll our eyes. Much more serious, they veer all over the place. They don't have regular cyclists' instinctive sense of the road space around them: you don't know what they're going to do next. One cycling colleague reports a wobbling cyclist careening into a pedestrian yesterday morning. The pedestrian apologised to the cyclist and helped her on her way of whereupon she turned the wrong way down a three-lane, one-way stretch of Marylebone

Road. But most important of all, the strike cyclists have made me realise just how blasé I've become about London traffic and its dangers. You can see their nervousness when they get to a red light or find themselves boxed in. And stranger still, the novices also show why it is often safer to break the rules. For instance, when I jumped that light on Battersea Bridge, the road ahead was clear < I was in no danger nor was anyone else. If I'd waited for the light, a melée of cyclists would have surged forward, with impatient cars trying to edge past and cut across to take the left turning. Likewise, when I turned left on a red at a bottleneck near my house: why wait to be cut up by the white van next to me? I'd like to hope that drivers will become better behaved over time, for when they do, we cyclists will surely ride less aggressively in our own defence. For now, though, I hope the new cyclists get more confident < and enjoy it.

After all, it's how I took up cycle commuting myself: I pedalled my way through the June 2004 Tube strike and have never looked back. I'm regularly outraged by the squalor and delays of the Tube, on the couple of occasions a week when I use it, cursing my feebleness if I've given in over a bit of drizzle. I hope that the strike-bikers will feel the same way, coming to prefer two wheels to the enragingly random frequency of the Circle line or the ill-tempered, sweaty crush of Oxford Circus station at 6pm. Because on a bicycle, you're free, and you're safer than you think a even wearing cords.

LONDONER'S DIARY

NEW OFF THE WALL SPORT PUT UP FOR 2012

EUROSCEPTIC Tory MP David Heathcoat-Amory made a startling suggestion to the French Ambassador Maurice Gourdault -Montagne the other day.

He said Mayor Boris Johnson, as host of the London Games in 2012, should exercise his right to propose a new sport for the Olympic programme. The sport he recommends is the Eton Wall Game.

"It's a game we should win," said Heathcoat-Amory, "because no-one else will know how to play it."

Although Heathcoat-Amory, like his party leader David Cameron, went to Eton, neither of them played this violent but character forming game. But Boris was an enthusiastic player when he was at school.

It just happens that Gourdault-Montagne, as a keen student of history, knows the Duke of Wellington is alleged to have said he won the Battle of Waterloo on the playing fields of Eton.

"The Head Master of Eton sent a representative to our Bastille Day celebrations last year and he gave me a copy of the rules of this game," says the ambassador. "They are very complicated, with some strange language, but I have been reading them very seriously. With an Etonian Mayor and maybe an Etonian Prime Minister, I believe this game should be studied by anyone wishing to understand how Britain is governed in the 21st century."

In Beijing last August, Boris stressed that ping pong (whiff whaff) was coming home and that many sports, such as cricket, soccer and rugby were invented in Britain, so the Wall Game is in a noble tradition. Johnson, who will be up for re-election in May 2012, may no longer be mayor when the Olympics happen, but this should give him plenty of time to put in a word for his favourite game.

Sadly, the Mayor was too preoccupied with that other legalised scrum, the Tube, to comment yesterday.

BENDING THE PRESIDENTIAL EAR

RIGHT wing blogger Tory Bear (a younger version of Guido Fawkes) has unearthed a less than flattering analysis of Gordon's reshuffle by one Olivia Bailey, the Oxford educated Vice Chairman of Young Labour. Bailey met Brown in Downing Street a few weeks ago but her subsequent report on the reshuffle is distinctly off message. On Friday her Facebook status read: "FOUR <u>women</u> in the cabinet. It is a sad, sad day when a Labour prime minister thinks that equality is Œfemale window dressing'. Four <u>women</u> out of 23 Cabinet members? All new Cabinet members men? It is a disgrace."

Strident stuff for a party apparatchik. The blue bear put in a call to the Number 10 press office earlier in the week only to find that a video clip of her talking to the PM appears mysteriously to have been pulled from their website. Clearly Bailey, a rising star in the ranks of young Labour activists, will not be finding promotion or a safe seat under Brown's leadership.

BLUE BEAR NECESSITIES OF LIFE

COULD Ahmed Rashid, the senior Pakistani journalist who gives his opinions on page 14 today, have been partly responsible for President Obama's radical change of heart on Middle East issues? One of the things the acclaimed author of Descent Into Chaos, a massive tome demolishing US foreign policy in central Asia, does not mention is that he had private talks with Barack Obama to brief him just before his inauguration.

Rashid, who has been one of the most damning mainstream critics of US policy under George Bush, enjoyed a quiet dinner with the President-elect at the beginning of the year, in Washington's Ronald Reagan Building.

Among those at the off-the-record dinner on 8 January were Lee Hamilton, who co-chaired the Iraq Study Group and the 9/11 Commission, Iran scholar Haleh Esfandiari, Samantha Power, incoming White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel and a few others. Rashid himself had flown in especially from Lahore.

According to reports, Obama said "he already felt in the bubble and was trying his best to meet with independent experts." "They talked mostly about what was going on in the world, from Gaza to the financial crisis and its implications," one source summarized.

WHY ACTORS CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF HOTELS

ACCORDING to Bill Nighy actors are at home in hotels. So it was good to see so many of them last night at the reopening of the Langham Hotel after its staggering £80 million overhaul. The hotel now boasts an underground swimming pool in an old bank vault.

Thronging the lobby were Brit luvvies Bill Nighy (right), Tom Hollander, and Dougray Scott.

Nighy exclaimed: "I love hotels. Given the choice, I'd live in one all the time -- probably not for very healthy reasons. They appeal to the isolationist in me. All actors spent a lot of time working, on their own, staying in hotels. It's an environment that you control. And I've never quite recovered from the fact that someone changes the sheets for you."

Much to the Londoner's delight, Uncle Bryn/Rob Brydon, pictured with Tom Hollander (below), joked about making off with some of the million pound fixtures and fittings. Brydon told me he had just finished rehearsing the third series of Gavin & Stacey: "We start filming on Monday" he said.

VICTORIA AITKEN IS NOW TOP OF THE POPS

IT'S been a good week for the Aitkens. First, Jonathan, former cabinet minister, has been officially rehabilitated ten years after he was convicted of perjury at the Old Bailey - as he wrote in Monday's Guardian.

Now his singer daughter Victoria's latest album, I'll Be Your Bitch, has reached No 6 in the British Dance Charts. "It means they can't call me a disgraced former Cabinet Minister's daughter any more," she says, explaining her significant upgrade. "It's the only song in the top 40 not on a record label." CLAUDIA Schiffer, Mary McCartney and Amber Le Bon attended the Graduate Fashion Gala Show in Earl's Court last night \tilde{n} the show that launched Stella McCartney. "One thing this country has is talent, and it's important to encourage that," said Zandra Rhodes. Amber Le Bon, the 19-year-old daughter of Duran Duran's Simon Le Bon is enjoying following mum Yasmin as a model: "I love my job, I really do. It's all so new still so it's really exciting. I've just finished a shoot for the German version of Vogue and done two more for River Island. It was so much fun-- I mostly just got to dance about."

WHAT a mercy Steve Norris stopped being a Tory MP in 1997. Otherwise his expenses might be under scrutiny. Earlier this week the ex-mayoral candidate, now senior partner in Park Place Communications, was spotted in the

champagne bar at Heathrow's Terminal 3 with his wife shortly before they boarded an Iberia low cost flight to Bilbao to visit the Guggenheim."Oh, it's your birthday soon," said Steve. "Is this trip my present to you?" "No," said Emma, "because you're getting it on expenses."

CONFESSIONS of a Shopaholic author Sophie Kinsella, whose real name is Madeleine Wickham, stunned the audience at the Melissa Nathan Awards for Comedy Romance last night, by singing Gershwin with her husband Henry Wickham on the piano. Terry Morgan, the chairman of Cross Rail, was abused by the fatigued and tardy audience, who had all been delayed by the tube strike. "It's not been a problem for me," announced host and comedienne Jo Brand. "I drive everywhere. What some of you out of Londoners don't know, is that London driving is absolutely brilliant. Green means go, amber means go and red means go after you count to two."

DAVID Soul, Richard E Grant and singer Jamelia attended the opening night of Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens last night. Ex-Starsky and Hutch actor Soul said: "I'm in talks about a production of The Odd Couple, the classic which was of course done by Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon. It's a very, very cool script."

Ffiona's restaurant has a giant poster for "special rates for former Cabinet ministers and ex-MPs: dodgy receipts provided." also on the menu is Ffiona's new 'Prince of darkness' pudding: Hot treacle sponge with Brazilian rhumbaba sauce. Yummy.

sPOtted in Kensington Church street:

MY LOVE AFFAIR WITH GROWING YOUR OWN

LIZ HOGGARD Rosie Boycott career feminist, newspaper supremo and Boris's "Food Tsar" is proof you can start gardening at any age. She was 51 before she picked up a spade. "Six years ago, I'd never grown a single vegetable," she laughs. Like many frazzled Londoners, she thought growing your own was some boring activity reserved for dullards and oldies with nothing better to do.

Back then her life was full of smart parties and TV appearances. The first <u>female</u> editor of The Independent newspapers, she socialised with actors and politicians. In 1998 she became the editor of the Daily Express.

But then in 2001 she lost her job when the paper was acquired by Richard Desmond. She bought a smallholding in Somerset with her husband Charlie, a London QC. But overwhelmed by emptiness and depression, Boycott, an exalcoholic, started drinking again after 22 years. In 2003 she was involved in a drink-driving accident, breaking her leg so badly that doctors feared she might lose it.

She checked into the Life Works therapeutic community in Surrey and began to realise that work had become a substitute addiction. Convalescence, which took 20 months, left her re-evaluating her life completely. Hobbling around on crutches, she found one of the few things she could do was garden. "I had to switch my head out of the Œhurry and have it now' culture," she tells me. "All I could do while my leg healed was make sure I ate muesli and exercised according to doctor's orders. It was fantastically difficult, but gardening became incredibly important. It taught me patience when you plant a seed you can't do much, all you can do is water it and give it the right soil and sunlight. Then you have to wait. But the rewards are miraculous."

Today, sober for the past six years, Boycott, 57, has swapped Prada for planting. On her organic farm she grows new potatoes, harvests peas and beans, and picks tomatoes and basil. It is run as a community farm with eight other families. She jokes that it reminds her of the hippie, collectivist days of the 1970s when she co-founded the feminist mag Spare Rib before the age of 21.

Boycott may be the new poster girl for The Good Life, but she is back at the heart of power. As part of the Capital Growth project, Boris Johnson has commissioned her to create 2,012 new, mini urban farms by 2012. She has plans to green the empty spaces of London. Her eyes gleam as she describes how derelict urban spaces can become community vegetable patches. Spare bits of land are being found all over town by canal sides, in school playgrounds, near Marble Arch, on the roof of the Hayward Gallery. There will be vineyards and orchards and even a free food wall where you'll be able to walk along the canal and help yourself to strawberries.

"We've tried to tick lots of boxes such as dealing with the sense of urban loneliness, where do I fit into this great metropolis, and also getting people to spend time outdoors."

Our interview takes place at 8am at her London house just off Westbourne Grove where she and Charlie live during the week. As we chat, Rosie, blonde and tanned, wolfs down muesli, topped off with coffee and a fag (good to see she's not a complete puritan). I'd been expecting dungarees but she's in a floral jacket and black trousers. "I got really fat when I broke my leg, so when I managed to lose all the weight, I suddenly found I had a cupboard full of clothes dating back to the early 1990s."

She credits gardening with making her fit. That and the "extraordinary satisfaction of picking, cooking and eating food that you have grown yourself. It's a reconnection to the earth, to the soil, to the way that things were always meant to be".

We are funny about food, she insists. Why don't we question where it comes from? "No self-respecting bloke would put something peculiar in his Ferrari tank, yet we stuff in hamburgers without any thought to what we are doing." I had been dreading interviewing Boycott < I shop on the internet, rarely cook and a friend looks after my minimalist garden. But in person she is warm and maternal. Even a slacker like me can be part of her green revolution, she says.

People have lots of misconceptions about gardening. "You don't need a lot of space to get going: beans and tomatoes will grow in a window box; you can plant herbs in a hanging basket. You can even grow things in one of those blue builder's bags." She spends a lot of time in schools. Children today are so disconnected from the food they eat and from the life in their gardens < but it doesn't take much to reconnect them.

Working with the Evening Standard, her next project is a schools competition, details of which will be announced shortly, to get a garden into every one of our 2,300 London primaries. She tells me excitedly about a school with a wheat field that makes its own bread. "Forget Nintendo, growing your own produce is the most magical thing. Something so small is transformed into a runner bean plant in just 14 weeks. Show this process to a child and I guarantee it will change them." Plus, she tells me, people who grow things are less addicted to throwing things away as landfill. "We value what we grow." She wants to get Londoners thinking about the politics of food. "Why are we so dependent on a food system that is so utterly alien to us? Our labelling system is appalling. Things that are labelled Œproduced in Britain' could actually have come from Poland. Just because they are packaged in some factory in Britain they get a British stamp."

A return to eating home-grown veg is one of the greenest steps you can take. Animal farming accounts for a fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions, due to forest clearances and methane emitted by cattle. She's not expecting the world to turn vegetarian "but I do eat far less meat than I used to".

Boycott remains a hippy campaigner. How could she countenance working for a Tory Mayor? "Carbon has no politics," she insists. What excites her is how environmental activism can solve social problems. The <u>Women's</u> Environmental Network has created gardens on housing estates in Tower Hamlets. "People grow herbs, and have a barbecue near the children's play area. The area no longer needs policing, you provide a community focal point, and it's producing something that people can actually get stuck into. It's really moving when you see it happen."

Rosie has overcome alcohol addiction. but doing the same about work took longer. "What changes my life now are the times I spend with my good friends, the satisfaction I get when I see a new garden and eat homegrown vegetables with my husband."

Five years ago people might have dismissed Boycott as a crank, but even the Obamas have torn up the White House lawn to create an organic community garden.

But can she nanny Londoners into eating their greens? Boycott thinks the key is pleasure. "It's addictive. There is nothing better than digging up a potato and slinging it straight in the pot." Buy a packet of seeds tomorrow, Rosie advises < it might just change your life.

GO GREEN TODAY

Start with a hanging basket or window box. Beg, steal or borrow old kettles, baths or dustbins. You can even start a mini garden with a growbag -- bought from garden centres or seed sellers for less than a fiver.

Buy a packet of seeds. They'll cost around £1.99 and out of that you'll get vegetables to feed you all through the summer.

Short of space? Investigate your rooftop. "Don't worry if it can't take huge amounts of weight," says Boycott. "You don't need vast depths of soil. You can grow an amazing amount in a small quantity. Even in a growbag you can have five or six tomato plants."

Time-poor? Set up a communal garden with a group of friends or neighbours, so you only have to take your turn every couple of weeks.

Take back a lost or quirky space. Semi-derelict spaces between houses, or on canal paths, make great impromptu gardens. You'll also get the satisfaction of improving your neighbourhood.

Investigate your local park -- they are increasingly receptive to offering growing spaces.

A NIGHT A THE ATHENAEUM

PETER DOMINICZAK

Piccadilly Circus. On any given night, the garish animations of its famous adverts illuminate the debauchery below. Four hundred yards south, the gentlemen's clubs of Pall Mall stand beleaguered, sentries guarding an aristocratic haven where the riff-raff shall not pass.

On this night, though, the defences were to be perforated. I'd found a member and was going into The Athenaeum. I'd walked Pall Mall countless times before and through gaps in curtains watched grey heads bobbing at the bar; the only visible inches of a world I would never see. Since 1824, The Athenaeum has hosted the shining lights of the arts and science as well as the slightly dimmer illuminations of the British aristocracy. The club's first secretary was Michael Faraday, who before his death in 1867, instigated a plan to illuminate the building electrically while the rest of London languished in the glow of gaslight.

The Athenaeum is the stamping ground of the distinguished. I, however, came inappropriately attired. No suit jacket. I thought a shirt and tie would suffice. An immaculately dressed attendant looked at me with the disdain normally retained for symptoms indicating a venereal disease.

"We might be able to come up with something," he said, nodding to a woman in the shadows. She disappeared and arrived soon after with what initially appeared to be the desiccated husk of a sperm whale but turned out to be a jacket.

"This is all we have."

Clearly, The Athenaeum allows for the possibility of only the obese making sartorial errors.

I pulled out a mobile phone to inform my host of my plight. As the phone rang, the attendant's eyes bulged as he pointed to an austere white sign saying "No mobiles in the club".

I should have known. Beetroot-red, looking like a toddler having a lark in his father's worst suit, I sat down and watched a crooked old man reading a copy of The Daily Telegraph nailed to a noticeboard. No other papers are represented.

Eventually, my host arrived and I walked into the dining hall with my new sleeves slapping gently against my thighs. A crusted gent and his wizened partner turned and watched me take my walk of shame through the cavernous hall.

Portraits of past members line the walls; crystal chandeliers hang 30 feet from the ceiling. Glasses clattered and a chorus of Received Pronunciation chimed through the room.

We were seated by an Aryan-looking waiter who departed without a word, marching back shortly afterwards with bread. I wasn't sure whether it was a pre-dinner treat or my rations for the evening. He was not pleased to have us.

My <u>female</u> host and I were not fitting in. <u>Women</u> have been allowed in since 2002. I was with one of the chosen few and can say their arrival seems to have been greeted with the kind of cheer rogue nuclear states normally reserve for UN weapons inspectors.

Priced menus and any eye contact were reserved for me. The fact that I was 40 years younger than my companion, bedraggled and covered with butter after pitching part of a buttered ration-roll down my jacket didn't seem to matter. Tradition is tradition. You do not order food orally. That would be ridiculous. You are given a form to fill out. A pen is not supplied. We managed to order and soon jugs of wine arrived, and food too. But the foie gras and truffles were secondary to the menagerie of individuals in the room.

On our left, clergymen were having an animated theological debate, golden crosses swaying with excitement. To the right, two corroding nonagenarians sat in silence, imbibing soup by osmosis. In a corner, David Trimble arose from the head of the table. The Irish Nobel Laureate adjusted his belt and surveyed the room. He paid quickly and scampered for the door. Perhaps he'd spotted an old enemy.

In front of us, a slender <u>women</u> in a silk gown stared into much older eyes framed by wild, greying brows. She never spoke, only nodded and periodically, laughed wildly. By the door, portly lords stared into nothingness with befuddled eyes, the occasional guffaw or "good show, good show" echoing across the room.

An atmosphere could be felt. However crude you find this level of opulence, its fascination is undeniable. There is an innate vitality and grace to a place where everyone has achieved. No one needs to impress any longer.

After dinner I roamed the halls in a wine-fuelled haze. I bounded up the grand staircase where Dickens and Thackeray ended a decade-long feud. On the fifth floor I found the rickety, wooden wheelchair upon which Michael Faraday died. I sat down, no ropes to prevent my perversion. It creaked. I leapt off in a panic.

Later, on the Underground, there were whoops as I was jostled along the platform by drunks. Briefly enraged by modern life, I suddenly had an idea of why The Athenaeum is so intent on preserving its traditions.

Looking down, I watched the sleeves of the borrowed suit jacket swaying rhythmically with the train. I'd be going back anyway, I thought.

WHERE TO EAT A QUICK LUNCH AT CANARY WHARF

CHARLES CAMPION

Leon This chain has grown comfortable with its image as the "acceptable face of fast food". The dishes stray towards being worthy but never quite get there. Prices are keen and the "Superfood" salads and wraps seldom disappoint.

Leon, Promenade Level, Cabot Place West, E14 (020 7719 6200, www.leonrestaurants.co.uk)

Curve For a restaurant marooned in a chain hotel, Curve does a pretty good job of asserting its individuality. The à la carte menu concentrates on seafood but there is a cheeky little "Three in One" lunch deal that changes daily this offers three small courses for £9.50, for example clam chowder (pictured, left) followed by grilled sausage and mash then carrot cake.

Curve, London Marriott, West India Quay, 22 Hertsmere Road, E14 (020 7517 2808, www.marriott.co.uk)

Royal China

You would expect a restaurant group with many branches to adapt their offer to suit the Wharf but not a bit of it. The E14 branch offers much the same rather good dim sum as at the other restaurants, the only difference being a view of the river. Order the roast pork puffs.

Royal China, Westferry Circus, E14 (020 7719 0888, www.royalchinagroup.co.uk)

Plateau

A grown-up restaurant with a top-notch view. If you can choose to take lunch after the rush, best wait until 3pm when the menu de jour kicks in. Dishes change daily but you get two courses for £15 and three for £17. There's also a special, low-priced deal accessible via the Top Table website.

Plateau, 16-19 Canada Square, E14 (020 7715 7100, www.dandlondon.com)

Carluccio's The formula here is to serve sound Italian food at competitive prices and this branch has the advantage of having a large dining area. Nevertheless, it's still awesomely busy if time is at a premium, aim to visit before the lunch rush.

Carluccio's, 2 Reuters Plaza, E14 (020 7719 1749, www.carluccios.com)

Charles Campion

TAIWAN IN A TASTY NUTSHELL

DAVID SEXTON

RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK

KEELUNG

6 Lisle Street, WC2H 7BG. Tel: 020 7734 8128. £50-£60 for two.

Pointless to pretend I know anything useful about Taiwan or Taiwanese cuisine. I've never been. Taiwan, formerly Formosa, is an island off the southeastern coast of mainland China, 245 miles long, 89 miles wide. Population 23 million, 98 per cent Han Chinese. In 1949, Chiang Kai-shek, with two million followers, fled here during the Chinese Civil War. It is now one of Asia's Tiger economies. Ang Lee comes from Taiwan; so do Acer and Asus laptops.

Keelung, aka "The Rainy Port", is the country's second largest harbour town, population 388,000, average temperature 72 degrees Fahrenheit and an annual rainfall of 147 inches. Keelung is also the latest restaurant to be opened by the Leong family, who own 15 modern Asian places in London, including Goldfish in Hampstead, Koi in Kensington, the Hi Sushi chain and Leong's Legend in Soho and Chinatown. Keelung is pitched as a "Seafood Market" restaurant ← there are trays of iced fish and shellfish in the window ← serving also "Night Market Tapas" at modest prices. Street food, then. The decor, though, is sophisticated, quite a surprise immediately off the bustle of Lisle Street: a shadowy room, with a black carpet, dark leathery chairs, apricot walls, lots of booths, a jumble of Hollywood photos as well as a big wall scene of a crowded street in Keelung. There's a lulling soundtrack of muted Sinatra and, oddly enough, Cliff Richard. It feels faintly showbiz, a bit LA Confidential even. The service, by girls in stylish black tunic shirts, is unusually friendly and attentive for Chinatown (even if they're not much cop at explicating the menu in English. On two visits on the first week of opening, the customers were mainly Chinese, youngish, and all looked to be enjoying themselves no end, studying the menus with rapt concentration. You can order by ticking boxes on the paper menus 'there's a separate one for fish, offering different ways in which each kind can be cooked but it seemed easier to ask for what we wanted. The food is brought swiftly, all together. Crispy Oysters (£4.50) was a huge plateful of them deep-fried in batter, which, while not fresh fresh, had evidently been previously frozen rather than tinned still juicy inside despite this robust treatment. Crab Siu Loung Bao (£6 for eight pieces) was steamed dim sum served in a bamboo basket, with a melting, subtle pork and crab centre in a rice-flour wrapping. Taiwan Mini-Kebab with Pork (£2.60) was two small pork pieces deeply marinated and highly flavoured, with coriander, served in a rice-flour pastiche of pitta-bread. Won Ton in Spicy Sauce (£3.20) sat in a

deep, dark chilli-infused oil, aromatic with a slowburn release of heat, which lifted the otherwise stodgy parcels of pork < delicious. There always comes a moment in a Chinese restaurant as enjoyable as this one when you think getting this amount of taste sensation for such a low cost makes most other cuisines seem hopelessly overpriced. This was that moment here. And it only got better. Seafood Congee (£4.60) was a meal in a bowl < sloppy, glutinous rice, agreeably bland, containing squid, big chunks of a white fish, possibly bass, some clams and a couple of giant prawns in the shell.

From the seafood menu, we tried Steamed Mackerel (£7.50). Cut into big chunks, it was served on a fearsome-looking dark red chilli sauce, flecked with spring onion and parsley, which cut the oiliness admirably. Chicken with Shaoxing Wine in Claypot (£8.50) boasted a great stock, savoury and mellow, flavoured with goji berries, ginger and soy, as well as the rice wine. The chicken, cleavered up into chunks with the bone, rather than jointed, was quite difficult to eat in any seemly way, if tasty too. Boneless Pig Trotters (£6.50), a Taiwanese special, was extraordinary value (kept warm in a bowl over a flame, this was a giant serving of lean meat and gelatinous skin in a mahogany-coloured soy-based liquid, so deep and long-flavoured and subtly spiced, including oyster sauce perhaps. This made all the ways I've eaten pig's trotters before seem a bit fussy, a bit feeble. A bowl of this and some steamed rice (£2) would make a memorable feast in itself.

We only scraped the surface of a long menu that includes exotica such as eel, duck legs, beef tripe and pig's kidney with morning glory, as well as lobster and regular stir-fried noodles. But I'd have confidence in the all-round professionalism of this kitchen on this showing (executive chef is Michael Tan). The drinks list is great value too Tiger beer is £3.30, wine starts at £11.90 a bottle, with a choice of six. Cuvee le Bosq 2008 is a vin de pays Comté Tolosan that includes some sauvignon blanc, carefully vinified to be green, crisp and juicy, great value at this price, while a Saporita Garganega/Chardonnay 2008 from Italy was softer and fruitier, just as good. Keelung delivers gutsy street food in soigné surroundings, a great combination. The expertise here would put many gastropubs and bistros to shame. It's one of the rewards of London that you can, so cheaply, so casually, eat food as enjoyable and intriguing as this which otherwise < so far as I know < might only be found in Taiwan itself. Moreover, despite the huge portions and lavish amounts of pork, it's a cuisine that feels good to have eaten afterwards, unlike cooking that packs in the butter and cream.</p>

Keelung goes high on to the list of places I'd recommend to a friend, spending his or her own money.

Tiger burning bright: Geoffrey Leong has added Keelung to his empire of Asian restaurants in London

The service, by girls in stylish black tunic shirts, is unusually friendly and attentive for Chinatown

GRUB STREET

JOE WARWICK

NEW OPENINGS AND GASTRO GOSSIP

Sweet Return When Claire Clark left the Wolseley to become head pastry chef at The French Laundry, Thomas Keller's lavish haunt in California's Napa Valley, it looked unlikely that London would see her talents again. But four years later she is back at the Langham, just reopened after an £80 million refurbishment. Clark's creations are on the menu at the five-star hotel's all-day dining lounge which < in a move sure to wind up the Ritz < has been rechristened Palm Court, and makes claims to be the 1865 birthplace of Afternoon Tea. Meanwhile, they might want to rethink the Bluefin tuna and cucumber sandwiches on the menu < particularly in light of the bashing Nobu has taken for serving the unsustainable species.

The Langham, 1c Portland Place, Regent Street, W1, 020 7965 0195,

www.palm-court.co.uk

Get your Flicks

Hip new Hackney boozer the Britannia is celebrating its first summer by screening a free season of cult British films in association with the British Film Institute. The pub, which backs on to Victoria Park, will transform its garden into an al fresco cinema, with popcorn, burgers and hot dogs on hand to soak up the beer. Inside is a more refined bistro menu soused sardines, roasted Barbary duck, flourless orange cake and BFI members get 20 per cent off their food bill. It begins next Thursday evening with London in the Raw (1964) and a DJ set by Andy Weatherall. Upcoming films are The Third Man, Quadrophenia and The Long Good Friday, with celebrity curators such as Primal Scream's Bobby Gillespie, above, mooted for future appearances.

360 Victoria Park Road, E8, 020 8533 0044, www.thebritanniapub.co.uk

Realigning the Planet

Planet Hollywood, the movie-memorabilia-themed restaurant which opened in a blaze of publicity in 1993, has reopened on Haymarket. The brand left the Trocadero at the end of last year after failing to agree a new lease. Its new premises are rebranded "ph" while the old Planet Hollywood site, with its faded logo looking out over Leicester Square, is now home to a hawker of tourist tat.

57-60 Haymarket, SW1, 020 7437 7639

www.planethollywoodlondon.com

GO MEX, THE NO-FRILLS WAY

LAURA CRAIK

EL CAMINO

272 Portobello road, W10 (020 8960 8556). Open Mon-Sun 12-10pm. a meal for two about £20. Service not included.

I've read enough restaurant reviews to know that critics don't like Mexican food, and groan whenever they are presented with the possibility of eating some. I can imagine the conversation in the echelons above me, once the possibility of reviewing El Camino was raised. The real restaurant critic suddenly remembered an urgent appointment with her dentist, while the rest of the staff found themselves unaccountably having to work late, totting up the semi-colons in yesterday's edition. "Send the fashion editor," they chortled. "It's not like she'll want to eat much anyway."

Hah! In fact, Mexican is my third favourite cuisine, an observation that quite possibly indicates that my career as a food critic is doomed, and I should stick to shoes. I offer no expertise on, or particular experience of, Mexican cuisine, other than to say that I once went to Cancun and survived to tell the tale. This alone, I feel, deserves a lifetime's supply of free nachos.

And so I found myself at the arse-end of Portobello Road, bathed in happy memories of living on Ladbroke Grove when I was young, carefree and thought burritos were as exotic as ballotined truffles. The first point to make clear is that El Camino is on no account a restaurant. It is a café. The cutlery is plastic and the food comes in plastic baskets. Do not come here, as I did, expecting a lingering dinner: come for a quick eat, on a day where it doesn't matter if you leave reeking of char-grilled meat. The open mesquite grill, flaming away an arm's length from your table, gives the illusion that you are eating street food in Guadalajara, particularly if you close your eyes. Open them and the decor < tables with wipe-clean floral tablecloths, blackboards scrawled with invitations to BYO (El Camino doesn't have a licence) and walls decorated with cow skulls, cowboy boots, wooden parrots, leather holsters and a framed tarantula < reminds you that you are in a Mexican-themed restaurant that in a more sober area of the city would seem tacky but in Portobello conjures a certain charm.

You order at the counter and pay at the same time, which is fine by me as my pet hate in restaurants is asking for the bill and settling it, a process which often seems to take about three days.

The food came quickly, cooked by a smiling Mexican chef. First were corn chips (£2.10), which were so-so, but much enlivened by the side dishes we'd chosen. The guacamole was pleasingly homemade, with chunks of not-quite-blended avocado, tomato and coriander. The salsa was just the right side of spicy, while the black beans were chocolatey-rich. I love black beans anyway, and believe them to be a very underrated ingredient ripe for reinvention by Mr H Blumenthal.

For our next "course", one companion had a chicken quesadilla ("good, and with a lot of cheese"); the other had a shrimp burrito ("I was expecting pissy little prawns but these are tigers!") while I plumped imaginatively for a beef burrito, which was as fine an example as I could have hoped for, in that the beef tasted wonderfully smoky, and came in clumps, as opposed to the mouse-droppings of ground beef you might get in a lesser Mexican. The quirkiest offering was the corn on the cob with coconut, chilli and lime: everything else was straight Mexican but done well. It was a pain that they didn't have a toilet (the smiling chef gestured downstairs; the frowning waitress overruled him) < you couldn't take your kids here, because even with strong bladders the place is so tiny that getting a buggy inside would be impossible, although there are a fair amount of outside tables. El Camino is no Wahaca < but as a neighbourhood café it's a little gem.

WHERE TO DRINK PIMM'S IN THE PARK

VICTORIA STEWART Celebrate summer with a stroll through the park and a glass of London's most traditional tipple < Pimm's. At the Island Restaurant & Bar (Royal Lancaster Hotel, Lancaster Terrace, W2, 020 7551 6070, www.islandrestaurant.co.uk), Pimm's is made with fresh mint leaves and berries < look through the floor-to-ceiling windows over the Italian Gardens in northern Hyde Park.

Follow the park round to Galvin at Windows Bar (22 Park Lane, W1, 020 7208 4021, www.galvinatwindows.com), where you can peep into Buckingham Palace Gardens while enjoying an upmarket, loaded-with-fruit version. Get stuck into a Hendricks gin and ginger beer Pimms at the new Serpentine Bar and Kitchen (Serpentine Road, Hyde Park, W2, 020 7706 8114, www.serpentinebarand kitchen.com) sitting under the trees and watching the swans.

Nip into The Garden Cafe (Inner Circle, Regent's Park, NW1, 020 7935 5729, <u>www.thegardencafe.co.uk</u>) before a trip to the Open Air theatre or, if an East End pub is your style, the Top O' The Morning ale house (29 Cadogan Terrace, E9, 020 8985 1468) offers a fine one for under a fiver.

THE SMART SHOPPER

CHARLES CAMPION

FISH FRESH FROM BRIXTON Fishmongers have much to moan about. Like the bluefin tuna they are fast becoming an endangered species. But for anyone craving fresh fish that hasn't spent time in the supermarket distribution system there is a ray of hope < seek out a market. In Brixton Market there are half-a-dozen wet-fish stalls and the element of competition does wonders for both their prices and the freshness of the fish. Check out Jeffreys on Market Row < just casting your eye over the display you can see that these fish are in great condition.

Mackerel £4.39/kg, large bream £4.64/kg, red mullet £5/kg. Jeffreys, 5 Market Row, Brixton, SW9 BANGERS FOR THE BARBECUE As the barbecue season gathers momentum it's time to take a serious look at sausages. Biggles on Marylebone Lane is highly rated < its Marylebone Pork Sausage is a particularly fine banger. But my top tip for barbecuing is Biggles' range of Continental sausages < there's the classic Toulouse (£8.40/kg), a spicy Italian sausage (£8.40/kg), or a genuine merguez (£8.75/kg).

Biggles Sausages, 66 Marylebone Lane, W1 (020 7224 5937, www.ebiggles.co.uk)

BUFFALO MOZZARELLA FROM BERKSHIRE

Jody Scheckter, the ex-racing driver, has built up a magnificent organic/biodynamic farm at Laverstoke Park. He has also established a herd of 1,500 water buffalo, and their milk (with a little help from a £250,000, state-of-the-art

Italian cheese-making system) is turned into mozzarella. As any Italian will tell you, mozzarella is only good when it is really fresh, so making it in Berkshire is a real advantage as it cuts out a huge amount of travel time. Laverstoke Park buffalo mozzarella is stocked by Selfridges, £3.50/125g, £6.95/250g.

Selfridges, 400 Oxford Street, W1 (customer information 08708 377377, www.laverstokepark.co.uk)

THE DISCERNING DRINKER

ANDREW NEATHER While this week's dodgy weather makes barbecuing look like a brave choice, Charles Campion is right to look ahead to the joys of meat sizzling on the grill. This is a prospect which, naturally, calls for robust reds: syrahs work particularly well with the lamb kebabs of which I am so fond. But don't forget rosés, too: many are big enough to work well with grilled meat, or better still chicken < especially in the sunshine. Altosur Malbec Rosé 2008, Mendoza (Majestic, £7.49 or £6.99 each when you buy two) A fetching shade of deep pink, this is as beefy a rosé as you'd expect from steak-addicted Argentina: spice, full-bodied and bursting with red berry fruit.

D'Arenberg The Footbolt Shiraz 2006, McLaren Vale (Oddbins, £9.99)

Classic McLaren Vale shiraz from an iconic producer and one of Australia's most idiosyncratic winemakers, Chester Osborn: rich, full and smooth, yet beautifully balanced with freshness too. Very good.

Mas Collet 2005, Monsant (Waitrose, £5.99) This Catalan red from the leading Capçanes co-operative is a robust blend of garnacha, cariñena, tempranillo and cabernet sauvignon: dark, peppery fruit with enticing herby notes and a touch of minerality. Good value < and a lot better than many pricier riojas.

Vidal Syrah 2007, Hawkes Bay (Waitrose, £9.99) There's a lot of excitement at present about the wines coming out of the small Gimblett Gravels district of Hawkes Bay, on New Zealand's North Island. It's a patch of very poor, gravelly soil (which is starting to produce some serious wines, notably syrah; most of the grapes for this one came from there. This is superb syrah in a style perhaps closer to the Northern Rhône than Barossa, but still distinctively Kiwi (peppery but smooth cherry fruit, with notes of violets, rich and oaky yet elegant. Impressive stuff. Château Ricardelle La Clape 2006, Côteaux du Languedoc (Berry Bros, 3 St James St, SW1 or www.bbr.com, £8.05)

A dark, meaty blend of grenache, carignan and syrah, very typical of the area: warm, sweet, grapy fruit and an aromatic edge. Just made for the barbecue.

WE'RE WATCHING YOU

ROWAN MOORE

ROWAN MOORE WELCOMES AN ATTACK ON ONE OF THE MOST DISTURBING SHIFTS IN MODERN BRITISH CITIES -- THE PRIVATE INVASION OF PUBLIC SPACE

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Ground Control: Fear and happiness in the tWenty-First Century City

(Penguin, £9.99) Consider Le Baiser de l'HÙtel de Ville, robert doisneau's 1950 photograph of a kissing Parisian couple, which now adorns a million walls in poster form and epitomises the French capital's myth of romance. now transpose the image to noughties London, and our equivalent of the HÙtel de Ville, which is norman Foster's City Hall by Tower Bridge. The image would be impossible. Any prolonged snog would be curtailed by security guards, who would also stop a modern doisneau from taking the shot.

This is because City Hall stands in a kind of space that is growing ever more common: privatised public space. The land is generally accessible to most people, but it is owned by developers and patrolled by private security. People the management would rather weren't there, perhaps too smelly or too awkward for their taste, can be ejected. As well as snogging, photography and filming, picnicking, ball games, drinking alcohol and parking bicycles are also prohibited, and -- despite the fact that this is the centre of London's government -- political protest.

Ground Control is a sustained, informed, articulate, timely work of rage against the creeping hegemony of such spaces, which now include most of the centres of Liverpool and Manchester. How did this come about? asks Anna Minton, a writer of articles and reports on the way we live in cities. did we order that? Why does Britain have more CCTV cameras than the rest of europe put together, and the most per capita in the world, despite the complete lack of evidence that they reduce crime?

The book explains how privatised public space was pioneered in 1980s developments such as Broadgate and Canary Wharf, which at least were built on already private land -- an ex-railway station and former docks respectively. now whole town centres are handed over to private developers by local authorities so desperate for "investment" and "regeneration" that they will bend over (backwards or otherwise) to satisfy the pleasure of the private sector.

Minton also describes how, under the orwellian title of Housing Market renewal, swathes of perfectly good houses in northern england were destroyed, and with them the memories and spirit of the people and communities who occupied them, in defiance of basic principles of sustainability. All this was on the basis of a single academic's untested theory, she reports on the return of rachmanite slum landlords, who are paid by the state to house the poor in atrocious conditions, she describes the resulting phenomenon of "buggy babies", children kept all day in their pushchairs because there is no other space for them in overcrowded flats, who develop physical abnormalities as a result, she tells how, in salford, twice as much money is spent on administering Asbos as on the facilities for young people that might stave off the deep tedium of the place, which in turn encourages anti-social behaviour. Asbos, like CCTV, are an intrusion on our liberties whose crime-preventing powers have not been proved.

What binds these stories is the surrender of freedom, choice, diversity, communality and, ultimately, happiness, to the risk-avoidance and profitmaking imperatives of the private sector. not that the main culprits are private companies, some of whom are

decent and conscientious organisations trying to do a good job. The real tragedy is that this world is being brought into being by public policy, with large amounts of public money. it is a product of the Blairite belief, now suddenly out of fashion, that the private sector knows best in all things. it is also a product of Blairite sanctimony, the idea that government can make bad people be good, which brought us the invasion of iraq, or at least British support thereof.

Mostly, though, the makers of this impoverished universe are not evil geniuses but bureaucratic form-fillers and operatives of corporate best practice. Thus the insurers of large developments like to see them built according to the principles of "secure by design", a set of methods intended to reduce crime that actually reduce the spontaneity and vitality of city life. no one challenges them or proposes an alternative, so they just happen.

There are some shades of grey in all this. As Minton reports, the developers who make controlled, mall-like, corporate places like to point out that "people like them".

And so they do, although the definition of "people" does not extend to those too poor or unusual to be welcomed into such places. There is nothing wrong with having enclaves within cities that are for some people and not others. developers have always shaped, and will in the future shape, cities for good as well as ill.

What is wrong is when these enclaves take over the best and most significant locations, like city centres and the juiciest bits of waterfront, leaving only grottier and marginal places for the enjoyment of retail refuseniks. dignity and freedom lead increasingly separate lives: you can have one but not the other. You can experience good locations and high-quality, well-maintained pavements, but only if you accept surveillance by private security and manipulation by retail offers. or you can breathe the sweet air of liberty but, because you will not be in the nicest part of town, it might smell a bit mucky.

Ground Control is not a perfect book. some of the points are sketchily argued and probably vulnerable to challenge. At the end Minton offers too glibly the well-known panacea of continental piazzas. But she has put her finger on one of the most profound and disturbing shifts in modern British cities.

NED DENNY

Delhi: Adventures in a Megacity

by Sam Miller

(Cape, £14.99) When I first visited Delhi in the mid-1990s, I used to count the ways in which the street life of the old city echoed that of Victorian London. Wooden cartwheels rattling through thronged, dung-strewn streets check. Stalls selling marble-stoppered bottles of dubious pop check. Bellowing costermongers with shabby barrows of fruit check. Rag-pickers bent over mountains of refuse, together with the odd pig check. Doleful, shoeless streetsweepers < check. Gaslit coffee-stands in a ragged, sulphurous, pre-dawn gloom < check. Shifty-looking characters with small moustaches and oiled-down hair check. It was like a living, breathing, spice-infused version of Henry Mayhew's 1851 sociological classic London Labour and the London Poor. All these things can still be seen in Delhi but its urban planners would surely wince at them. In the brave new "world city" of flyovers, shopping malls and gleaming, swollen SUVs, they are regarded as embarrassing remnants of a pitiful past (funnily enough, the equally ambitious Victorians were also fanatical modernisers). Like the Great Wen that was 19th-century London, its oncesacred river black and stinking, modern Delhi has toxic dreams of world domination. "Delhi is now a megalopolis," as Sam Miller writes in this erudite, comical portrait-of-a-city, "sprawling beyond its own borders, swallowing up villages and farmland, sucking in migrants, spewing out pollution. There are no natural limits to this rampant city, nothing to stop it growing except, perhaps, if it fails to live up to the new Indian dreamŠ [it] is becoming India's dream town and its purgatory". Citing the contemplative tradition of the urban flâneur, Baudelaire's meandering "botanist of the sidewalk", Miller sets out to walk a spiral pattern from central Delhi to its distant outer reaches. Taking to one's feet in this manner < instead of, as the technocrats might prefer, simply driving from purchase to purchase can make a city humane and interesting as opposed to somewhere merely to be endured. And, sure enough, Miller's Delhi emerges as a place more akin to Through the Looking-Glass than the crass, polluted hellhole it often seems to be.

As he picks his way across railway tracks towards the start of his perambulation, he comes upon a "ghostly platform" where a voyaging carriage of eccentric south Indians has berthed. "There were clothes lines strung out between the windows of a single train carriage and the struts and pillars of the platform. Sarong-sized chequered sheets, pink starched saris, and assorted Victorian-style underwear hung from the lines." In an alley deep in Old Delhi, he passes a man with a wheelbarrow full of animal ears. He is coming from the local slaughterhouse, where a shaken Miller finds "a scene of cruelty and comradeship, a giant courtyard of death and laughter". On arid farmland by the Yamuna, once celebrated by Mughal poets for its ghostly beauty and now one of the most polluted rivers in the world, he encounters a uniformed band playing a strangely familiar theme. "The conductor was delighted that I had recognised The Marriage of Figaro (but quickly lost interest when my ignorance about brass bands became obvious. He did not want to talk about anything else." At an exhibition centre he wanders into a fair for the printing industry, where representatives of a very different Delhi shout into mobile phones ("I'm dead meat if I'm not in Korea by tomorrow evening (latest. Route me via Timbuktu if you have to") and Miller is almost overcome by the stench of printer fluid and glue. He discovers an exquisite, partly ruined mosque "with perfect squinches and beautifully carved rosettes", then returns to find that it has vanished into thin air a victim of preparations for the 2010 Commonwealth Games. Encounters with stinging ants, killer pigs and uncovered manholes provide moments of light relief; this is an entertaining and thoughtful book albeit one that does not offer much hope for the prospects of Delhi's "land-guzzling, gigapolitan future". That is not India's problem, though, but the world's.

A CAPRICIOUS PAIN IN THE NECK

MIRANDA SEYMOUR

Venus of Empire: The Life of Pauline Bonaparte

by Flora Fraser

(John Murray, £20) Summering in the Italian town of Bagni di Lucca in 1818, Percy and Mary Shelley were intrigued to learn that their neighbour at the spa was Napoleon's legendary < and infamous < sister, Pauline. History doesn't

relate whether the trio met up, but after reading Flora Fraser's lively biography of a nightmarish narcissist did give much to know whether Pauline ever got the chance to stamp on Mary's throat, or to ruffle Percy's brown curls with the tips of her embroidered slippers. More, later, about foot fetishism.

Pauline, as fiery, tiny and passionate as her brother (one of her legion of lovers), was 30 in 1818, and past her heyday. All that remained to the tyrannical hypochondriac was a treasure-box of the famous Borghese jewels, belonging to her pleasant long-suffering husband, Prince Camillo, and the imperiousness that had caused Pauline's court to be nicknamed "The Ministry of Caprices".

That's one word for it. "Eccentric" is the kindly description chosen by Fraser for her subject's foibles, all of which had to be indulged, since Pauline was Napoleon's favourite sibling. These make for riveting reading. Which other beauty (for example) might have ordered Canova to sculpt her naked body in marble, and to place it upon a revolving dais, for the admiration of her husband's guests? Who else would have had the gall to show off a medal engraved on one side (lest anybody should forget the fact): "Pauline, sister of the emperor" and on the reverse, under the image of three naked Graces: "Beauty be our queen"?

Pauline was, as the Austrian Count Metternich noted, "in love with herself alone, and her sole occupation was with pleasure". The fascination, for Fraser, lies in the form this pleasure took. A heady account of the luxurious grotto in which the diminutive Pauline, dressed in a transparent gown, performed her seductions, is interwoven with glimpses of her less appealing aspect. One unlucky host, having hastened to provide the requisite gallons of milk for Pauline's bath, was told to knock a hole in the ceiling above the tub, enabling a second milky shower to be poured over the visitor's shoulders. Ladies-in-waiting were made to lie prostrate, and speak, while Pauline a cexhibiting her power actually stood upon their throats. ("Oh no, monsieur, I am well used to it," one lady croaked when a startled visitor protested at such behaviour.) Lovers, when they weren't being called upon to satisfy Pauline's desire for violent sex (the cause, Fraser surmises, of her uterine problems) were expected to crouch as footstools. Fun though it is to read Fraser's accounts of Pauline's conquests and commands, the princess only comes to life in the period when, with unexpected heroism, she insists upon briefly joining her brother in his Elban exile. Pauline, when twinned with Napoleon, becomes a vibrant figure: otherwise she appears as a pampered and vacuous coquette: a pain a most literally in the neck.

LOOKING FOR THE REAL RUSSIA

ANNE MCELVOY

Lost and Found in Russia: Encounters in A Deep Heartland

by Susan Richards

(IB Tauris, £17.99)

Russia exerts a peculiar pull for English travellers, from the Victorian governesses teaching RP to the Czar's ill-fated offspring to Gaia Servadio's 1970s (still readable) Siberian Encounters and, recently, Jonathan Dimbleby's odyssey. A host of "Discovering Russia" tales covers every fraught stage of the country's melancholy journey.

One abiding theme of this kind of literature is a desire to understand the "other Russia" behind the carapace of failed state socialism: the everyday worlds of the provinces, whose residents combat the awesome natural world and the haphazard challenges of everyday life.

Susan Richards's version shines because she knows her subjects very well. These are stories of friendships across the miles, not just brief encounters plundered for material. Her Volga journey < to Saratov, the twin urban undelights of Marx and Engels and the "loop" back through Kazan to Moscow < is relatively familiar, but she takes her time, lingering in the lives of people in a Russia markedly different from the show-cities of Moscow and St Petersburg. It's an area that has a particular self-awareness, aspiration and even now, a knocked-about pride, visible in the daily battles of intelligent liberal Russians with the corrupt officialdom and dereliction all around them.

A particularly vicious gang killing in Saratov is committed by "gangsters", sons of families where they "bring flowers on Mother's Day and wash their hands before eating". People are cut adrift, politically and morally, by the end of Communism, without real belief that a democracy worth the name can work for Russia.

The Uncle Vanya-ish pessimism is catching: Richards thinks with hindsight liberal democracy could "never work" in Russia. Where then, does that leave her brave and clever friends and their internet-savvy children? I share her fascination for the backwaters of Russia, where, for all the privations, talents stubbornly thrive and there's an intelligentsia that puts a lot of educated Britons to shame, but this extended Putin era is not the end of the story.

What we do learn to do is stop predicting. "We'll live a little longer, and then we'll see," goes the Russian saying and wise observers learn to accept it. The book covers a period of intense physical, as well as social, change in the 1990s and beyond. I like the description of the new Moscow: "Post-modern turrets, smokey glass cathedrals to capitalismŠ it looked as if a team of make-up girls had done over the old buildings." Indeed, one of her writerly gifts is the ability to evoke visual tableaux of the isolation and natural grandeur of the great river and its towns. She searches hard for unspoiled beauty: "rare in European Russia, where the most beautiful places have been despoiled by man's messy pursuit of an unrealistic ideal."

The oldest ideas survive in hidden corners of the vastness, amid the swirl of transitions: Old Believers still living a quasi-religious existence based on a schism in the 17th century. Faith in the past and its rituals and superstitions is, she commonly finds, a response to the enforced hyper-rationalism of state socialism. If there's a flaw, it's one that better editing should have expelled. Not many clichés are left unturned < lots of men with "twinkling eyes", and "bushy beards". But the narrative survives because she understands and empathises with Communism's lost sons and daughters, searching for a redemption which < other than for a fortunate or commercially gifted elite < never comes. This traveller's tale, with all the absorption and detail of the genre, is also the story of an entire country, still bowed under the weight of a magnificent, dreadful history.

CRIME

MARK SANDERSON

Midnight Fugue

by Reginald Hill

(HarperCollins, £17.99) Seven years after the disappearance of her policeman husband < and just before she marries another copper < glamorous Gina Wolfe receives a newspaper cutting showing what appears to be her missing spouse in Yorkshire. Her new partner contacts Andy Dalziel to see if the superintendent, slowly regaining his considerable powers after spending much of The Death of Dalziel in a coma, can solve the mystery. The plot soon thickens thanks to a brother-and-sister pair of thugs, an investigative journalist and a smarmy Tory MP whose father is a black East End gangster made good. Midnight Fugue is a masterly performance. It exploits both meanings of the word "fugue" < a musical composition and a form of amnesia < and all the action takes place between 8am and midnight. The plot contains at least three twists but, as always, the greatest pleasure lies in the humorous interaction between the machosexual Dalziel and his more enlightened colleagues. And it's good to see such words as "eidolon" and "episematic" used in what will deservedly be one of this summer's big bestsellers.

PAPERBACKS

WILLIAM LEITH

The Night of the Gun

by David Carr

(Pocket Books, £7.99) Is this the best addiction memoir ever? It's certainly right up there. Here, David Carr, a reporter who spent years smoking crack, decided to investigate his own life as an addict. Naturally, he was hazy about the facts. So he went to see his old contacts and drug buddies (one of whom he'd married). It's not pretty of

snorting, smoking, injecting, hitting men, hitting <u>women</u>, blood, pus, cops. And rehab. A pity about the rehab, one thinks (it always seems to spoil a good addiction memoir. Still, without it, this book wouldn't exist.

PAYBACK

by Margaret Atwood

(Bloomsbury, £8.99)

THIS book was a series of lectures by the Canadian novelist Margaret Atwood. Her subject: debt. What is debt? It's something that needs to be redeemed. Debt is, in a way, sin. Atwood points out that Christ, who is known as the Redeemer, essentially paid off Adam's original debt. She also gives us a welter of facts and stories about pawnshops, Father Christmas, and debt in literary history, with a lovely comparison between Scrooge, the reformed moneylender, and Dr Faustus, the doomed debtor.

THE PYRAMID

by Henning Mankell

(Vintage, £7.99)

I HAD not read any of Henning Mankell's books about Kurt Wallander, the gloomy Swedish detective. But this is the perfect place to start, since it's the very first one. This book contains five stories, averaging 80 pages each, and it's mesmeric. The young Wallander is a flawed existential hero. He's emotional and impulsive. He has issues with his father and his girlfriend, Mona. Wallander is good at understanding human relationships, as long as they don't involve him. The very model of the modern detective, then.

TAKE A WALK ON THE TAME SIDE

BEN LEWIS

RICHARD LONG MADE AN ART FORM OUT OF RAMBLING BUT, COLLECTED TOGETHER FOR THIS MAJOR RETROSPECTIVE, HIS BEAUTIFUL "WALKS OF ART" LOSE SOME OF THEIR MAGIC

TAKE A WALK ON THE TAME SIDE

EXHIBITION OF THE WEEK

RICHARD LONG: HEAVEN AND HEARTH

TATE BRITAIN, SW1

YOU'D think this would be the right time for a Richard Long revival. A pioneering British exponent of land art in the Sixties, he turned the walk into a work of art. For 40 years he has traipsed all over the world, leaving behind little circles of stones and twigs, or lines of gravel or flattened grass as modestly sculptured signs of his presence and the impositions of man on nature. Back in the Eighties he was, along with contemporaries Gilbert and George, Britain's best-known artist. They did inner cities, he did the big outdoors. But in the Nineties he faded from view, displaced by the pop bravado of Brit Art. He may have continued to win big commissions for corporate lobbies and become a staple of museums' permanent collections, but there is a whole younger generation who've barely heard of him. Born in 1945, Long studied at art college in Bristol and St Martin's. He was an international art star at a young age only 22 when he made his breakthrough work, A Line Made by Walking, in 1967, which, as it says on the tin, is a straight line made across a field by trampling grass underfoot. The ideas behind this kind of work, developed by the land art movement, were both coolly theoretically and emotionally historical, taking the key art concepts and strategies of the day outdoors into nature. The land artists made vast works in remote spots, of which the most iconic is Robert Smithson's Spiral Jetty, a massive man-made spiral jutting out of the Great Salt Lake in Utah. This group was inspired not only by the geometrical forms and time-based work of conceptual and minimal

artists but by the origins of art in prehistoric stone circles and burial mounds. If you want to understand where Richard Long is coming from, you need to think, on the one hand, about John Baldessari's time-based "sculpture", in which he photographed the back of trucks on a road trip from LA to San Francisco in 1962, and, on the other, of Stonehenge. Add in a bit of Carl Andre, and Donald Judd's geometry.

For Tate Britain's retrospective, 70 of Long's most important works have been assembled, from the beginning of his career to new work completed only a week ago. There are the big splashy mud paintings, the geometric sculptures in various stones made to go inside the gallery and the ones made outside in nature. And there are the walks themselves, from Dartmoor to Japan, recorded in photographs and simple poetic texts that list the things Long has seen and places he has passed. Apart from a big exhibition in Scotland in 2007, this is the artist's first survey show in the UK for 18 years.

It starts well with three enormous mud paintings, in which Long smears the watery brown stuff over metres of gallery wall, in a repetitive pattern of swirls, splatters and drips, which he makes with his bare hands. These are exciting works in which the bracing air of the windswept moors suddenly seems to blow through the under-oxygenated gallery. There's plenty of art history behind the ecological minimalism: Long's textures echo Jasper Johns's cross-hatched brushstrokes and Cy Twombly's drips, and the mud, in one case, is the stuff Picasso used for his ceramics from Valauris in France.

It's in the following rooms where we find Long's classic walk works of the late Sixties and Seventies. HERE is an artist of his time (that's why Gilbert and George's work looks so similar with its texts and photographs). Long wasn't even the only rambling sculptor chis contemporary, Hamish Fulton, was also a walks-artist, while the gardening and concrete poetry of Ian Hamilton Finlay was surely also a reference point. The Tate's catalogue skates over the context in which Long was working, determined as it is to build him up as the lone genius of walking, apparently fearful of placing him among his peers. That is a sign of the weakness of this exhibition. The idea of the day was to create a new kind of art, free of metaphors and myths, which created a visual poetry out of the most basic things a human could do. Artists focused on different things of for some it was floors, for others cubes, for another industrial buildings and for Long it was walks. You can't fault the meticulousness with which he explores his medium. Each hike has a different concept behind it. There's a walk between two channels, the English and Bristol. There are walks in straight lines across Canadian prairies, and a clockwise walk around English shires. There's a walk in which Long meanders for seven days inside a circle five and a half miles across. There are walks on which Long lists the natural formations he encounters (forests, brooks and cairns) and others where he lists the sounds he hears ("surf roaring, thundering river, mewing buzzard, squealing pig, splash in a rain puddle, circling snow, braying donkey, hissing wind, screech of a heron, crackling fires"). Long is clearly very good at walking < he covers 622 miles in 21 days, 168 in six. That's a speed of around 28 miles a day. There's also a load of art theory about the significance of the "walk of art" they say Long introduced the dimension of time into sculpture and for a while a German philosophy professor at Kassel University taught classes and published books on "strollology". And yet, I found myself turning each corner into a new room in this exhibition hoping Long would break out into a swift trot or perhaps take inspiration from Monty Python's Ministry of Silly Walks. No such luck. Unless you are heavily bearded, this is an exhibition which you are likely to visit briskly. Don't get me wrong. There's nothing I like more than a hike along the Cornish coastal path, Peruvian Andes or Bavarian Voralpen. The problem is the works, not the walks as becomes all too apparent in the central room which is full of Long's floor sculptures. There's a large beautiful circle of white Norfolk flint, a large beautiful circle of Alpine Basalt, another large and beautiful circle of red slate and wait for it another circle of Swiss rocks in black, white and purple, which is also large and beautiful. (Sorry, I should perhaps mention the long line of slate and the ellipse of basalt). Long's works look great when you see them individually in pristine white spaces when I went round for tea, Sir Norman Foster had a terrific mud painting on the wall of his enormous loft on top of his HQ in Battersea \(\text{but altogether, the limits of Long's project are} \) unmissable. IT'S not just that the forms are repetitive, it's that the message is always the same < and it's not a terribly interesting one. Curators may argue that Long has made the subject of the body in the landscape his own as other conceptual artists have focused on the female body or the body in relation to architecture < yet he's mostly engaged in an old-fashioned romantic exercise in the sublime. He walks around the wilder parts of the world, as the 18th-century Romantic watercolourist John Cozens and later JMW Turner did, capturing the smallness of man against the vastness of nature. His splashy mud paintings are the equivalent of their paintings of stormy skies over

the Lake District and Alps. As the exhibition progresses, the texts of Long's walks get bigger, filling up whole walls with their minimalist typeface, and the photographs follow suit < part of the trend to gigantism in the Nineties, though here it appears to be a desperate attempt to maintain our interest in the show. Other land artists imposed huge architectural structures on the landscape, sometimes covering a square kilometre or taking three decades or more to complete. They had ambitions on the scale of Aztec burial mounds and volcanos. In comparison, Long's walks are on the tame side. Long's work should have fresh topicality today. Back in the Seventies, if you used the phrase "carbon footprint" people would have thought you'd found evidence of the yeti. Nowadays, in the era of global warming, this outdoors art should seem prophetic. But Long's works don't actually engage with the environmental issues of the day. Perhaps he is planning to walk across the world's most polluted landscapes or wade across land flooded by tsunamis, caused by rising sea levels < but he ain't done it yet. There's no edge to this work. This artist may be long on walks < but he's short on ideas.

Richard Long: Heaven and Earth is at Tate Britain until 6 September. Open daily 10am-5.50pm, admission £9.80 concs available. Advance booking: 020 7887 8888 (booking fee applies), www.tate.org.uk

Breakthrough piece: A Line Made by Walking (right), the 1967 work that made Long's name at the age of 22

Grounded: Earth, 2008 (left), one of Long's enormous mud paintings which he smears with his bare hands

Natural resources: Alpine Circle, 1990 (left), installed at Tate Britain for the retrospective It's not just that the forms are repetitive, the message is always the same < and not a terribly interesting one

INDIAN ART THAT'S IN NEED OF PERSPECTIVE

BRIAN SEWELL

IN the precious little world of the art critic there is a general assumption that, as long as what he is despatched to see is in some sense art, he should be capable of writing a critical essay on it. For this, Roger Fry, a fine old fruit of Bloomsbury, must take the blame. He it was who, having in 1910 introduced the British public to the thrills of Post-Impressionism (a term he invented but did not understand), then went on to bully them into being fashionably interested in ancient art from Mesopotamia and the Aegean, from China, India and Egypt and with equal assumption of authority and expertise, lectured them on the art of Peru and Mexico and the much more recent art of what he called "the great majority of negro cultures". Of none of these did he know anything other than scraps of second-hand opinion garnered from supposedly scholarly magazines such as the Burlington, to which he himself was a frequent contributor of bric-a-brac, scattered all over with quaint conceits of intuition. I am not a follower of Fry. There are vast fields of art and artefact in which I have scant interest and cannot even pretend a measure of curiosity and one of these is Indian art. This I can just about see through Rembrandt's eyes but not my own, and at the British Museum's current exhibition of Indian paintings from the courts of the Maharajahs of Jodhpur, much later than those that Rembrandt knew, without his help my mind was almost inert. With desperate effort, I looked at birds and animals, at racing elephants and conjugating ducks and, confronted by the exquisite unrealities of landscape and the artists' total incomprehension of perspective, I thought of Italian painters in Florence and Siena seven centuries ago and judged their awareness of these things to have been infinitely more intellectual and enquiring. And then I thought of Europe in the 18th century, the Age of Reason and Enlightenment, the very period when these Indian painters began their business of recording the courtly pastimes of sport and sex in Jodhpur and the cosmological beliefs and notions that were their spiritual and intellectual diversions. I thought of Newton and Herschel, of Mozart and Tiepolo, and the whole edifice of this shallow Indian trivia as art \(\text{as art that is not only} \) metaphysical and spiritual but art that "addresses the interior world of philosophical speculation and the origin of the universe" < came tumbling down.

The dependence on formula and pattern-making, the obsessive repetition of details that, were they singular, would be intriguing, but the overall effect of which, in rank after rank, scaled disproportionately large or small according (I suppose) to their importance in class or caste, is swiftly tedious. Space is flattened and architecture and other motifs that in western art have since ancient Roman times been employed to suggest the real space of distance and recession are distorted to conform with vertical spacelessness. Clumsy profiles, heavily and crudely drawn,

adapt the human subject too to harmonise with this spacelessness; there are figures in full frontal and three-quarter view but these are comparatively few. In spite of my disliking him so much, I am inclined to quote Fry: "In short, we find here the same defect which lies at the root of the Indian genius, the want of co-ordinating intelligence."

By implication, British Imperialism in the 19th century is a subtext of this exhibition, for it was our spreading conquest from southern Kerala to northerly Kashmir that brought to its end this brief cultural flowering under a small handful of Maharajahs between 1725 and 1843, the year in which we deposed the last of them and General Napier achieved the notorious taking of neighbouring Sind. By the token of these paintings, however, I am inclined to think that this small cultural phenomenon was already mired in aesthetic decline. Perhaps Fry had it in mind when he described Indian art as "excessive and redundant... an extravagant and exuberant fancy which seems uncontrolled by any principle of co-ordination... the quality of its rhythms a nerveless and unctuous sinuosity". For once, I find myself in broad agreement with this odious man but then I, too, in this matter, speak from the unrepentant ignorance of a wholly western eye.

Garden and Cosmos: the Royal Paintings of Jodhpur is at the British Museum until 23 August. Sat-Wed 10am-5.30pm; Thurs and Fri 10am-8pm. Admission £8, concs £6 (020 7323 8181, www.britishmuseum.org)

Brian Sewell

Uninspired: the works rely on formula and obsessive repetition of details

By implication, British Imperialism in the 19th century is a subtext of this exhibition

WHAT ELSE IS NEW

HENRY HITCHINGS

THEATRE

Orwell: A Celebration

Trafalgar Studios 2, SW1

George Orwell's writing lends itself to performance because of its fluent ease of expression, and in the intimate space of the Trafalgar Studios this homage highlights its mix of simple vividness and shrewd polemic.

The first half consists of theatre critic Dominic Cavendish's skilful adaptation of material from Orwell's novel Coming Up For Air, published 70 years ago this week.

In an enjoyably varied monologue George Bowling, an insurance salesman so weary of life that even tying a shoelace is a trial, recounts his decision to flee the festering "inner outer suburbs". Fed up with the modern cult of "streamlining", he craves a return to the Oxfordshire countryside of his childhood. "One never does go back," says Bowling but go back he does < to learn, inevitably, the folly of nostalgia. Hal Cruttenden delivers the monologue deftly, with a combination of camp levity, amused indignation and genuine ferocity. In the second half three other pieces of Orwell's prose become elegant playlets. Ben Porter, bearing an uncanny resemblance to a young Orwell, finds unexpected humour in the essay Shooting an Elephant. Alan Cox gives a closely observed performance of A Hanging. Then the two combine for a scene from Nineteen Eighty-Four, in which O'Brien (Cox, superb) hollows out the soul of Porter's Winston Smith < a shocking exhibition of the cold sadism of authority.

Gene David Kirk's restrained production affords Orwell's writing the space it deserves, and, perhaps most remarkably, shows that the underrated Coming Up for Air contains the germ of the later, greater Nineteen Eighty-Four

Until 4 July (020 7432 4220).

OPERA

NICK KIMBERLEY

Madam Butterfly

Coliseum, WC2

As a film-maker, Anthony Minghella was essentially a realist but with a penchant for spectacular images that sometimes got in the way of narrative clarity. The same problem afflicts his only opera production, English National Opera's 2005 staging of Puccini's Madam Butterfly. Since Minghella's death last year, responsibility for reviving the production has passed to his wife, Carolyn Choa, the original choreographer, who has changed little for this third revival.

The opening and closing images have a wide-screen grandeur that takes the breath away. In between, however, there is a combination of cool elegance and tawdry glamour that is too often at odds with the emotional involvement that Puccini demands before all else. Perhaps unexpectedly, using a life-size puppet to embody Butterfly's silent son works well, no doubt because the singers are trapped in an otherwise fussily conventional staging.

All of this would matter less in a well-sung performance but in musical terms, this opening night was short on panache. With conductor Edward Gardner pushing the orchestra hard, Bryan Hamel sings the villainous Pinkerton with more volume than grace, while Judith Howarth paints Butterfly with rather too broad a brush, only finding the right tone in the opera's final moments. Better late than never, but there is more to Madam Butterfly than this production finds.

Until 4 July (0871 911 0200, www.eno.org).

POP

JOHN AIZLEWOOD

Faith No More

Brixton Academy, SW9 Reunited after their solo careers failed to so much as tickle a worldwide chart, Faith No More began their first performance in 11 years with, yes, Reunited, the venerable Peaches And Herb smoocher.

Clad in fetching, matching pink suits keyboardist Roddy Bottum and singer Mike Patton swapped verses and played it straight. Unlike the crowd of elderly grungateers, I laughed. No matter: two rollercoaster hours later, they were well satisfied, although as Patton noted with more relish than necessary: "There's a Tube strike: some of you will be sleeping outside".

For all the many moments you'd pay good money for Patton to stop impersonating the Honey Monster and despite RV and Cuckoo For Caca almost collapsing under their own self-indulgence, the magnificent, hook-laden From Out Of Nowhere, the bristling Be Aggressive and their great lost single Epic roared with the joy of re-discovery, while wry segments of Chariots Of Fire and Popcorn suggested nobody was taking anything too seriously.

The San Franciscans' swaggering pop-funk-rap-metal-grunge was always too perversely peculiar for a Nirvanaesque crossover and since nobody would argue they were greats first time around, the dice of moderate expectation are loaded in their favour.

PAN GETS BACK TO HIS ROOTS

FIONA MOUNTFORD

THEATRE

PETER PAN

Kensington Gardens, W8

For too long now, Peter Pan has been siphoned off into the strange theatrical neverland of pantomime, always starring, to my mind at least, Bonnie Langford. Here, though, it's come home, both as a straight play and by, literally, pitching tent in Kensington Gardens, the location that inspired JM Barrie more than 100 years ago.

This swanky 1,000-seater rainproof big top provides an appealing in-the-round setting not only for the action itself but also for a 360-degree cyclorama of CGI designs, expertly created by William Dudley. Thus when it comes to the all-important flying, we can follow the soaring Wendy, John and Michael over London rooftops and through an Edwardian cityscape, straight past Nelson's hat at the top of the column and round the dome of St Paul's.

On the ground, however, the going gets tougher. Adaptor Tanya Ronder can't surmount Pan's persistent problem of strong opening and closing scenes supporting a lot of amorphous Neverland narrative, leavened only by Jonathan Hyde's nicely droll Captain Hook.

Ben Harrison's production provides the crucial undercurrent of Wendy's burgeoning sexual desires and Peter's insistent denial of the same, even when Tigerlily does a pole dance without the pole to thank him for saving her life, yet it's hard to feel entirely immersed in this quiet tragedy of lost childhood.

Ciaran Kellgren gives Peter real grace, and Abby Ford's Wendy takes to her newly permitted task of bossing the boys about with gusto. Tinkerbell (Itxaso Moreno) is no longer a dart of light but a grubby, scowling creature in a dirty pink tutu, who is nonetheless skilled in the aerial sequences.

It's without doubt an accomplished evening but an extra fairy dust sprinkling of charm over Barrie's old stamping ground wouldn't hurt.

Until 30 August (0871 386 1122, www.visitlondon.com/peterpan).

Old enemies: Peter Pan (Ciaran Kellgren) and Captain Hook (Jonathan Hyde)

Load-Date: June 11, 2009



<u>Hamas</u>

The Northern Echo (Newsquest Regional Press)

March 16, 2009 Monday

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Section: LETTERS (NORTHERNECHO LETTERS)

Length: 157 words

Body

MAY I respond to David Lacey's gross misrepresentation (HAS, March 6) of a letter of mine (HAS, Feb 28) about the Israeli assault on Gaza. Mr Lacey stated that I had opened my eyes at last to the fact that <u>Hamas</u> is a terrorist organisation.

I would remind him that <u>Hamas</u> was democratically elected by the people of Gaza and was only defending them against the murderous Israeli onslaught.

If you fire a few home-made rockets into Israel it does not merit the wholesale destruction of your little country and the brutal murder of hundreds of **women** and children. I ask you, who are the terrorists?

When the partisans of German-occupied countries fought against the huge might of the Nazis, Adolf Hitler called them "terrorists".

Mr Lacey calls *Hamas* terrorists for having the audacity to fight back against the US-armed Israeli military.

How nice for him to share identical views with Hitler. He should be ashamed of himself.

Hugh Pender, Darlington.

Load-Date: March 17, 2009



Eliminating Hezbollah, Hamas will bring peace

Windsor Star (Ontario)

January 20, 2009 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL/OPINION; Pg. A7

Length: 129 words

Byline: Chris Flood, Windsor Star

Body

Re: Israel Started Dispute By Breaking Truce, Jan. 19, by Sami Mazloum.

Mr. Mazloum's statement that Israel is waging war against the civilian population is incorrect. Israel is waging war against *Hamas*, a terrorist group that does not recognize and wants to eliminate Israel.

Like Hezbollah, <u>Hamas</u> hides and launches rockets in homes and schools where <u>women</u> and children are used as shields.

In 2006, Israel left the Gaza Strip in a show of peace and received in return more than 4,000 rockets from *Hamas*.

Where was the outcry when *Hamas* was launching these rockets into Israel schools and homes?

Peace will arise when <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah are wiped off the map and then hopefully Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will think twice about wiping Israel off the map.

Chris Flood

Essex

Load-Date: January 20, 2009



Council didn't condemn Hamas shelling

The Herald (South Africa) February 9, 2009 Monday

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Section: OPINION & EDITORIAL

Length: 116 words **Byline:** J Kotze

Body

Council didn't condemn Hamas shelling

I WANT to ask the Muslim Judicial Council why they:

Not once during the past number of years of <u>Hamas</u> terrorism spoke out against the launching of close to 10000 rockets against the <u>women</u> and children of Israel?

Not once condemned the Muslim suicide bombers responsible for the killing of innocent Israeli citizens? (Suicide and murder are two deadly sins in the eyes of the God we Christians worship).

Only started a one-sided howling when the Israeli forces put their feet down against the Hamas terrorists?

Not once condemned the <u>Hamas</u> cowards for using <u>women</u> and children as shields, and operating from hospital cellars and school buildings?

, Port Elizabeth

Load-Date: February 12, 2009



Hamas to blame for injuries to Gaza people

The Express

January 29, 2009 Thursday

Scottish Edition

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Section: LETTERS; 48

Length: 104 words

Body

WE now hear <u>Hamas</u> has broken the ceasefire, killing an Israeli soldier and a Palestinian farmer.

Gordon Brown, to name but one, is pouring millions of his taxpayers' money into Gaza. Why should the people of Britain help the people who voted *Hamas* into power?

<u>Hamas</u> has fired 6,000 rockets into Israel and we are expected to send money and show support for these people. Every night I see on TV <u>women</u> and children in Gaza killed or injured by Israeli bombs because <u>Hamas</u> site their bases next to schools and houses. When the people of Gaza get rid of <u>Hamas</u> then there might be some peace in the Middle East.

John Melrose, Largs

Load-Date: January 29, 2009



Provoking Israel

The Advertiser (Australia)
January 19, 2009 Monday
1 - State Edition

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 19

Length: 146 words

Body

WHY has <u>Hamas</u> shot rockets from Gaza at Israeli civilian targets, three times daily for eight years? Was it to wrest control of Gaza from Israel? Hardly. Israel left Gaza more than three years ago.

Instead, it was to provoke Israel to strike back in self-defence, inadvertently killing Palestinian civilians and incurring the world's wrath.

Why else would <u>Hamas</u> expose Gazans to endless misery by firing at Israel while hiding behind <u>women</u> and children in densely populated Gaza?

<u>Hamas</u>'s very charter outlines its fundamentalist belief that ``jihad" must be fought: ``Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it."

Israel must thwart <u>Hamas</u>'s ability to rearm, or <u>Hamas</u> will continually bring death and suffering to Palestinians and Israelis alike.

(Rabbi) YOSSI ENGEL, Director,

Judaic Learning Centre, Frewville.

Load-Date: January 18, 2009



Self defence

The Vancouver Province (British Columbia)

January 18, 2009 Sunday

Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A21

Length: 81 words

Byline: Esther Kaufman, The Province

Body

After Israel has been systematically terrorized for years, with thousands of Israeli babies, children, <u>women</u> and men slaughtered, it finally retaliates in self-defence.

Due to <u>Hamas</u>' vicious and cynical use of Palestinian children as human shields, these children die, as <u>Hamas</u> had calculated.

The world blames Israel, as *Hamas* had calculated.

Where is the world's condemnation of, and moral outrage for <u>Hamas</u>? Why is Israel's right to defence always negotiable?

Esther Kaufman, Ashdod, Israel

Load-Date: January 19, 2009



Israel presses into Gaza

Geelong Advertiser (Australia)

January 17, 2009 Saturday

1 - Main Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 27

Length: 191 words

Byline: MIDEAST Gaza, Thursday.

Body

ISRAEL killed a top <u>Hamas</u> leader when tanks pressed into the heart of Gaza City, setting landmark buildings ablaze, including a hospital filled with refugees that was engulfed in a ball of flames.

Said Siam, interior minister in Gaza's <u>Hamas</u> government, was slain along with his brother and son in an air strike on the brother's house north of Gaza City on Thursday, *Hamas* said, as its armed wing vowed to avenge his death.

His sister-in-law, bodyguard, and four neighbours also died in the strike, according to Gaza medics, who said more than 40 Palestinians were killed in fighting across the territory on Thursday.

<u>Hamas</u> hardliner, Siam had created the Executive Force, a militia that played a key role in the Islamist takeover of Gaza in June 2007.

He is the highest-ranking *Hamas* official killed since the war began on December 27.

Since Israel unleashed its Operation Cast Lead, at least 1105 people have been killed and at least another 5130 wounded, according to Gaza medics.

Among the dead are at least 355 children and 100 women.

Israel says 10 of its soldiers and three civilians have died as a result of combat or rocket fire in the same period.

Load-Date: January 19, 2009



Inflated figures; You Say

March 11, 2009 Edition 1

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Section: Pg. 33

Length: 167 words

Body

PETER Quickfall (ECHO letters, March 4) displays an astounding ignorance of the situation in Gaza.

He quotes unconfirmed and grossly exaggerated figures of the civilian casualties during the recent conflict.

He omits to say that this conflict was brought about because of the <u>Hamas</u> terrorists' continued rocket attacks on Israeli **women** and children.

He omits to say that most of these causalities were as a direct result of <u>Hamas</u> using the civilian population as human shields.

The 18 foot wall is to protect Israel, not to strangle any economy. The economy would be flourishing if the *Hamas* terrorists put in the same effort and dedication as they do killing innocent Israelis.

He makes no mention of the fact that when Israel did let aid through *Hamas* promptly hijacked it for their own use.

He maligns Israel for defending its borders, and once again Peter Quickfall makes no reference to the continued cross border terrorist attacks.

Edward Denmark, Wirral to The at back days of to fans, their anew e-mail)

Load-Date: March 11, 2009



Letter: Inflated figures

Liverpool Daily Echo
March 11, 2009 Wednesday
1ST Edition

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. 33

Length: 161 words

Byline: Edward Denmark

Body

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Edward Denmark, Wirral

Load-Date: March 12, 2009



Middle East Nightmare Dan Dolteast Lampeter Township

Lancaster New Era (Pennsylvania)

January 21, 2009 Wednesday

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Section: A; Pg. 12

Length: 161 words

Byline: Letters

Dateline: Lancaster, PA

Body

Though I disagree with the overkill used by the Israeli military against <u>Hamas</u>, to compare them to the Nazis is both ludicrous and an insult to the six million who died in Nazi death camps.

Israel does have a right to defend its citizens against indiscriminate <u>Hamas</u> rocket fire, but killing innocent <u>women</u> and children is no better than **Hamas**' tactics.

President Obama, as other presidents, will face a foreign-policy nightmare in the volatile Middle East, a place biblical scholars predict the "final" battle between good and evil will take place. In today's climate, that distinction is up for interpretation.

Israel, with its secret nuclear arsenal, is not going to be driven into the sea, a fact Egypt, Jordan and Syria have come to realize. Perhaps if the Palestinians were given a homeland complete with open trade with Israel, as other former enemies now enjoy, they, too, will come to realize that, as all the great religions say, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Load-Date: January 22, 2009



Shocking scene

Fiji Times (Australia)
February 21, 2009 Saturday
1 Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 46

Length: 175 words **Byline:** Indra Singh

Body

GAZA CITY, AFP - US Democratic representatives Brian Baird and Keith Ellison expressed shock at the plight of the war-shattered Gaza Strip during a rare visit to the *Hamas*-run Palestinian enclave on Thursday.

"The amount of physical destruction and the depth of human suffering here is staggering," Baird said in a statement issued jointly with Ellison during their visit which coincided with a similar trip by US Senator John Kerry.

The visits were the first by US MPs since <u>Hamas</u>, an Islamist movement Washington blacklists as a terrorist organisation, seized control of the overcrowded territory in June 2007.

Ellison, a representative from Minnesota, harshly criticised restrictions on the delivery of desperately needed goods into the coastal strip that has been under a crippling Israeli blockade imposed after the *Hamas* takeover.

"People, innocent children, <u>women</u> and non-combatants, are going without water, food and sanitation, while the things they so desperately need are sitting in trucks at the border, being denied permission to go in," he said.

Load-Date: March 5, 2009



Final Gaza toll: 1,434 people, says rights group

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

March 13, 2009 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A14

Length: 81 words

Byline: Reuters

Dateline: GAZA

Body

Israel's 22-day offensive in the <u>Hamas</u>-ruled Gaza Strip killed 1,434 people, including 960 civilians, 239 police officers and 235 fighters, a Palestinian human rights group said on Thursday.

Israel carried out attacks by air, land and sea from Dec. 27 to Jan. 18 in a bid, it said, to force <u>Hamas</u> and other militant Islamist groups to stop firing rockets and mortars at southern Israeli towns across their border.

The rights group said 288 children and 121 women were among civilians killed.

Load-Date: March 13, 2009



ISRAEL BATTERS GAZA AS TROOPS ENTER SUBURBS

Metro (UK)
January 14, 2009 Wednesday
Dublin Edition

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Section: Pg. 9

Length: 107 words

Body

ISRAELI forces advanced into the suburbs of Gaza City yesterday as the offensive against <u>Hamas</u> entered its 18th day. Overnight, Israeli jets attacked more than 60 targets. Explosions and heavy machine-gun fire could be heard across the city, home to 500,000 people. Medical workers said three civilians and 18 Palestinian gunmen, most of them members of <u>Hamas</u>, were killed. Two rockets hit Beersheba in southern Israel, causing no casualties. To date, more than 900 Palestinians many of them <u>women</u> and children and 13 Israelis, including three civilians hit by rockets, have died. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said: The fighting must stop.

Load-Date: February 5, 2009



Palestinians made their own misery

Lancashire Telegraph
January 19, 2009 Monday

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Section: LETTERS (LETTERS)

Length: 126 words

Body

I really must take issue with Shuiab Khan's account of the conflict in Gaza (LT, Jan 9).

The only innocents in Palestine are the children! Their parents voted for <u>Hamas</u> who, quite openly, call for the obliteration of Israel.

So they, the Palestinians, are complicit in their own misery.

I cannot empathise with these people who continue to shelter the rocket-toting terrorists and weep and wail on TV that innocent **women** and children are being slaughtered.

Even worse, <u>Hamas</u> are quite content to dwell amongst their own people and cynically use their deaths to further their cause on the world stage. I call that sick.

Although I respect Mr Khan's opinions, I think my views are valid and also deserve to be heard.

JEAN CROWTHER, Warmden Gardens, Little Harwood.

Load-Date: January 19, 2009



Letters - Israel's actions are indefensible

Morning Star January 20, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 177 words

Body

Tuesday January 27 is Holocaust Memorial Day. My dilemma is, do I attend as I have in the past, and find some way of voicing my disapproval at Israel's disgraceful killing of <u>women</u> and children in Gaza or stay away?

Israel's continued assault and its determination to wipe out *Hamas* is to my mind little short of mass murder.

<u>Hamas</u> is a political organisation elected by the majority of voters. Its supporters are being victimised for supporting an ideology that promised them something better and Israel should accept the Palestinians' democratic rights and seek ways of coming to a political solution.

To suggest that it is only defending its citizens and that it is its right to launch air and ground attacks and deprive Palestinians of food, water and medical supplies stretches the minds of most people.

Would we have approved similar attacks by the British army and air force on the Catholic areas of Belfast after the bombings in the City of London, Brighton and Warrington on the basis that we were only defending our population?

GEOFFREY SMITH, London SW20.

Load-Date: January 20, 2009



Letter: Your Say - ONCE again the BBC is on a hiding to nothingregarding its decision not to broadcast the appeal for aid in Gaza.; regarding its decision not to broadcast the appeal for aid in Gaza.

Birmingham Evening Mail
January 28, 2009 Wednesday
First Edition

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. 21

Length: 173 words **Byline:** G.H. Bude

Body

ONCE again the BBC is on a hiding to nothing regarding its decision not to broadcast the appeal for aid in Gaza.

It is something of a hobby among the chattering, middle classes to 'have a dig' at the broadcaster when it takes a stand on an important political issue.

The BBC finds itself in an impossible situation, however I'm not sure that news integrity could be called in to question were it to broadcast the appeal.

The situation in Gaza is such a complex one. To see the suffering of <u>women</u> and children makes it desperately sad all round.

Agreed, the strength of Israel's recent incursion into Gaza could be called into question, but to all those people who marched on Birmingham's Council House, I say they should also be questioning the unacceptable actions of *Hamas*.

To niggle and niggle as <u>Hamas</u> has done for months with its daily rocket attacks on Israel, something or somebody was always going to snap. To then hide in the suburbs among <u>women</u> and children when the retaliation begins is despicable.

G.H. Bude,

Lichfield

Load-Date: January 28, 2009



Grab a bride . . .

Daily Star Sunday June 14, 2009

Copyright 2009 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; 30 Length: 84 words

Body

SINGLE <u>women</u> on the Gaza Strip can meet the men of their dreams thanks to a new dating agency - <u>Hamas</u>.

The terror outfit which governs in Gaza is lining up girls and guys for true love through its Association For Marriage And Development.

Forty marriages have already been set up and 287 single women are on file.

Gaza sociologist Naser Mahdi said: "The dwindling number of middle-class men with steady incomes can have their pick of the prettiest *women*, leaving others to work hard to find a suitable husband."

Graphic

HITCHED: Agency girl

Load-Date: June 18, 2009



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Copyright 2009 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS All Rights Reserved

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Graphic

HITCHED: Agency girl

Load-Date: June 17, 2009



Letter: Gaza invasion was avoidable

Coventry Evening Telegraph (England)

February 3, 2009 Tuesday

Nuneaton Edition

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. 8

Length: 120 words **Byline:** J Hampton

Body

DO Coventry councillors Rob Windsor and John Mut ton imagine for one moment that if the IRA had been firing thousands of rockets indiscriminately over the border into Northern Ireland that Britain would stand back and do nothing?

For Heaven's sake, it would cause the second invasion of Northern and Southern Ireland.

I deeply regret the invasion of Gaza and the appalling slaughter of men, <u>women</u> and children, but it could have been avoided by <u>Hamas</u>, who had fired 60,000 rockets into Israel with no intention of stopping. What country would tolerate that?

In peace, Israel could have created employment and prosperity for the whole region, as they are an industrious, entrepreneurial people.

J Hampton, Longford, Coventry.

Load-Date: February 3, 2009



No-one fighting for our freedom

Derby Evening Telegraph
January 21, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 121 words

Body

I Read Fareed Hussain's letter, Add your voice to Gaza protest, (Evening Telegraph, January 6), regarding the occupation (illegally) of Palestine by the Israelis.

I offer him my sympathy. I was born and bred in England. We too have been occupied for many years by people of foreign lands, like the Palestinians.

No-one asked my countrymen and <u>women</u>, many of whom had fought for five years for freedom too. Our country has been overrun by people from many lands, a lot of them do not even like us.

Unlike <u>Hamas</u>, we have no freedom fighters to give us our country back. Our Government do not care and call us multi-nationals. Will our future generations despise us, I wonder, because we did nothing?

Ann Bond.

Chesterfield Road,

Matlock.

Load-Date: January 22, 2009



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Copyright 2009 Derby Evening Telegraph All Rights Reserved

Length: 121 words

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Ann Bond.

Chesterfield Road,

Matlock.

Load-Date: June 11, 2009



Letter: Falklands facts

Sunday Mercury February 8, 2009 First Edition

Copyright 2009 Reach PLC All Rights Reserved

Section: LETTERS; Pg. 28

Length: 129 words

Byline: RON EDWARDS

Body

IWOULD like to point out a few mistakes made by your letter writer AR Ghumra in last week's Letters pages.

If he had done his homework, he would have found that the Falklands, discovered in 1590, was touted about between the Dutch, France, Spain, Britain and Argentina until 1833 when a Captain John Onslow landed and claimed British sovereignty.

It was 95 per cent British stock, with a few of them fighting and giving their lives for Britain in two world wars.

So in 1982 when the Falklands were invaded, we decided to sail and retake our colony, being fortunate to have the right Prime Minister in power at the time.

<u>Hamas</u> being a democratic elected party, I don't think so when they try to fight a war using <u>women</u> and children as suicide bombers.

RON EDWARDS, Worle

Load-Date: February 8, 2009



Letter: You Say - Reversal of roles

Liverpool Daily Echo
March 4, 2009 Wednesday
1ST Edition

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. 33

Length: 138 words

Byline: Peter Quickfall

Body

IN REPLY to Naomi Kingston's response (ECHO, Feb 26) to Mr Skelly, she asks how he would react if Runcorn or Birkenhead had been firing rockets at his home.

But how would she react if the roles in Gaza were reversed, with a hundred or so Israelis (many of them <u>women</u> and children) killed for every one Palestinian, in a situation where <u>Hamas</u> controlled all Israel's borders?

What if they were occupying land legally held by living Israelis, and strangled Israel's economy, building an 18-foot high wall around them, which they opened once in awhile only to let Palestinian tanks and soldiers in to demolish their houses and shoot their children, while their military jets bombed hospitals?

I think we would hear cries of Holocaust and genocide. Proud of Israel?

You should be ashamed of yourself.

Peter Quickfall, Whiston

Load-Date: March 4, 2009



Moderates and extremists

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)
February 5, 2009 Thursday
Final Edition

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. A17

Length: 126 words

Byline: Abe Silverman, The Edmonton Journal

Body

Re: "Obama sets out to build bridges with Muslims," by Syed A. Rahman, Letters, Feb. 2.

Syed A. Rahman's observations about President Barack Obama reaching out to Islam by saying, "America is not your enemy" are correct. He should have added that radical Islam is the enemy of the Muslim world.

The leadership of Iran, <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah, al-Qaida and the Taliban has brought death and destruction to the Muslim world. It is time for Muslims of goodwill to stand up to this evil ideology that is the worst abuser of civil and <u>women</u>'s rights and say "enough."

For Rahman to suggest that Israel is dictating U.S. foreign policy is laughable. Maybe, just maybe, it is the truth and what's right that drives the decisions of the free world.

Abe Silverman, St. Albert

Load-Date: February 5, 2009



Reversal of roles; You Say Email:letters@liverpoolecho.co.uk

March 4, 2009

Edition 1

Copyright 2009 All Rights Reserved

Section: Pg. 33

Length: 136 words

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Peter Quickfall, Whiston

Load-Date: March 4, 2009



UN chief's heartbreaking visit to Gaza

Sydney MX (Australia)

January 21, 2009 Wednesday

1 - SYD Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 160 words

Body

TRUCE HOLDS

UN chief Ban Ki-moon has paid what he called a ``heartbreaking" first visit to the war-battered Gaza Strip where Israeli troops remain deployed on the third day of a ceasefire.

Ban, the first world leader to visit the enclave since a temporary ceasefire this week, accused Israel of ``excessive force" in the conflict, but also condemned Palestinian rocket fire on southern Israel as ``completely unacceptable".

The army said a total troop pullout from Gaza was not under discussion, although the ceasefire was holding firm.

Speaking outside the still-smouldering main UN compound in Gaza City, Ban called for those responsible for the bombing of UN buildings to be held accountable after Israel's 22-day war on *Hamas*.

"It is an outrageous and totally unacceptable attack on the UN," Ban said. Eight Israeli human rights groups accused the army of ignoring the rules of war, describing the scale of casualties among <u>women</u> and children as "terrifying".

Load-Date: January 21, 2009



Letter: Relieve suffering

Daily Post (North Wales)

January 29, 2009 Thursday

North Wales Edition

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. 14

Length: 170 words

Byline: Donald Saunders

Body

IN response to the correspondent in Tuesday's Post "Israel's Nightmare", I would say facts seen over several decades of repressive, violent and cruel treatment of innocent people, during the military occupation of Palestinian territory, have not presented Israel's government with the most humane image.

There is a widespread condemnation of Israel's actions in the West Bank and Gaza from all movements - Christian, Jewish, Muslim and non-religious authorities and spokesmen.

I condemn <u>Hamas</u> and Israeli military organisations for this most recent atrocity in Gaza, but until a more just settlement of the fair development of a Palestinian state is achieved we will not see much progress towards peace.

The immediate necessity is to relieve the desperately serious humanitarian tragedy in Gaza where tens of thousands of innocent <u>women</u> and children are suffering from the results of the siege and military destruction. I hope readers will support the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal.

Donald Saunders, Colwyn Bay.

Load-Date: January 29, 2009



Gaza is already under siege by Israel

Middlesbrough Evening Gazette

January 16, 2009 Friday

FIN Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 23

Length: 149 words

Byline: CLLR MOHAMMED JAVED

Body

THE whole world is watching the bombing in Gaza by Israel.

In this carnage hundred of civilians are killed, including children and women.

Gaza is already under siege by Israel. There is no water, no food and no electricity and people are forced to live in sub-human conditions.

Israel bombed in Lebanon before, killing thousands of civilians, and Tony Blair stood by and did not condemn Israel; now Gordon Brown should condemn this evil bombing.

As a community leader, I condemned <u>Hamas</u> rocket attacks on Israel and I am sure the majority of people in the UK are against Israel's action and 80% of people in the UK are against the war in Iraq.

I urge the international community to hold Israel accountable for this barbaric act and stop the bloodshed.

The Israeli election should not be won by a political party on the blood of Palestinians.

CLLR MOHAMMED JAVED, Parkfield and Oxbridge

Load-Date: January 16, 2009



Israeli aggression

The Salt Lake Tribune
January 20, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: PUBLIC FORUM; Opinion

Length: 175 words

Byline: Public Forum Letter

Body

The other night, a network news broadcast showed an Israeli family dealing with the rocket attacks from <u>Hamas</u>. It's wrong that civilians should have to be afraid of such things. I saw the Israeli children pouring milk on their cereal when an air raid siren caused them to go to the basement until the all-clear. In contrast, the Palestinian children have no milk or cereal; for months, Israel's blockade has shut off all food, fuel and medicine.

The Israeli military is mostly using U.S.-made weapons that are high-tech, accurate and lethal, and they are killing an unacceptable number of innocents. In contrast, the Palestinians use crude, unguided missiles that don't cause nearly the damage that our high-tech stuff does. At last count, about 20 Israelis, mostly soldiers, have been killed versus more than 900 Palestinians, many of them <u>women</u> and children.

There are war crimes being committed right now in Gaza, and our government needs to stop enabling the perpetrators who wear the Israeli uniform and lead its government.

Mike Crookston

Salt Lake City

Load-Date: January 23, 2009



`Palestinians willing to sacrifice their lives'

New Straits Times (Malaysia) January 15, 2009 Thursday

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Section: Pg. 14; LOCAL

Length: 180 words

Body

MALACCA: Palestinian student Nagi Al-Sarhi expressed his sadness over the sufferings of his countrymen and, at the same time, stood defiant against Israeli aggression.

He said the people of Palestine, including the children, were willing to sacrifice their lives to be free of Israelis.

Al-Sarhi, an engineering undergraduate at Universiti Putra Malaysia, was speaking at a forum on Israel's cruelty against Palestinians organised by the Malacca government on Tuesday.

He said the Israeli attacks were the most trying time for his family and relatives.

"What is left is only some strength from the <u>Hamas</u> fighters and the determination of the <u>women</u> and children there who are willing to give up their lives to free Palestine from the Zionists."

Speaking in Arabic, which was translated to the audience, Al-Sarhi condemned the Israelis for not observing a ceasefire and closing down all entry points into Gaza.

Al-Sarhi thanked Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam for organising the forum and urged Muslims in the country to help with donations. About 10,000 people attended the forum.

Load-Date: January 14, 2009



Israeli probe clears army of killings

The Vancouver Province (British Columbia)

March 31, 2009 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A18

Length: 191 words

Byline: Los Angeles Times

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- Israel's military closed an investigation yesterday into allegations that army snipers killed two **women** and two children during its incursion into the Gaza Strip, saying that soldiers making the claims had witnessed no such shootings.

The stories caused an outcry in Israel and abroad after Israeli newspapers published them March 19. In one case, the alleged victim was an elderly woman walking on a road; in the other case, it was a woman and her two children who turned the wrong way, into a no-go zone.

Brig.-Gen. Avichai Mendelblit, the chief military prosecutor, said he had decided not to file charges because "crucial components of their descriptions were based on hearsay and not supported by specific personal knowledge."

Israeli human-rights advocates called the investigation a whitewash. They said the military has yet to respond to abundant evidence presented weeks ago in other alleged cases of unwarranted killings of civilians.

Israeli officials concede the army used overwhelming force in the mostly urban battlefield to halt rocket fire by <u>Hamas</u> militants. But they dispute the claim that most of the dead were civilians.

Load-Date: March 31, 2009



NT and BEYOND

Northern Territory News (Australia)

February 24, 2009 Tuesday

1 - Edition

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 15

Length: 190 words

Body

Dark humour

A DARWIN man noticed something amusing on Nine News on Friday night.

A story showed the emergency services parade moving through Darwin city collecting money for the bushfire appeal.

To illustrate community support for the effort, the footage cut to three <u>women</u> on the side of the road clapping and cheering loudly.

And the head cheerleader was police media manager Katie Fowden.

"She'd want to be clapping wouldn't she?" our man said.

Best of luck

A DARWIN journalist will soon know whether the Northern Territory Government has anything in common with *Hamas* and the Israeli administration.

Anne Barker, last year's Territory radio current affairs reporter for the ABC, has been appointed the national broadcaster's new Middle East correspondent.

We wish her luck.

Making news

DARWIN man Michael Bird was out on a very ordinary mission when he was ambushed by a mob of thugs who followed him home at about 3am on Saturday morning -- he had been heading up the street to get a newspaper from an all-night store.

GOT some good goss?

NT & Beyond would love to hear it. Call 8944 9724 or email ntnmail@ntn. newsltd.com.au with your juicy tidbits.

Load-Date: February 24, 2009

NT and BEYOND



Great news for London - the Evening Standard

The Sunday Times (London)

January 18, 2009

Edition 1

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 17

Length: 195 words

Byline: ROD LIDDLE

Body

Great news for London - the Evening Standard, like most other things in the capital, will soon be owned by a former member of the Russian KGB. The loss-making newspaper is to be sold to Alexander Lebedev for Eur1 - you don't haggle with the KGB, you see. Try to push up the price and sooner or later you'll find yourself glowing like a Belisha beacon and your hair falling out in large clumps.

It may seem unusual for former operatives of a somewhat sinister and hostile security organisation to buy up our newspapers, but many people have assumed that for years the Daily Mail has been owned by Haiti's vigorous secret police, the Ton Ton Macoute. And it is well known that The Guardian is managed by an edgy Sinn Fein-Hamas coalition.

There will be changes at the Standard, of course - the fashion pages will soon feature <u>women</u> with grim expressions in white stilettos, tons of gold jewellery, dyed auburn hair and ominous tattoos. The front page each day will be devoted to an exaggerated report of pig iron production - and restaurant critic Fay Maschler had better develop a liking for borscht pretty quickly. They lost the cold war and won, it would seem, the world.

Load-Date: January 18, 2009



LETTERS

The Taos News (New Mexico)
January 15, 2009 Thursday

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Section: FAVOR Y CONTRA/OPINION; Pg. A-7

Length: 196 words

Body

Stop the killing in Gaza

People around the world, including Albuquerque (perhaps 400 people there), peacefully assembled on Saturday (Jan. 10) to protest the massive killings of men, <u>women</u> and children in captive Gaza with U.S. weapons.

One-and-a-half-million Gazans, primarily refugees, are imprisoned on a small strip of land 10-by-30 miles and have been prevented from access to food, water, fuel and medicine for 18 months.

On top of that they are carpet-bombed and then invaded with Israeli military operations. Dead bodies everywhere, starving children sitting next to their mothers who have been dead for days, people with limbs blown off dying while waiting for surgery with no anesthetics or even water to clean their wounds.

Gaza is reduced to rubble, no fuel for heat, very little electricity. This is not a justified response to <u>Hamas</u> rockets. This is intentional genocide. Shame on Israel. Shame on the U.S. corporate-military-industrial complex that kills for profit. The use of depleted uranium weapons and white phosphorous on innocent civilians in the name of defending Israel is unconscionable. The rest of the world agrees: Stop the killing. Peace.

Jeanne Green

Taos

Graphic

See pdf's for exact rendition, caption, graphics and photographer info.

Load-Date: January 14, 2010



Letter: Shocked by Gaza analogy

Coventry Evening Telegraph (England)

January 24, 2009 Saturday

Nuneaton Edition

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. 10

Length: 197 words

Byline: Cllr John Mutton

Body

I WAS extremely disappointed in the letter from Alan Hartley (Your Say, January 15) where he likens the situation in Gaza to, in his words, "a clip round the earhole."

I do not condone in any way, shape or form the supporters of <u>Hamas</u> firing rockets into Israel, however to justify the Israeli response is unbelievable. Thousands of Palestinians have been wounded and hundreds, including <u>women</u> and children, have been killed or mutilated.

I am surprised that someone who joined the armed forces in 1939 to fight back against the Nazi bullies of Europe then seems to think that a similar type of bullying in the Middle East is acceptable.

The boundaries that were decided after the conclusion of the Second World War to enable the Jewish people to have a nation state were understandable; however, the Gaza Strip was never part of the agreement and for years was illegally occupied by Israel.

The only way, in my opinion, for this constant hatred between the Jewish people and the Arab people is for all countries to recognise the legitimacy of each and all countries.

I hope Mr Hartley will reflect on the comments in his letter and have a rethink.

Cllr John Mutton, Coventry Council House.

Load-Date: January 24, 2009



Give peace a chance

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)
January 29, 2009 Thursday
Final Edition

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Section: Q: QUERIES - QUIBBLES - QUIRKS; Pg. A15; Inbox: Your Space - Your Time

Length: 186 words

Byline: Kishan Chand Sharma, Calgary Herald

Body

Re: "If you like *Hamas*, you'll love the Taliban, "Nigel Hannaford, Opinion, Jan. 27.

Kudos to Nigel Hannaford for his well-balanced writing. Every country has a right to live peacefully. No nation, group or organization has a right to work violently to wipe out the other. Where were the protesters when atrocities were committed by terrorists against <u>female</u> students and <u>women</u> in some areas in Pakistan, Afghanistan and recently in Mumbai, where innocent people were butchered? The main thing is the ideology of violence being preached to little children, brainwashing them, teaching them they will get a place in heaven if they blow themselves up and kill "nonbelievers." Violence is unacceptable in a civilized society. Please stop this blaming game and think of ways and means to fight the menace of terror ideology. Multiculturalism is the norm of the day. Help it flourish. OLord, bring peace upon our universe.

Kishan Chand Sharma,

Calgary

Kishan Chand Sharma is president of the Hindi Sahitya Society of Calgary, vice-president of the Hindu Society of Calgary and director of Calgary's Hindu Senior Citizens Society

Graphic

Photo: Herald Archive, Reuters; Reader wonders where all the protesters were when the Taliban threw acid on Shamsia, 17, as she walked to school in Kabul last November.;

Load-Date: January 29, 2009



Letter: Is anyone ever going to be held responsible for warcrimes?; crimes?

Chester Chronicle January 23, 2009 County Edition

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. 47

Length: 193 words **Byline:** P BRADBURY

Body

AMID all the carnage and the "blame game" from both sides on Gaza, one question is rarely asked: is anyone ever going to be held responsible for war crimes?

Evidence of war crimes is emerging daily-both of Palestinian armed groups unacceptably launching rockets into civilian areas of southern Israel, and of the Israeli military's inexcusable behaviour during its massive assault in Gaza.

For example, Amnesty International has eyewitness accounts of how Israeli soldiers in Gaza have burst into Palestinian homes, forcing families to stay in a ground-floor room while using the house as a sniper position.

Palestinian men, <u>women</u> and children have been used as human shields in violation of the Geneva Conventions, precisely what Israel accuses <u>Hamas</u> of doing.

We're urging readers to write to their local MP calling for them to ask the UK government to push for a complete arms embargo and an independent investigation that could help bring perpetrators to justice for crimes committed in Gaza.

This isn't about taking sides - it's about calling for justice, for both Palestinian and Israeli civilians.

P BRADBURY Chester group of Amnesty International

Graphic

WHO'S ACCOUNTABLE? Smoke rises during an Israeli military operation in Gaza as Israeli tanks are seen near Israel's border with the Gaza Strip, southern Israel.

Load-Date: January 23, 2009

Letter: Is anyone ever going to be held responsible for warcrimes? crimes?



Hamás ofrece 2.250 eurospor casarse con una viuda; SECUELAS EN GAZA

El Periodico de Aragon 29 Marzo 2009 Domingo

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Length: 201 words

Byline: RICARDO MIR DE FRANCIA

Body

"Otros años solíamos financiar bodas colectivas de parejas solteras para incentivar el matrimonio, pero este año es especial. La guerra ha dejado cientos de viudas y queremos ayudarlas a rehacer sus vidas". Ramis Gerbayi preside la Asociación Islámica de Gaza, uno de los pilares de la red asistencial de *Hamás*. Su organización ha lanzado una campaña para promover el matrimonio con las mujeres que enviudaron en la ofensiva israelí de enero. Ofrece entre 1.000 y 3.000 dólares (entre 750 y 2.250 euros) a quien se case con ellas, propuesta que ha soliviantado a las feministas de la franja.

En Gaza no hay mujeres que vivan solas desafiando la presión social. En muchos casos, cuando enviudan jóvenes, uno de los hermanos del difunto se casa con ellas. Si no, vuelven a casa de sus padres o se quedan con la familia política de por vida. Pero con la ruina económica tras casi dos años de bloqueo, la solidaridad intrafamiliar no vive sus mejores momentos.

Para las organizaciones de derechos humanos de Gaza, la iniciativa constituye "otro golpe a los derechos de las mujeres", entre otras cosas, "porque trata a la mujer como mercancía y promueve la poligamia", dice Amal Siam, del **Women** Affairs Center.

Load-Date: March 29, 2009



Hamás ofrece hasta 2.250 por casarse con una viuda; SECUELAS EN GAZA

El Periodico Extremadura 29 Marzo 2009 Domingo

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Length: 201 words

Byline: RICARDO MIR DE FRANCIA

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Load-Date: March 28, 2009



Hamás ofrece hasta 2.250 por casarse con una viuda; SECUELAS EN GAZA

Diario Cordoba 29 Marzo 2009 Domingo

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Length: 201 words

Byline: RICARDO MIR DE FRANCIA

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En Gaza no hay mujeres que vivan solas desafiando la presión social. En muchos casos, cuando enviudan jóvenes, uno de los hermanos del difunto se casa con ellas. Si no, vuelven a casa de sus padres o se quedan con la familia política de por vida. Pero con la ruina económica tras casi dos años de bloqueo, la solidaridad intrafamiliar no vive sus mejores momentos.

Para las organizaciones de derechos humanos de Gaza, la iniciativa constituye "otro golpe a los derechos de las mujeres", entre otras cosas, "porque trata a la mujer como mercancía y promueve la poligamia", dice Amal Siam, del **Women** Affairs Center.

Load-Date: March 29, 2009



Hamás ofrece hasta 2.250 € por casarse con una viuda; SECUELAS EN GAZA

El Periodico Mediterraneo 29 Marzo 2009 Domingo

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Mediterráneo

Length: 201 words

Byline: RICARDO MIR DE FRANCIA

Body

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Load-Date: March 29, 2009



Hamás ofrece hasta 2.250 euros porcasarseconunaviudadeGaza; SECUELAS DE LA OFENSIVA DEL EJÉRCITO ISRAELÍ; "Queremos ayudarlas a rehacer sus vidas", dice el presidente de la Asociación Islámica

El Periodico de Catalunya - Castellano 29 Marzo 2009 Domingo

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el Periódico.com

Length: 578 words

Byline: RICARDO MIR DE FRANCIA, GAZA

Body

"Otros años solíamos financiar bodas colectivas de parejas solteras para incentivar el matrimonio, pero este año es especial. La guerra ha dejado cientos de viudas y queremos ayudarlas a rehacer sus vidas". Ramis Gerbayi preside la Asociación Islámica de Gaza, uno de los pilares de la red asistencial de <u>Hamás</u>. Su organización ha lanzado una peculiar campaña para promover el matrimonio con las mujeres que enviudaron en la ofensiva israelí de enero. Ofrece entre 1.000 y 3.000 dólares (entre 750 y 2.250 euros) a quien se case con ellas, una propuesta que ha soliviantado a las feministas de la franja.

En la ultraconservadora Gaza no hay mujeres que vivan solas desafiando la omnímoda presión social. En muchos casos, cuando enviudan jóvenes, uno de los hermanos del difunto se casa con ellas. Si no, vuelven a casa de sus padres o se quedan con la familia política de por vida, especialmente si tienen hijos. Pero con la ruina económica desatada por casi dos años de bloqueo, y acentuada por la última guerra, tampoco la solidaridad intrafamiliar vive sus mejores momentos.

PROBLEMA SOCIAL

"Nuestra intención es solucionar una grave problema social", explica Gerbayi en un despacho espartano presidido por un Corán y un cuadro con la profesión de fe del islam. "Por un lado queremos evitar que las viudas sean una carga económica para sus familias y, por otro, cerciorarnos de que estas mujeres no acaban prostitu- yéndose para satisfacer sus necesidades físicas". La prostitución a la que se refiere Gerbayi no tiene nada que ver con hacer la calle. En la mentalidad de Gaza, prostitución equivale a relaciones sexuales fuera del matrimonio, una aventura que algunas mujeres pagan con la vida. Son las propias familias las que las matan.

Antes del inicio de la última guerra, <u>Hamás</u> debatió en el Parlamento de la franja un proyecto de ley para castigar con la ley islámica el adulterio y las relaciones fuera del matrimonio. Para las parejas adúlteras estipulaba la muerte por lapidación y para el sexo entre solteros, 100 latigazos. Algunos sectores de <u>Hamás</u> se opusieron a la propuesta y su aprobación fue aparcada.

Fida Hiyazi, de 19 años y madre de un niño, perdió a su marido en los bombardeos israelís. Era policía, uno de los 255 que murieron junto a 926 civiles y 236 milicianos, según el Centro Palestino de Derechos Humanos. Israel sostiene que solo hubo 295 bajas civiles. "No me parece mal la propuesta de incentivar con dinero el matrimonio,

Hamás ofrece hasta 2.250 euros porcasarseconunaviudadeGaza SECUELAS DE LA OFENSIVA DEL EJÉRCITO ISRAELÍ "Queremos ayudarlas a rehacer sus vidas", dice el presid....

pero yo quiero esperar --dice Hiyazi, vestida con un niqab que le vela el rostro y deja a la vista únicamente los ojos--. La herida está fresca y debo consultarlo primero con mi familia".

INDEPENDENCIA Su prioridad es acabar los estudios de Magisterio. "Quiero tener un sueldo para criar a mi hijo sin depender de la caridad", asegura en el hogar de su familia política, donde ha vivido durante el año de su matrimonio.

Para las organizaciones de derechos humanos de Gaza, la iniciativa islamista constituye "otro golpe a los derechos de las mujeres", entre otras cosas, "porque trata a la mujer como mercancía y promueve la poligamia", opina Amal Siam, del <u>Women</u> Affairs Center. "Estas viudas jóvenes acabarán casadas con hombres que tienen ya una o dos esposas, porque los solteros prefieren casarse con vírgenes", explica. El presidente de la Asociación Islámica se defiende. "No pretendemos ejercer de agencia matrimonial. Serán las familias las que acuerden los matrimonios según la tradición", asegura Gerbayi.

Graphic

RICARDO MIR DE FRANCIA

Fida Hiyazi sostiene a su hijo bajo el retrato de su difunto marido.

Load-Date: March 29, 2009



Hamàs ofereix fins a 2.250 € per casar-se amb una viuda de Gaza; SEQÜELES DE L'OFENSIVA DE L'EXÈRCIT ISRAELIÀ; "Volem ajudar-les a refer les seves vides", diu el president de l'Associació Islàmica

El Periodico de Catalunya 29 Marzo 2009 Domingo

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el Periódico.com

Length: 574 words

Byline: RICARDO MIR DE FRANCIA, GAZA

Body

"Altres anys solíem finançar casaments col·lectius de parelles solteres per incentivar el matrimoni, però aquest any és especial. La guerra ha deixat centenars de viudes i les volem ajudar a refer les seves vides". Ramis Gerbaji presideix l'Associació Islàmica de Gaza, un dels pilars de la xarxa assistencial de *Hamàs*. La seva organització ha llançat una peculiar campanya per promoure el matrimoni amb les dones que van enviudar en l'ofensiva israeliana del gener. Ofereix entre 1.000 i 3.000 dòlars (entre 750 i 2.250 euros) a qui s'hi casi, una proposta que ha indignat les feministes de la franja.

A la ultraconservadora Gaza no hi ha dones que visquin soles i desafiïn l'omnímoda pressió social. En molts casos, quan enviuden joves, un dels germans del difunt s'hi casa. Si no, tornen a casa dels pares o es queden amb la família política tota la vida, especialment si tenen algun fill. Però amb la ruïna econòmica desencadenada per gairebé dos anys de bloqueig, i accentuada per l'última guerra, tampoc la solidaritat intrafamiliar viu els millors moments.

PROBLEMA SOCIAL

"La nostra intenció és solucionar un greu problema social", explica Gerbaji en un despatx espartà presidit per un Alcorà i un quadro amb la professió de fe de l'islam. "Per un costat volem evitar que les viudes siguin una càrrega econòmica per a les seves famílies i, per l'altre, cerciorar-nos que aquestes dones no acaben prostituint-se per satisfer les seves necessitats físiques". La prostitució a la qual es refereix Gerbaji no té res a veure amb fer el carrer. En la mentalitat de Gaza, prostitució equival a relacions sexuals fora del matrimoni, una aventura que algunes dones paguen amb la vida. Són les mateixes famílies les que les maten.

Abans de l'inici de l'última guerra, <u>Hamàs</u> va debatre al Parlament de la franja un projecte de llei per poder castigar amb la llei islàmica l'adulteri i les relacions fora del matrimoni. Per a les parelles adúlteres estipulava la mort per lapidació i per al sexe entre solters, 100 fuetades. Alguns sectors de <u>Hamàs</u> es van oposar a la proposta i la seva aprovació va ser aparcada.

Fida Hijazi, de 19 anys i mare d'un nen, va perdre el marit als bombardejos israelians. Era policia, un dels 255 que van morir amb 926 civils i 236 milicians, segons el Centre Palestí de Drets Humans. Israel sosté que només hi va haver 295 baixes civils. "No em sembla malament la proposta d'incentivar amb diners el matrimoni, però jo vull

Hamàs ofereix fins a 2.250 € per casar-se amb una viuda de Gaza SEQÜELES DE L'OFENSIVA DE L'EXÈRCIT ISRAELIÀ "Volem ajudar-les a refer les seves vides", di....

esperar --diu Hijazi, vestida amb un nicab que li tapa la cara i deixa a la vista únicament els ulls--. La ferida està fresca i he de consultar-ho primer amb la meva família".

INDEPENDÈNCIA La seva prioritat és acabar els estudis de Magisteri. "Vull tenir un sou per poder criar el meu fill sense dependre de la caritat", assegura a casa de la seva família política, on ha viscut durant l'any de matrimoni.

Per a les organitzacions de drets humans de Gaza, la iniciativa islamista constitueix "un altre cop als drets de les dones", entre altres coses, "perquè tracta la dona com una mercaderia i promou la poligàmia", opina Amal Siam, del **Women**

Affairs Center. "Aquestes viudes joves acabaran casades amb homes que ja tenen una o dues dones, perquè els solters prefereixen casar-se amb dones verges", explica. El president de l'Associació Islàmica es defensa. "No pretenem exercir d'agència matrimonial. Seran les famílies les que acordin els matrimonis segons indica la tradició", assegura Gerbaji.

Graphic

RICARDO MIR DE FRANCIA

Fida Hijazi sosté el seu fill sota el retrat del seu difunt marit.

Load-Date: March 29, 2009



Canberra Times (Australia)
January 19, 2009 Monday
Final Edition

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Section: A; Pg. 14 Length: 1055 words

Byline: The Canberra Times

Body

Attacks on Gaza Last Monday, The Canberra Times reported on a 330-strong Australian Special Operations Task Group "who are targeting Taliban leaders".

The report did not mention how many combatants, civilians, Afghan <u>women</u> and children have been killed or the collateral damaged caused in the targeted assassinations being conducted by Australian soldiers.

In Thursday's Times, Bob Ellis ("Israeli attacks on Gaza are war crimes", January 15, p9) accused Israel's targeting of *Hamas* terrorists as a war crime because there is "no jury called ... no jury consulted".

Using Ellis's argument, Australia is also a party to war crimes and we are also guilty of killing innocent people because these Taliban operatives have not faced a jury.

Ellis further claims the targeted killing of terrorists without trial "is the Israeli way", however, he makes no such accusation against Kevin Rudd and John Howard, the Australian military (and by implication, the Australian people) who are engaged in hunting down and killing Taliban terrorists in Afghanistan, even though there are bound to be innocent people killed along the way.

Does Ellis also believe Australian troops are committing war crimes?

Does he have the courage to accuse Rudd of perpetrating similar crimes?

Of course not, because we know the Taliban and their ilk pose a genuine threat to Australians and our allies.

Perhaps Ellis can write a similar article about the civilian deaths in Afghanistan and explain why he opposes Australia's participation in the war against terrorism. From his safe and secure abode, he accuses those who seek to eliminate terrorists and extremists of "war crimes" without once condemning the missile barrages on civilians, the suicide bombings or the threats to wipe out an entire nation.

Simon Tatz, Watson If Bob Ellis wants the answer to why Israel is treating the people of Gaza as subhuman ("Israeli attacks on Gaza are war crimes", January 15, p9), then he needs to look no further than the extract of the editorial from Beirut's Daily Star, reproduced by The Canberra Times ("Arab failure on Gaza plan", January 16, p12).

Israel may be the perpetrator of the massacre in Gaza, but not without the blessing of the leadership of the Arab countries, which is unwilling to put aside its differences and present a united front that would pressure Israel into ending its onslaught.

No, Israel isn't alone in its inhumane treatment of the Palestinian people. In September 1970, many thousands of Palestinians refugees in Jordan were killed as King Hussein's army drove the PLO out into Lebanon.

Their harsh treatment by the Arab countries has not abated. No sooner had the Israeli army stopped its bombing of Lebanon in 2006, it was the turn of the Lebanese army to attack the Palestinian refugee camps in the north of the country. And even today, the Egyptians refuse to allow the fleeing Gazans an escape route through the Rafah crossing.

Sure, Israel has shown much cruelty towards the Palestinian people, but it has had some excellent teachers.

Sam Nona, Burradoo, NSW David Goss (Letters, January 16) criticises me for deceiving myself about a democratic and secular Palestine.

Bob Edwards (Letters, January 16) says I am fantasising. Both cite *Hamas* as the reason this will not occur.

I agree that <u>Hamas</u> is an obstacle to attaining a democratic and secular Palestine. But at the moment it is fighting against the racist apartheid state of Israel, the advance guard of US imperialism. For that reason it must be supported in its legitimate attempts to resist the Israeli blockade and its logical extension, the invasion.

The PLO used to have as its aim a democratic and secular Palestine, although it was rhetoric more than anything else. The degeneration of the PLO (and massive loss of support from its people) is evident in the fact that the Palestinian Authority is a quisling and corrupt group ruling through terror against its own people.

Its hope is that Israel smashes <u>Hamas</u> and then imposes the PA as the governing authority in Gaza. If that occurs, the PA death squads will continue israel's work of killing Palestinians <u>Hamas</u> members, most of whom perform social service, educational and medical functions.

One final point. It was Israel (knowing full well the anti-Israeli nature of the organisation) which promoted <u>Hamas</u> and supported it in the beginning as a counterweight to the PLO.

John Passant, Kambah David Goss (Letters, January 16) is correct that the <u>Hamas</u> Charter (al- Mithaq) contains some pretty nasty passages. But he neglects to state that the text he quotes was crafted more than two decades ago.

In a major 2007 study of <u>Hamas</u>, Dr Jeroen Gunning writes that the <u>Hamas</u> Charter "neither does justice to the political thinking of <u>Hamas</u>" leaders (it is weak on specifics) nor does it adequately reflect the views of the present leadership, few of whom would quote it or regard it as reflecting their positions (it was written in 1988 by the then old guard of the movement). Contributions to public discussion from diplomats who have served in the Middle East region are potentially of some value, but debate over the tragic situation in Gaza is not greatly assisted by interventions that depict the actors involved as either monolithic or frozen in time.

Effective diplomacy depends crucially on the ability to recognise complexity and exploit the opportunities it can create. Wiser Israelis certainly realise that this is the case.

(Dr) William Maley, Reid Optimistic drive I think Jamie Geysen (Letters, January 14) must be the eternal optimist. He makes the GM Volt (extended range electric vehicle or EREV) sound like it is the deal of the century. He is hoping Kevin Rudd will push Holden to sell the Volt by 2011 so that he can join an "avalanche" of customers raring to buy one of these bargains.

If these Volts ever make it to the dealerships, like all other vehicles they will be subject to the mandatory costs above the recommended price to get the vehicle on the road.

It is not worth losing sleep wondering what the price will be in 2011, and if you don't have money to burn I can see these vehicles being beyond most peoples reach.

Any anticipated saving would be lost because of the inflated price. If the Volt does make it on to the Australian market, I forecast the demand will be a trickle, not an avalanche. T. Jones, Calwell

Load-Date: October 11, 2011



The Bismarck Tribune February 10, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: NEWS

Length: 881 words

Byline: JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press Writer

Body

JERUSALEM - Israel's election has suddenly become too close to call, though hard-liners are expected to have a clear edge in the horse trading that is sure to follow Tuesday's vote.

The fractious coalition government likely to emerge could complicate efforts to create a Palestinian state and pose big challenges for President Barack Obama, who has made achieving Middle East peace a top priority.

The race pits former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who opposes giving up land in the name of peace, against Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, a centrist who hopes to become the country's first <u>female</u> leader in nearly 40 years.

For months, opinion polls have predicted a decisive victory by Netanyahu's Likud Party. But new polls released over the weekend showed Livni's Kadima Party closing the gap. Neither is expected to get more than 30 seats in the 120-seat parliament, however, meaning the winner will have to form a coalition with smaller parties.

Netanyahu seems to be in a far better position, since his natural allies in the nationalist right wing of Israeli politics are all polling well. In particular, Netanyahu's former protege, Avigdor Lieberman, appears poised to make huge gains on a platform that calls for Israeli Arabs to swear loyalty to the state or lose citizenship.

While Livni could still eke out a victory, it appears mathematically impossible for her to form a coalition without bringing in Lieberman or some other hard-line party. That would hinder her ability to pursue a peace agreement with the Palestinians, as she has promised to do.

Still, polls have often been inaccurate in Israel. This time the pollsters' task is even more difficult, because turnout is expected to be low and a plethora of small parties could upset the whole equation. An estimated 15 to 20 percent of voters remain undecided.

The strength of the Israeli right is a reflection of the times. Israel recently wrapped up a three-week war against <u>Hamas</u> militants in the Gaza Strip to try to halt years of rocket attacks into southern Israel. The right criticized the government for failing to go all the way and end <u>Hamas</u> rule over Gaza.

"In the end, there won't be a choice but to topple the <u>Hamas</u> government in Gaza," Netanyahu told the Frenchlanguage Guysen TV on Monday. "That's clear. The job wasn't completed in the latest operation and we will have to complete it later."

Throughout the campaign, Livni and Netanyahu have tried to outdo each other with their threats against *Hamas*.

Livni, who has been the government's chief negotiator in talks with <u>Hamas'</u> rival, the moderate Palestinian government in the West Bank, wants to continue those negotiations, which would require a large West Bank withdrawal as part of an agreement. She has repeatedly urged voters to choose "hope" over "fear."

Netanyahu says any land handed to the Palestinians will be used to launch attacks against Israel. He points to the experience of Gaza, which was overrun by *Hamas* after Israel unilaterally withdrew from the area in 2005.

Instead, Netanyahu says peace talks should be limited to building the Palestinian economy - a position rejected by the Palestinians and unlikely to win favor with Obama.

"We will not deal with any Israeli government that isn't fully committed to the peace process and the two-state solution," said Nabil Abu Rdeneh, a spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Both Livni and Netanyahu say they will work to ensure that Iran, Israel's archenemy, does not obtain nuclear weapons. But Netanyahu takes the toughest line and is seen as most likely to contemplate a military strike on Iran. That, too, could put him at odds with Obama, who favors talking to Tehran.

Although Netanyahu has talked of forming a broad-based government, he has taken great pains to stress his hard-line credentials in the closing days of the campaign - the result of Lieberman's growing popularity.

Over the weekend, he visited a West Bank settlement overlooking Israel's international airport and vowed never to withdraw from the area. On Sunday, he traveled to the Golan Heights and declared he would never return the strategic plateau to Syria.

Netanyahu has been careful not to openly criticize Lieberman, whose Yisrael Beitenu Party has catapulted past the venerable Labor Party of Defense Minister Ehud Barak into third place in the polls.

While it is unlikely that Lieberman could carry out his pledge to strip disloyal Arabs of their citizenship, a strong showing in the election could give him a big voice in foreign policy. His penchant for stirring up controversy - Lieberman has called for bombing Iran and said Egypt's president could "go to hell" - could strain Israel's relations with the international community.

Lieberman's rise in the polls has dominated what otherwise has been a dull campaign.

The public seems to be weary from the recent Gaza fighting as well as a notoriously unstable political system that has yielded five elections in the past decade. Perceptions that none of the leading candidates are particularly inspiring has only added to the malaise.

"The reason no one knows who they are voting for is because they don't believe in anyone," said Bella Gabyb, 80, a lifelong resident of Jerusalem. "I will go, but I don't know for whom I want to vote. I will decide tomorrow."

Load-Date: February 10, 2009



Kalgoorlie Miner (Western Australia)

June 6, 2009 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: KAL; Pg. 11 Length: 618 words

Body

I WRITE regarding Gwynne Dyer's article "A nuclear puzzle" (*Kalgoorlie Miner*, June 1). Gwynne Dyer speaks from a background in the military, as a historian and as a journalist. It is sad to see these credentials abused in order to belittle the nuclear threat facing Israel.

In his latest column for the *Kalgoorie Miner*, Dyer implies Israel is a coward twice over; because the Iranian threat is not so real and because most Israelis would run away if the balloon really did go up.

And all this written from the comfort of his spacious, quiet London home, miles from any Middle Eastern sandpit. It is the cricketing equivalent of telling Andrew Strauss Brett Lee really does not mean to rough him up at 90mph.

It is time to set the record straight. First, you cannot compare the situations of South Korea (or previously Northern Ireland) with Israel. Because even if there are similarities and both have clear enemies, those enemies are not looking to wipe the country off the face of the map.

The second "minor" issue Dr Dyer ignores is that Iran, through proxies, runs <u>Hamas</u> to Israel's south and Hizbollah to the north. Both are pledged to destroy Israel, along with its citizens, preferably through means of violence. And both have rained sufficient Iranian-funded rockets on Israel's civilians to be credibly believed.

To be blunt. If North Korea were to win a war, South Koreans would face a totalitarian regime, but they would not be slaughtered. In comparison, at the start of the January 2009 engagement when Israel entered Gaza, more than 100 Fatah supporters met their deaths at the hands of *Hamas*. Palestinians punished with death for being members of a political party that held (intransigent and failed) peace talks with Israel.

No doubt Dr Dyer will call this a "Holocaust-based" irrational reaction. Really? He forgets that during the aforementioned Gaza campaign, <u>Hamas</u> launched approximately 1000 rockets against Israeli targets. All of them landed in or near population centres such as the city of Ashkelon. Dyer may have missed this fact because he is a military analyst and none of the missiles fell on the Israeli troops massed near the Gaza border.

And here really is the gross ineptitude of Dr Dyer's selective use of facts. He ignores the biography of Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who cut his teeth organising the seige of hundreds at the American embassy.

Dr Dyer fails to question why Iran wants to possess an offensive nuclear capability. He ignores the constant violent anti-semitic hostility and his threats to wipe Israel off the map, which countries like Australia have publicly denounced.

One is left to ponder the motivation for Dr Dyer's mischievous rant.

Iran funds and arms <u>Hamas</u> and Hizbullah - encouraging them to commit the double war crime of shooting at civilian targets while using their own civilian populations as human shields. Can there be any doubt that nuclear arms in Iranian hands would be a danger to Israel and to the world?

David Frankfurter,

Israel.

ONE can only have the deepest sympathy for Arnold and Frimet Roth over the loss of their daughter in a senseless terrorist attack (*Kalgoorlie Miner*, June 1).

However, it must be remembered that Palestinians are being killed by the State of Israel at a rate of about 10 to one. Sadly, a large proportion of those killed are **women** and children.

I have visited Iran on a couple of occasions and I believe I have some understanding of the country.

The people are for the most part literate, intelligent and friendly. I found a great scepticism about religion and no enthusiasm for the mullahs.

They are, however, a very proud and patriotic people. They are aware Israel has a large nuclear arsenal and obviously

Load-Date: June 5, 2009



The Bismarck Tribune
January 28, 2009 Wednesday

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Section: WIRE; Pg. 2A

Length: 992 words

Byline: BEN HUBBARD Associated Press Writer

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Some were killed when tank shells hit their homes. Others died when bombs erased their offices. Still others met their end battling Israeli troops.

Now their faces are rolling off the presses at the Nibras print shop, which produces full-color posters and banners of the dead. In the wake of Israel's 22-day Gaza offensive - which killed nearly 1,300 Palestinians - it's one of the few businesses experiencing a postwar boom.

Islamic Jihad fighter Mohammed Bedawi was among the so-called "martyrs" whose demise was commemorated with a custom-made poster - a tradition for anyone killed by Israel.

"The drone hit him," said his cousin, Abed Bedawi, 21, referring to Israel's unmanned surveillance planes, often seen in Gaza's skies. "He was laying a bomb for a tank when the drone fired a missile at him."

Before the war, about 30 percent of the print shop's orders were for martyr posters, co-owner Ahmed al-Hor said; the rest were for things like shop signs and labels for products like tomato sauce, soap and baby food. Now, posters of the dead are 90 percent of his business.

A steady stream of customers flowed through the print shop's simple walk-up office on a recent afternoon, all men, most bearded, some wearing military-style pants and jackets. A few admitted affiliation with Gaza's armed groups, and the vast majority of their orders commemorated fallen fighters.

Bedawi unfurled his poster to reveal a large photo of his stern-looking 20-year-old cousin, ringed with silhouettes of palm trees and birds in flight. "As a farewell," the text read. In the top corner was an emblem of Islamic Jihad, a militant group Israel says is backed by Iran.

Bedawi said he'd give it to his aunt to hang in her house.

Others told similar stories. "They were out on a jihad mission, then came back and a missile hit them at the door of their house," said Yusuf Mustapha, who was picking up 1,000 copies of a poster showing 10 Islamic Jihad militants killed in the Zeitoun area south of Gaza City.

"The families of the martyrs will take them, and we'll hang them all over to decorate the neighborhood," said Mustapha.

Asked where he got the \$925 for the order, he just smiled and said, "from the good people." When pressed, Mustapha, 25, said that he too was an Islamic Jihad member.

Not all the posters were for militants.

"These are new ones here, all one family," said 26-year-old printer Mahmoud Istewi, pulling up computer images to send to the shop's industrial printer to make into a huge plastic banner.

"Martyrs from the house of Deeb," read the text on the screen, above photos of two men, three boys, two girls and four roses, representing *women*.

"Those who were raised to the heavens during a hateful Zionist strike on Jan. 16, 2009," read the text underneath.

Istewi knew nothing else about how they died. "We just print them," he said with a shrug. "They give us the work and we do it."

Palestinians consider those killed by Israel to be "martyrs" and have long commemorated them by hanging posters bearing their names and photos in homes and neighborhoods. But never before have so many died so quickly, causing the rush at Nibras.

Al-Hor said he got the first orders before an informal cease-fire between Israel and Gaza's *Hamas* rulers stopped the fighting on Jan. 17. The shop reopened two days later and has been busy ever since.

The posters have added a new element to the debate over how many militants were killed by Israel. The Israeli military says it killed 700, while <u>Hamas</u> and other militant groups say they lost 158. In its final report on the death toll, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights said 223 of the 1,285 killed in the war were fighters.

Although the shop doesn't keep records, al-Hor guesses he has done posters for 350 people since the fighting ended, about 250 of them militants, suggesting the militant groups lost more fighters than they acknowledge. Others say the groups often claim the dead as members of their movements even when they were not.

These days, 1,000 copies of a 3-foot paper poster costs \$925, but most customers prefer large plastic banners, which cost \$1.20 per square foot.

That's double what they went for before the Islamic militant <u>Hamas</u> took over Gaza in 2007 and Israel imposed a tight blockade on the seaside territory. Since then, the shop has bought supplies smuggled in through tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border, boosting costs.

Al-Hor knows the boom is temporary.

"This will continue for a month or so, then we'll go back to the usual stuff and only 30 percent will be martyrs," he said. "They (the martyrs) might get less, but they don't go away."

To place their orders, customers bring in digital photos on flash drives and look on while al-Hor and his partner use photo software to build the desired tableau. Most bring several photos: the departed in a suit and tie on his wedding day, for example, plus a few of him toting a rocket launcher or wielding an automatic rifle.

These are combined with stock images, the most popular being the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. Others opt for graphics of militants firing rockets or verdant natural scenes invoking heaven.

Because most orders are paid for by militant groups, the shop is careful to avoid taking sides in the often-fractious Palestinian political scene, for fear of losing customers.

A glass case in the shop holds plaques of appreciation from both the Islamic militant <u>Hamas</u> and its secular rival, Fatah, which rules the West Bank. The Palestinian factions fought a brief but bloody war over control of Gaza in 2007.

Colorful posters of Gaza's three largest armed groups adorn the walls. One bore the bearded faces of 24 <u>Hamas</u> fighters over a vivid graphic of dead and wounded Israeli soldiers. Another showed nine Islamic Jihad gunmen, some wearing black berets, above pictures of camouflaged militants launching rockets.

"We do business," al-Hor said. "Anyone who wants a photo, we do it for him."

Load-Date: January 28, 2009



Daily News (South Africa)
January 23, 2009 Friday
e1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 7 Length: 876 words

Body

Barack Obama

- q Not once did Barack Obama threaten to shut down the FBI, nor did anyone want to kill for him. Just Observing.
- q President Obama, if you want the co-operation and respect of the Muslim world, then stop interfering in the Muslim world. Muslims do not interfere in the Western world. N Omar.
- q Hooray that the US has President Obama. If only we had a president that we could all respect. South Africans that favour Jacob Zuma help paint a poor picture for the rest of the world, as the country's people and their ethics show their mentality.
- q If America can do it, why then can't we South Africans get a young president? Our country needs young ideas, not old. I say in with the young, out with old.
- q Now that Obama is president, his cry to Robert Mugabe should be "Bob, let my people go". D Murugan.

SAA

- q SAA crew arrested for drugs. Wow, guess who will not fly with that airline again?
- q After the SAA drug bust, their logo should be, "We get you higher". LJR.

Gaza

- q Those who criticise *Hamas* fail to realise this is not a war between two equal sides.
- q To the person who said that Israel was on stolen land, Americans live on land stolen from Native Americans. Whites Indians and coloureds in South Africa live on stolen land. LJR.
- q Excuse me, Mo, but Israel is a sovereign state, it is not there by any illegal means. It is also a major contributor to the enrichment of your and my life. It has more Nobel Peace Prize winners per capita than any nation on Earth. It is a caring |giving nation, as are her people. LC.
- q To all the anti-Americans, anti-British, anti-Israelites, ask <u>Hamas</u> to stop using <u>women</u> and children as human shields to get sympathy. They know that if they attack Israel, Israel will retaliate. Every country has a right to protect its borders and citizens when threatened.

- q Why are other Muslim countries not engaging the Israelis? Is it because they know <u>Hamas</u> is the troublemaker in the |Middle East or do they |still remember the six-day war?
- q To Mo, neither <u>Hamas</u> nor Israel is justified in its actions. Having innocent civilians killed, whether they're Muslim or Jewish, is no solution. But since you're so adamant the Israelis are living on stolen land, what do you suggest they do?

That maybe all Israelis should pack up their belongings and move elsewhere, because God forbid, people of different religions live together? Neutral.

Odds and ends

- q The person who seems to have an issue with the stadium arch needs to realise that the arch will hold the roof up. No arch means no roof and a pile more money on building a self-supporting roof.
- q Is Frank Chikane, not a reverend anymore? Or has he given up that job? Pray, tell us what you do, pray or persecute Vusi Pikoli? JP.
- q The cause of banks crashing in England lies in Downing Street and banks' boardrooms and CEOs, in the US, the White House and banks as well as in England. Blame.
- q Why is it when the Daily News has any promotions, they are only available at street sales and not for us subscribers? Durban.
- q With the latest Sadtu activities regarding the upcoming elections, it has become clear that its goal is not to provide quality education to our children, but only to keep the ANC in power at all costs, because they now realise that without the ANC in power, they would cease to exist.
- q Hey Sam. The Nats were also voted into power. Maybe democracy is in the eye of the believer. DJB.
- q Now how on Earth do we help in identifying the man killed by a train? The most important feature, which is his race, is left out.

This race neutral thing just does not work. Stop it. Kim.

q Metro Police chief Joyce Khuzwayo, stop fooling yourself. I did not see one of your police officers wearing seat belts at Christmas.

How are you going to stop them talking on cellphones? Travis.

q I have just returned from holidaying in Cape Town and all I can say is, wow.

It was like being in another country. I was so impressed by the cleanliness, the traffic lights that all worked, the minimal number of beggars and street children, the neat and tidy road verges, the pothole-free roads, the excellent service generally and the visible policing. Guess it's the difference between a DA-run city and an ANC-run one.

I know who I'm voting for at the elections. Ros.

- q What is happening to Glenwood? Everywhere, I see road edges and pavements overgrown with weeds and grass. Bushes are sprouting from storm water drains. Seemin.
- q Peggy Nkonyeni. Out on bail and hale and hearty or is it a bailout? What example is the ANC setting when Jacob Zuma declared war on corruption in government? Chucky.
- q The ANC has done more for the people in the rural areas than what the IFP could do for their own people in 32 years in KwaZulu-Natal. And as for the DA, you people must stop attacking the ANC over silly things. When did the DA ever help people by making sure the people had food, education and a house to sleep in?

q S'bu has already been fooled. Firstly Cope is no longer about Mosiuoa Lekota and Mbhazima Shilowa, it is now a broad church. S'bu, just remain fooled. Cope has already taken centre stage. Nkosinathi.

And finally

q If our government allowed six cellphone service providers from India, our calls would cost 20 cents a minute and our local cellphone cartel would go bust. Pravin.

Load-Date: January 22, 2009



Brimbank Leader (Australia) February 24, 2009 Tuesday 1 - Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 18

Length: 636 words

Body

Misquote angst

I am writing to express my disappointment with inaccurate media reports this week which have wrongfully claimed that Victoria Police will be ``teaching" the Indian community not to speak loudly in their native tongue as part of a strategy to crack down on robberies in Melbourne's west.

Victoria Police is doing a lot of work with the Indian community to strengthen relationships and collectively address the problem as evidenced by the launch of the Police Indian Western Reference Group.

Police are conducting a number of targeted operations to curb the rise in robberies and a lot of crime prevention work throughout the community, particularly with international students to make them more aware and responsible for their personal safety.

At a recent meeting, members of the Indian community advised police members that Indian students often had loud conversations in their native tongue.

They told police that they feared that this may be making them more vulnerable and as a consequence, over-represented as victims of robbery. Representatives of the Indian community also mentioned other possible factors, including students travelling late at night, carrying lap tops and using public transport more frequently.

After the Indian community highlighted the issue to police, they asked if cultural awareness and differences could be included in crime prevention material to Indian students.

Lastly, it is important to note that while some of these robberies are racially motivated, a vast majority are opportunistic and that a number of offenders take advantage of time, circumstances and opportunity. An example of this is targeting people when they are alone, particularly late at night.

We are committed to working on this issue on both an enforcement and preventative level. I hope the inaccurate media reports have not undermined the police response to this issue. We will continue to work in a positive and productive way with the Indian community and encourage people to continue to work with us and report any issues or concerns to police.

Scott Mahony, Inspector Brimbank Police Service Area

Israeli outrages

I wanted to acknowledge the letter printed on February 17 of the Brimbank Leader and reiterate my concern for the pain and suffering many Palestinian residents are experiencing as a result of the recent bombing by the Israeli Government defence force. I abhor all violence; however, I am particularly concerned with Israel's disproportionate response.

Just for the record <u>Hamas</u> did not start the latest hostilities. <u>Hamas</u> had a ceasefire in place which was broken on the 4th of November when Israel attacked the tunnels in Gaza and killed 6 Palestinians.

During the 23 days of bombing, the Israeli army killed and wounded an unprecedented number of civilians, including 104 <u>women</u> and 410 children 5320 Palestinians were injured. UN institutions and personnel were attacked and killed. This is in contravention of the Geneva Convention.

It is well-documented that Israel used 1.5 million tons of explosives during its unrestrained expedition.

International human rights observers are currently accompanying farmers determined to harvest their crops in one such area. In the months prior to Israel's war on Gaza, members of ISM Gaza Strip were accompanying Palestinian fishermen on a regular basis and witnessed countless acts of Israeli military aggression against them while in Gazan territorial waters.

The international community remains silent about these daily violations of international human rights law.

One cannot help wondering what an outcry there would inevitably be if the tables were turned and an Israeli civilian received similar injuries.

Yet while it is Palestinian civilians who suffer such atrocities, the world gazes on, indifferent.

Geraldine Brooks, Harvester Ward councillor

Load-Date: February 25, 2009



Sunshine Coast Daily (Queensland)

June 13, 2009 Saturday

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Section: Pg. 83

Length: 253 words

Body

HIGHLIGHTS in history on this date:

- 1835 Batmania is suggested as named for proposed settlement which later becomes Melbourne.
- 1878 The phonograph is demonstrated for the first time at the Royal Society of Victoria.
- 1893 First women's golf tournament is played at Royal Lytham, England.
- 1927 US aviator Charles Lindbergh is honoured with a ticker-tape parade in New York City after his pioneering transatlantic flight.
- 1945 Australian forces capture Brunei.
- 1951 Death of Ben Chifley, Australian Labor prime minister (1945-49).
- 1971 Australian woman Geraldine Brodrick gives birth to nine babies.
- 1985 Plans are announced for the establishment of the first museum of Australian-Chinese history in Melbourne.
- 1986 Death of Benny Goodman, US clarinettist and bandleader.
- 1990 East Germany begins final demolition of the Berlin Wall, knocking out concrete slabs all over the city to reopen streets sealed since the Cold War barrier was built in 1961.
- 1996 The longest siege in US federal history ends when 16 anti-government Freemen surrender in Montana after 81 days.
- 2000 Italy pardons the Turkish gunman who tried to kill Pope John Paul II in 1981. Mehmet Ali Agca is then turned over to authorities in Turkey, where he must serve time for a killing that occurred before the attack on the pope.

2007 – <u>Hamas</u> launches a battle for control of the entire Gaza Strip, pounding Gaza City's three main security compounds with mortars, grenades and assault rifles and calling on beleaguered Fatah forces to surrender.

Load-Date: June 12, 2009



Evening Chronicle (Newcastle, UK)

March 31, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: MAIN; Pg. 4 Length: 283 words Byline: Chris Styles

Body

DETECTIVES were making more searches today following the arrest of five people under anti-terror powers.

The three men and two <u>women</u> were detained in Plymouth, between Friday and Sunday after police discovered imitation firearms, makeshift explosive devices and "political literature". Police refused to confirm or deny the arrests were connected to a plot to disrupt the G20 summit.

Iraq handover

BRITISH forces marked the beginning of the end of their involvement in Iraq today when they pass military command to the US Army. The handover represents a major landmark on the road towards the final withdrawal of nearly all the 4,100 UK troops still in Basra.

Bye George

A JUDGE refused to overturn a Canadian government ruling banning outspoken anti-war MP George Galloway from entering the country.

Canada banned Respect MP Mr Galloway on national security grounds earlier this month, saying he provided money to Palestinian group *Hamas*, a banned terrorist organisation in Canada.

Body found

THE family of a British yachtsman murdered off the coast of Thailand said they felt nearer to bringing closure to the case following the discovery of his body.

Fishermen found the body of Malcolm Robertson, 64, from East Sussex, 10 nautical miles north of Satun's Lipeh Island yesterday a week after he was attacked by pirates who boarded his vessel.

Heart hopes

AN all-in-one "polypill" containing a cocktail of potentially life-saving drugs could halve rates of heart attacks and strokes in healthy middle-aged and older people, a major trial has found.

The research in India involved more than 2,000 people aged 45 to 80 and was the most comprehensive study yet of the controversial "magic bullet" pill.

Load-Date: March 31, 2009



Canberra Times (Australia)

March 10, 2009 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: A; Pg. 12 Length: 379 words

Byline: The Canberra Times

Body

BAGMAN FROM BAGHDAD We're stony flippin' broke but we send off \$20 million to Gaza to reward its elected *Hamas* terrorist Government for thinking they could rocket Israel with impunity and getting a nasty surprise.

And now Iraq's leader is coming to meet Kev.

How many millions will he take home?

Barrie Smillie, Duffy WRONG WAY, GO BACK Two articles ("\$17m for UN <u>Women</u>'s Fund", March 9, p6 and "Two more die, three injured on coast road", March 9, p1) have caught my eye.

Mr Rudd, we are in recession. Why not spend that \$17 million on making the Kings Highway and other unsafe roads throughout Australia safe for drivers?

Your priorities are all wrong! Anne Prendergast, Reid WELL, HELLO DOLLY!

What a lovely, chunky, easily dressed Australian doll is Sensible Emily ("Sensible Emily takes on the Bratz girls", March 8, p16).

How much better and easier for children to handle than skinny, fragile types in flimsy, fiddly bits of clothing. I believe Emily will become a favourite with children, and especially grandmas, around Christmas and birthday times.

Evelyn Bean, Ainslie EMPTY TOP PADDOCK When I moved to Canberra in the mid-1970s and got introduced to rugby league, it was invariably characterised as a game played by men with a lot of brawn and very little between the ears.

Notwithstanding the increased professionalism in the game over the years, introduction of professional player agents or managers and the very large sums of money now paid to players, the latest bout of off-field incidents suggests that nothing has changed.

Don Sephton, Greenway WATERING THE CONCRETE On the radio on Sunday, Canberra residents were urged to save water.

Would someone please pass this on to the maintenance staff at the Benjamin Offices in Belconnen?

Lawns were planted around the offices six months ago. These, and the paths around them, are watered daily by inground sprinklers.

Given Canberra's water situation, it is hard to comprehend that some official thought it responsible to plant these lawns.

Barry Smith, Weetangera 'ROLE MODELS' IMMORAL What does it take for athletes, swimmers, divers and footballers to be educated and understand that alcohol, drugs and immoral living do not promote healthy sportsmanship and role models for our nation? Mrs Judith Bond, Glen Alpine, NSW

Load-Date: March 9, 2009



Naivität darf ruhig dazugehören; Die Palästinenserin Sumaya Farhat-Naser setzt sich für die Aussöhnung mit den Israeli ein

Stuttgarter Zeitung 14. März 2009

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STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Section: WOCHENENDBEILAGE; 46

Length: 803 words

Body

Sie hätte längst resignieren können. Jeder hätte es verstanden. Seit mehr als zwanzig Jahren setzt sich Sumaya Farhat-Naser für die Aussöhnung zwischen Palästinensern und Israeli ein, die Aussicht auf Frieden ist aber weiter entfernt denn je - und das weiß sie. Gaza liegt in Trümmern, im Westjordanland werden die illegalen Siedlungen ausgebaut, hunderte von Checkpoints machen den Menschen den Alltag schwer, und die Mauer trennt nicht nur Palästinenser und Israeli voneinander, sondern auch Bauern von ihren Feldern, Menschen von ihren Nachbarn und die Palästinenser von der Außenwelt. "Wir sind am Tiefpunkt angekommen", sagt die 60-jährige Palästinenserin bei einem Gespräch in Bad Boll, wo sie kürzlich einen Vortrag gehalten hat. "Viele wollen nichts mehr von Frieden hören. Sie haben andere Sorgen", fasst sie die Stimmungslage in ihrer Heimat zusammen.

Sumaya Farhat-Naser hat nicht aufgegeben. Frieden ist ihr Lebensthema, und das lässt sie sich nicht nehmen. Zu einer Zeit, als es noch verboten war, hat sie den Kontakt zu israelischen Frauen gesucht. Das war Ende der 80er Jahre. Seite an Seite kämpften die Frauen fortan für Frieden im Heiligen Land und fanden international Beachtung. So zum Beispiel bei einem Treffen in Brüssel 1992, als israelische Frauen aus der Knesset mit Vertreterinnen der PLO aus Tunis und Frauen aus dem Westjordanland Eckpunkte für einen Friedensplan festlegten. Das war noch vor den Osloer Friedensgesprächen. "Danach haben sich die Männer des Themas Frieden angenommen und, na ja, was soll man sagen . . ." Sumaya Farhat-Naser hält kurz inne und lächelt. Sie beendet den Satz nicht, will nicht unnötig provozieren. Dann fährt sie in sachlichem Ton fort. "Zwischen 1993 und 1996 gab es fast dreihundert israelisch-palästinensische Projekte, die sich für die Verständigung zwischen den beiden Völkern eingesetzt haben." Das sei der "Friedensrausch von Oslo" gewesen, sagt sie. Danach sei es nur noch abwärts gegangen.

Sumaya Farhat-Naser ist international für ihr Engagement bekannt. Zahlreiche Preise hat sie für ihre Friedensarbeit bekommen. Sie hat drei Bücher über Palästina geschrieben, hält überall auf der Welt Vorträge, ist ein gerngesehener Gast bei Podiumsdiskussionen und in Talkshows. Den Kontakt zu ihren israelischen Freunden kann sie aber nur noch per Mail halten. Es ist wieder verboten, dass sich Israeli und Palästinenser treffen. Und nichts spricht dafür, dass sich dies bald ändern könnte. "Ich konzentriere mich jetzt eben auf die Friedensarbeit in der eigenen Gesellschaft", sagt sie. "Das ist mindestens genauso wichtig." Seit sieben Jahre gibt sie Seminare in

Naivität darf ruhig dazugehören Die Palästinenserin Sumaya Farhat-Naser setzt sich für die Aussöhnung mit den Israeli ein

Friedenserziehung. Erst habe sie Frauen dafür gewinnen können, dann sei sie auf Männer zugegangen, und mittlerweile rekrutiere sie die Teilnehmer auch in der *Hamas*-Jugend. "Die haben großen Respekt vor mir", sagt sie.

Die Frau mit den streng zurückgekämmten schwarzen Haaren stammt aus einer christlichen Familie. Als Kind ging sie zu den Kaiserswerther Schwestern in die deutsche Internatsschule Talitha Kumi in der Nähe von Bethlehem. Später studierte sie in Hamburg Biologie, Geografie und Erziehungswissenschaften und promovierte in angewandter Botanik. 15 Jahre lang war sie Professorin an der palästinensischen Universität in Birzeit, bis sie von 1997 bis 2001 das Jerusalem Center for *Women* leitete, eine Nichtregierungsorganisation, die sich gemeinsam mit der israelischen Schwestereinrichtung Bat Shalom für eine Aussöhnung der beiden Völker einsetzt. Seit Anfang dieses Jahres leitet die Mutter von drei erwachsenen Kindern eine Behinderteneinrichtung der Evangelischen Bruderunität auf dem Sternberg bei Ramallah. "Es geht um die Frage, wie wir uns vor Hassgefühlen schützen können", erklärt sie. "Wir müssen uns immer wieder bewusstmachen, wie viel Schönes es trotz allem in unserem Leben gibt."

Das könne eine Rose sein oder das Brot auf dem Tisch oder die Tatsache, dass man sehen kann und gesund ist. Es gehe um einen friedlichen Umgang mit sich selbst. Den Einwand, dass das angesichts all des Elends in den besetzten Gebieten naiv klinge, lässt sie stehen. "Naivität darf ruhig dazugehören", sagt sie. "Wir können die Politik nicht ändern. Wir können aber an unserer Einstellung zu uns selbst arbeiten", erklärt sie. Wer mit sich selbst im Frieden lebe, kann auch auf andere zugehen. "Und genau solche Menschen brauche es für die Stunde X, wenn dem Frieden auf politischer Ebene wieder eine Chance gegeben wird." Sumaya Farhat-Naser glaubt daran, dass sie nach wie vor etwas für den Frieden tun kann und dass das auch andere können. Vielleicht ist es diese Überzeugung, die ihr hilft, trotz allem weiterzumachen.

Sumaya Farhat-Nasers Bücher sind im Basler Lenos-Verlag erschienen.

Von Katja Dorothea Buck

Sumaya Farhat-Naser setzt sich für den Frieden im Nahen Osten ein. Foto Visum

Load-Date: March 13, 2009



Canberra Times (Australia)
January 23, 2009 Friday
Final Edition

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Section: A; Pg. 24 Length: 913 words

Byline: The Canberra Times

Body

Not a fine idea Can a government refuse to register a motor vehicle if the owner has not paid their parking or speeding fines?

According to a report in The Canberra Times ("It's not a fine time to have \$13m owed", January 22, p1) the Victorian Government is considering implementing a six-month trial period of refusing to register vehicles if the owners have unpaid fines.

It will be interesting to see if such a scheme is legal and whether depriving motorists of compulsory registration creates a situation which may encourage more people to break the law.

There are many reasons why fines are not paid but in many cases the fines are far too severe for low-income earners and the truth is they cannot afford to pay them.

Maybe governments may consider setting income based fines where the more you have the more you pay.

David Cavill, Kambah Bush not all bad Nicholas Stuart's ("Will Bush be remembered for simplistic phrases?", January 20, p15) article provides yet another predictable demolition of George W.Bush, with one small exception.

Buried in his article is a concession that there is genuine hope for stability in Iraq. While there is plenty to say about George Bush's presidency that is not complimentary, it was not all bad news. For example: his excellent work in Africa; his positive dealings with the Asian giants China and India; and let's not forget the fact that America has been free from terrorist attack since 9/11. Of course, there is more, but at present most don't want to know. What will he be most remembered for?

In my view the same things he was reviled and admired for in office Iraq.

As Nicholas Stuart observes, the situation in Iraq appears to be improving considerably, and provided Obama doesn't meddle too much, one can dare to be optimistic.

Indeed, if Iraq emerges from the present troubles a free country with hope for the future and an example of what is possible to the rest of the Arab world, history will be very kind to Bush and all those who made this outcome possible. I hope I am alive to see it.

H. Ronald, Jerrabomberra, NSW Change of venue As his chief legacy, George W.Bush trumpets the fact that American home soil has been free from foreign terrorist attack for seven years.

When he invaded Iraq in 2003, the consequent mayhem saw the deaths of untold numbers of Iraqi civilian "collaterals" as a direct result of the military action as well as the terrorist and sectarian chaos it unleashed not to mention the thousands of American soldiers (4090 since "mission accomplished").

By his war, what Bush did (to the great convenience of the Islamists) was to move the Mountain to Muhammad right into his backyard in fact.

Why then the need to risk it on the American mainland? The result: a mountain of dead and maimed, sacrificed, as Bush would have us believe, so that Americans could sleep safely in their beds.

Geoff Pryor, Narrabundah Silence is damning It is interesting to witness how the Palestinian solidarity groups are responding to the reports of the torture of hundreds of Palestinian Fatah members by <u>Hamas</u> terrorists or rather how they are not responding.

When groups are so outspoken when it comes to Israeli actions, and so deafeningly quiet and uninterested when Palestinians suffer at the hands of anyone else, one has to question the groups' agendas.

Are such groups primarily interested in defending the Palestinians or criticising Israel? There is a great difference between the two.

Michelle Moshelian, Givatayim, Israel Hyphen-overload Just browsing through the Babies of 2008 insert in Tuesday's edition of The Canberra Times.

Delightful little munchkins one and all, however I did notice a large number of hyphenated surnames.

This trend is a once-only option which deprives future generations of the choice. For instance, if two of the babies in the feature grow up and decide to marry, what will be the surname of the children of Jayden Maxx Spicer- Paragalli and Celeste Jane Adelaide Alderson-Fletcher?

Jevon Kinder, Murrumbateman, NSW Worth a mention I was surprised that Jim Norton, ("Is Hayden our greatest ever opening bat", January 14, p23) omitted any mention of Sid Barnes, Arthur Morris's opening partner. Barnes had an all- Test average of 63.05, second only to Bradman. As an opener he averaged 67.43, compared with Hayden's 50.73.

In his 19 Test innings, he was dismissed for under 30 only three times. He played his first Test at the Oval in 1938, scoring 41 and 33 in Australia's worst defeat.

Thanks to World War II, he had to wait eight years for his next appearance, scoring 54 against NZ.

His career was shortened by injuries and illness and ultimately ended by the board of control, not by the selectors, "for reasons other than cricket ability".

The brevity of his career no doubt precludes him from the best-ever title, but its brilliance surely rates a mention.

Michael Game, Farrer.

Position wanted The symbolism of the Obama inauguration is that any person can not only aspire to the highest position in the USA but can also achieve it.

How sad this is not the case here.

The position of head of state is out of the reach of people who are not members of the Windsor family, who are *female* (unless by chance there are no brothers) and are not of the Church of England a very restricted field indeed.

The opportunity to aspire to and actually achieve the highest position in the land should be an inspiration for every Australian just as it is for all Americans to become president.

Chris Aulich, Giralang

Load-Date: January 22, 2009



Daily News (South Africa)
January 27, 2009 Tuesday
e2 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 8 Length: 860 words

Body

Mike Sutcliffe

- q Mike Sutcliffe, clean up Durban, not the street signs. You should be a cleaner not a manager.
- q Nice to see Mike Sutcliffe cleaning road signs. Now how about a broom to clean the rest of Durban?
- q Could Mike Sutcliffe please explain why Kenneth Kaunda has a road in South Africa named after him.
- q So Mike Sutcliffe is busy cleaning street names. Pity he didn't take his lawnmower and Weedeater to clean verges and pavements.
- q I wish Mike Sutcliffe and his colleagues would give the same energy to cleaning up this garbage dump that has now become known as dirty Durban. The weeds, rubbish and potholes are out of control. Nicole.
- q Dear Mike Sutcliffe and Obed Mlaba, don't waste taxpayers' money changing street names. Try building a new highway, street or bridge and name it anything you like. Pumzi.
- q Hey, Comrade Sutcliffe, good to see you on a ladder cleaning up your precious road names. Now get back on that ladder and fix the faulty robots and while you are at it, go the extra mile and clean up the filth in general.
- q When Mike is finished cleaning street signs maybe he can go to the south areas and clean roads and verges and pick up litter.
- q Sutcliffe, please come do a clean-up of a park in Renaud Road in Sydenham. It is used by drug dealers who commit all kinds of crimes by day and night. All calls to the Metro Police and Sydenham police have been fruitless. I am on my knees begging for your help, please. Darron.
- q Mike Sutcliffe never ceases to surprise me. Cleaning up defaced street signs. Why does he not do something more challenging? Clean Durban of the druglords. What a waste of taxpayers' money. How much did the municipality pay for the production of the slogans on the |T-shirts? There are more pressing needs in our communities on which the money could be used. Grow up and stop wasting money. Gugu.

Beach litter

- q Thabani, previously advantaged people and their dogs are a drop in the ocean compared with the filth littering the inner city, and don't get me started on the lack of service in the suburbs. Walking along streets in Glenwood and Morningside requires a pith helmet and a panga.
- q Thabani, you no doubt have grown up with litter, paper bags and other rubbish. Get educated, man. Thobeka, Hammarsdale.
- q Thabani, you've completely missed the point. The filth in Durban comes in the form of plastic bags, litter, bottles and street vendors' rubbish. Don't make it a race issue. It's everybody's responsibility to clean up after themselves. Gogo.
- q Walking your dog only spreads a little fertiliser. The dogs don't throw cans, bottles and packets from vehicle windows.
- q Thabani, doggy- doo is certainly unpleasant but at least it's biodegradable. Cans and plastic bags are not and broken glass causes injuries. What are you doing to keep our city clean?
- q Just want to comment on how clever Thabani and his comments are. When last did this man see a dog excrete enough tin cans, nappies, broken glass and car tyres to pollute our beaches and pavements? Byron.

Odds and ends

- q Who is better-known between Nelson Mandela and Jacob Zuma? It is Jacob Zuma; known for his shower theory advocacy. He hates homosexuals and he is not prepared to tell the nation why funds had to be raised for him to clear his debt. Zuma, indeed, you are popular for many wrong things, while Madiba is popular and famous for good things. This time I am not voting for the ANC of Jacob Zuma, Schabir Shaik, Tony Yengeni, Jabulani Mjwara and Peggy Nkonyeni.
- q V Singh, you need some new sources of information to escape from the propaganda bubble. Israel's bombardment of Gaza is not self-defence, it is a war crime. The Rock.
- q I would rather be called names than vote for the ANC which has been lying to us for 15 years. Viva Cope. Nkosinathi.
- q The attacks by <u>Hamas</u> do not, in terms of scale and effect, amount to an armed attack entitling Israel to rely on |self-defence. You can twist or spin it any way you want, but the Israeli government hounds Gaza so eventually they can have their land.
- q I went to the police pound on Wednesday to find out about my stolen car at 2.40pm. I was sent to a room upstairs only to find it closed. So I came downstairs and was told to come back the next day before the closing time of 3pm. Jay Jenni Boyd.
- q Jacob Zuma must appear before a court of law. His delaying tactics are designed to incite the masses into causing mayhem. There is nothing wrong with the judicial system. This man has been accused of swindling the taxpayers, who are now funding his marathon appeals. Nkosinathi.
- q It is truly a shame and a poor reflection on humankind when all life is not sacred. When stealing the land of others is not considered a crime. When the lives of 900 Palestinian men, <u>women</u> and children hold no value, yet the lives of 13 Israelis are considered sacrosanct.
- q Do all banks increase fees simultaneously for Jus to make a comparison?
- q Israel wasn't affected by the war in any way. It is still a tourist destination. The people of Gaza can't leave their homes.

And finally

q Julius Malema, if Jacob Zuma is jailed it will be because he is found guilty of crimes, not because he is your choice for president. Mike.

Load-Date: January 27, 2009



proche-orient Les dunes de sable où s'installèrent en 1909 quelques dizaines de familles juives ont vu naître une mégapole de deux millions d'habitants à l'atmosphère californienne.; Tel-Aviv, l'« autre Israël », fête ses cent ans

Le Figaro Économie Vendredi 29 Mai 2009

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Section: RECTO; Verso; Pg. 2; N° 20164

Length: 1388 words

Body

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Graphic

Young women walk on the beach in Tel Aviv

Load-Date: February 13, 2011



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Section: RECTO; Verso; Pg. 2; N° 20164

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Graphic

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INTER-200909-Israel-telaviv.pdf

Load-Date: July 21, 2009



NRC Handelsblad May 6, 2009

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Section: VOORPAGINA; Blz. 1

Length: 334 words

Dateline: New York, 6 mei.

Body

VN verwijten Israël onachtzaamheid bij aanval Gaza

New York, 6 mei. - Het Israëlische leger heeft zich schuldig gemaakt aan grove onachtzaamheid bij zijn offensief in de Gazastrook, aldus een VN-onderzoek naar aanvallen op VN-gebouwen bij de gevechten tussen Israël en *Hamas*. Pagina 5

Aantal patiënten Q-koorts neemt toe

Rotterdam, 6 mei. - Het aantal mensen dat met Q-koorts besmet raakt, stijgt sinds enkele weken explosief. Huisartsen hebben 228 besmettingen gemeld. Verwacht wordt dat het aantal besmettingen verder zal toenemen. Pagina 3

Fors hogere straf moorden Vukovar

Den Haag, 6 mei. - De rechters van het Joegoslavië-tribunaal hebben in hoger beroep een fors hogere straf opgelegd voor de massamoord in Vukovar. De Servische ex-kolonel Sljivancanin (55), oorspronkelijk veroordeeld tot vijf jaar, kreeg gisteren zeventien jaar cel. Pagina 4

Vele doden bij luchtaanvallen VS

Kabul, 6 mei. - In Afghanistan zijn tientallen burgers omgekomen bij luchtaanvallen op de Talibaan door coalitietroepen onder leiding van de VS . Pagina 5

Bank of America nog niet uit zorgen

Rotterdam, 6 mei. - De Bank of America heeft 33,9 miljard dollar (25,5 miljard euro) aan nieuw kapitaal nodig om te kunnen overleven als de economische crisis zou verergeren. Pagina 13

Toch deeltijd-WW bij Alutech

Rotterdam, 6 mei. - Bij metaalbedrijf Alutech is vanmorgen toch een akkoord bereikt over invoering van deeltijd-WW. Vorige maand mislukten eerdere onderhandelingen met vakbonden daarover. Pagina 15

Feministe Marilyn French overleden

Rotterdam, 6 mei. - De feministische schrijfster Marilyn French is afgelopen zaterdag op 79-jarige leeftijd overleden. Haar debuut The *Women*'s Room uit 1977 werd wereldwijd de bijbel van de tweede Feministische Golf. Pagina 9

Pleidooi NHM

Rotterdam, 6 mei. - Twee oud-burgemeesters van Arnhem, J. Drijber en P. Scholten, hekelen de nieuwe plaats en opzet voor het Nationaal Historisch Museum (NHM) in Arnhem. Zij willen dat minister Plasterk het gemeente- en provinciebestuur terugfluit. Pagina 7

Load-Date: May 6, 2009