

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:34:00AM EEST

Job Number: 223498689

Documents (100)

1. Kiss leads to Israeli cabinet reshuffle

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

2. Things shifting Liberals' way: Bob Rae sees an unstable gov't that Harper seems unable to steady

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

3. Outrage greets poem criticizing Quebecers: Muslim poet reacting to Herouxville's 'code'

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

4. Inside Today

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

5. Despite the 'withdrawal', the siege of Gaza goes on ANALYSIS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

6. Inept Democrats face failure with poor start in Congress

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

7. Back to Palestine

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers: Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

8. World Ticker

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

9. Conflicts cast shadow over festive Eid: Lebanese sad, Iraqis scared, Taliban defiant

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

10. The Liberals mull some good ideas

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

11. Talk of the town Television

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

12. Facing Facts on Iraq

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

13. Fighting jihad in cyberspace

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

14. Shiite? Sunni? Some in US learn who's who.

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

15. Rockets can't keep Scots from their Israeli roots

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

16. Former Israeli soldier playing for UA tennis

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

17. Old teachings, new media; Behind Today's News - An in-depth examination of stories making news today; Web-savvy Muslim clerics are reaching out to Shiite faithful

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

18. News Summary

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

19. Israeli shelling kills 18 Palestinians in Gaza A leader of Hamas calls for retaliation

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"
Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

20. In Syria, a revival led by women

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

21. Israeli shelling kills 18 Palestinians in Gaza A leader of Hamas calls for retaliation

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

22. The woman who has to get Bush out of his tangles

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

23. LETTERS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"
Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

24. Weighing the threat of an Islamic A-bomb Would an apocalypse be embraced?

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

25. Laughter amid the tears Even in the blood-soaked Middle East, Arab media outlets use comedy shows and SNL-like skits to give viewers the lighter side of the news. In a region not known for free speech, humor is often the instrument for a truthful -- and cathartic -- dialogue.

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to



26. Something old, something new

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

27. TV previews Tuesday March 6

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

28. Blaming the victim

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

29. A growing number use the veil to provoke us

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

30. Inside Today

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

31. <u>Media: How I stood up to Richard Desmond: A run-in with the Express proprietor and a war in the Middle</u> East ensured that David Rowan has had a busy first year as editor of the Jewish Chronicle



Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

32. Misunderstandings of Islam require clarifications

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

33. It's boom or bust for the world's great civilisations

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

34. Democrats' debate wacky, witty, wise

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

35. Iranian Shells Land in Kurdish Villages in Northern Iraq, Killing 2

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

36. Israeli president facing indictment Charges against Katsav could include rape

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

37. Kosher electricity, discredited general, and a telegenic hope

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

38. Irish tackle challenge of helping Lebanon recover

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

39. PAKISTAN FACING PRE-FRENCH REVOLUTION LIKE SITUATION: IMRAN

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

40. Inside today

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

41. Full esteem ahead on the good ship families R us

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

42. Police say President should face rape charge

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

43. Jewish New Year begins on sour note

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

44. World at a glance

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

45. After Protests, Think Tank Taps Women

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

46. The Man the U.N. Won't Thank

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

47. A growing number use the veil to provoke us

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

48. Bashar al-Assad can take a flying leap Unlike Syria, Israel tries not to harm civilians

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

49. Bogus TV interview supports minister

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

50. Experts discuss Middle East in U. Iowa area

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

51. Bogus TV interview supports minister

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

52. Olmert offers to meet 2 Arab leaders



Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

53. A hiss at the myths, but bigotry sure isn't one

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

54. <u>Comment & Debate: We can't let God-blinded killers set our foreign policy: Muslims are right that Blair has</u> fomented extremism, but wrong not to challenge the myth of a crusade against them

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

55. World Report

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"
Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

56. MEET THE PEOPLE

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

57. Israeli Shelling Kills 18 Gazans; Anger Boils Up

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

58. Money not only talks, it shouts LETTERS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

59. On course for the scrapheap of civilisations past

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

60. America, the World Is Watching You

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

61. 'I Will Not Express Thanks'

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

62. Muslims divided over Mufti's fate Howard backs chorus calling for sheikh to leave

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

63. An Unexpected Event Changes an Experiment

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

64. Helping hand for endangered sea turtles who seemed not to mind the war EYEWITNESS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

65. <u>Should Dublin Airport be attacked? Hit the target, hit it very hard Muslim preacher of hate's chilling order to young extremists here</u>

young oxtromists nor

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

66. Sadly, bigotry is ever with us

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

67. Israel 's allies should listen to critics

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

68. Counting Population Is Not a Competition

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

69. Conspiracy Theories Bloom In Arab and Iranian Press

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

70. Watching today's news is depressing

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

71. Lebanon bus bombs kill three: Growing instability recalls 1975 war that began with killings on bus

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

72. DELUDED .. TERMINALLY

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

73. ADVANTAGE: TEHRAN

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

74. In Brief

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

75. Israeli phone calls mean attack is on the way

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

76. Out & About

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

77. As Iraq worsens, democracy's lure ebbs in Syria Even the country's activists have conceded that the feeble rights movement has grown moribund.

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

78. More midwives can save lives

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

79. 2006 THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

80. Comment & Debate: Why stop the Great Satan? Hes driving himself to hell: Tehran can sit back and watch its tormentors sweat. But the US and Britain must start from diplomatic ground zero

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

81. <u>Guardian Weekly: Comment & Analysis: Bush's total catastrophe: In every vital area, from Afghanistan to Egypt</u>, his policies have made the situation worse

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

82. G2: Darfur is the world's worst humanitarian crisis, so why aren't more people expressing their outrage?

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to



83. Obituary: Mai Ghoussoub: Writer, artist and publisher who took her passion for life, controversy and feminism to the streets of Beirut and London

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

84. World Report

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

85. Guardian Weekly: Comment & Analysis: Letters: Briefly

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

86. Israel - Lebanon War Sparks Gifts to Relief Groups

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

87. Israel to Indict President on Sex Charges, Justice Ministry Says

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

88. States negotiating with terrorists is nothing new



Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

89. Northwestern U. student completes yearlong fellowship in Israel

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

90. Nostalgia For '50s Overlooks Retro Thinking Of That Era

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

91. Lebanon 's song of death continues its sad refrain

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

92. Pelosi's visit highlights hypocrisy

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

93. A collective failure in the Middle East Israel and Lebanon

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

94. Making Nice

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

95. Pennsylvanians Mourn Hometown Soldier

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

96. In Israel, Carter book not worthy of outrage

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

97. Top of the world

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

98. Americans Bow Down To Anti- U.S. Ayatollahs

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

99. Layton caught in crossfire

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to

Apr 15, 2007

100. Bomber kills 35 near shrine in Najaf Attack raises fears of sectarian violence

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jul 31, 2006 to



Kiss leads to Israeli cabinet reshuffle

Yorkshire Post February 1, 2007

Copyright 2007 JPIMedia Publishing Ltd All Rights Reserved

Length: 542 words

Body

Former Minister convicted of sexual misconduct at party AN Israeli court yesterday convicted former Justice Minister Haim Ramon of forcibly kissing a young <u>female</u> soldier, a stunning censure of a top official that could reshape the Israeli Cabinet. Ramon, who faces up to three years in prison, joined a growing list of politicians who have fallen from grace - including Israel's president, who is facing rape charges. Ramon, 56, was charged with sexual misconduct after kissing the woman, 21, at a party at the Defence Ministry on the first day of Israel's war with <u>Hezbollah</u> guerrillas in Lebanon last summer.

Ramon, who is divorced, said the woman, who cannot be identified under Israeli law, had flirted with him and the kiss was consensual. With its salacious details and high-profile defendant, the case captured the nation's attention for months, and his conviction sent a stark message to high officials that behaviour once considered a perk of the job would no longer be tolerated. "There are some lines that cannot be crossed," said Judge Hayuta Kochan, who read out the unanimous verdict by a three-judge panel. "This was not a kiss of affection. This has all the elements of sexual crime." Ramon, who will be sentenced on February 21, said he would appeal. A close ally of veteran statesman Shimon Peres, Ramon once appeared to be on the fast track towards the premiership, serving as minister in several Cabinets. He bolted the dovish Labour Party ahead of elections last year and joined Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's Kadima Party, serving as Justice Minister until he was charged last August. In a statement, Olmert "expressed sorrow" at Ramon's conviction. Ahead of the verdict, hordes of reporters and TV cameras swarmed around Ramon as he pushed towards the small courtroom at the Tel Aviv Magistrates' Court. As the verdict was read, a visibly anxious Ramon held his head in his hands. His girlfriend hugged him. The verdict said Ramon's defence was full of contradictions, and said it was obvious the young soldier was "authentic and trustworthy" and had suffered a "traumatic experience". "We completely endorse the plaintiff's version," it said. Ramon declined to comment on the verdict. His accuser, in an interview with Israel's Channel 10, denied ever flirting with him. "You understand the gap between us? He is eight years older than my father. There is no chance I could look at him and say that I would go out with him, that I could hit on him," she said, her face hidden in shadows. "Who would ever think such a thing?" The conviction will force a moderate Cabinet reshuffle. Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni has also been serving as Justice Minister while the government awaited a verdict. Olmert's spokeswoman, Miri Eisin, said Olmert would fill the job, as well as the vacant Welfare Minister's post, "in the near future". Ramon's permanent replacement is expected to be Interior Minister Ronnie Bar-On, of Kadima. The hardline Yisrael Beiteinu party is also likely to be given a second Cabinet seat. But unpopular Defence Minister Amir Peretz is likely to keep his job until the government commission investigating last summer's war in Lebanon releases its findings, which might implicate Peretz and force him to step aside.

Load-Date: February 2, 2007

End of Document



<u>Things shifting Liberals' way: Bob Rae sees an unstable gov't that Harper</u> seems unable to steady

The Vancouver Province (British Columbia)

October 25, 2006 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2006 The Vancouver Province, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A13; James McNulty

Length: 516 words

Byline: James McNulty, The Province

Body

Canada's political landscape has seen a dramatic shift in recent weeks that finds Conservatives deeply concerned as re-energized Liberals eagerly nip at Stephen Harper's heels.

Mid-October polls from Decima and the Strategic Counsel show the two parties in a dead heat nationally, with the Conservatives falling back to 32-per-cent support, down four points from their January election result.

It was a decidedly different picture back in the spring. At one point early in Harper's reign, demoralized and leaderless Liberals found themselves almost 15 points back of the Conservatives, who flirted with the magic 40-percent support level needed to win a House of Commons majority.

With the selection of a new leader only 38 days away, Liberal resurgence in the polls at Harper's expense has Grit rank-and-file now convinced a return to power is possible in a likely spring election.

For Harper, support generated early in his mandate with populist measures such as the GST cut has gradually eroded under a slew of bad headlines that began with his hard line on the *Hezbollah*-Israel war.

Harper needs a strong showing in Quebec and Ontario to win the next election, but now finds his party trailing the Liberals in both provinces. Conservative policies to oppose the long-gun registry, reopen the same-sex marriage debate, extend Canada's mission in Afghanistan and promote a do-nothing Clean Air Act are not playing well.

A recent Decima poll also shows Conservatives dropping behind Liberals in support from women and young voters.

Adding to Harper's woe is the departure last week of maverick MP Garth Turner, thrown out of the Conservative caucus for speaking his mind.

Turner is now considering joining the Green Party to become its first sitting MP as leader Elizabeth May contests a Nov. 27 byelection in London, Ont.

Harvard scholar Michael Ignatieff leads the Liberal race in first-ballot delegate support, but former Ontario NDP premier Bob Rae, in second place, leads all Liberal candidates in public support and has the most second-ballot growth potential.

Things shifting Liberals' way: Bob Rae sees an unstable gov't that Harper seems unable to steady

Rae's strong political chops also have him well prepared for the inevitable Conservative carpet-bombing attack on his Ontario premiership, should he win. Topping Rae's response are the records of Treasury Board President John Baird and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty while they were members of the now-disgraced Mike Harris/Ernie Eves Conservative governments in Ontario.

"What about Harris's record, that Baird was a part of?" Rae told me Monday during a Vancouver stop. "What about Flaherty's deficit? What about the deficit of the Eves government? They had a \$5.5 billion deficit when there was no recession."

Rae notes that having a government with only 124 of 308 seats in the House creates "an inherently unstable situation," exacerbated by Harper's fall in the polls. "What also makes it unstable is that Harper seems incapable of trying to put forward measures that will generate a broad body of support."

One thing is certain: we're in for a raucous ride to the next election.

Voice mail: 604-605-2094; E-mail: jmcnulty@png.canwest.com

Load-Date: October 25, 2006

End of Document



Outrage greets poem criticizing Quebecers: Muslim poet reacting to Herouxville's 'code'

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)
February 13, 2007 Tuesday
Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Edmonton Journal, a division of Canwest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A5

Length: 488 words

Byline: Jeff Heinrich, CanWest News Service

Dateline: MONTREAL

Body

MONTREAL - A poem in which a Muslim woman lauds the wearing of the hijab and suggests those who fear her are godless people who've led lives of debauchery has sparked angry reaction in Quebec.

The poem, written by a young male Lebanese Montrealer for an Arab-language newspaper and then translated into French on the Internet, is being called an outrage.

The 22-year-old poet wrote it in response to controversial guidelines for immigrants adopted by the Quebec town of Herouxville.

The town council made international headlines last month after proclaiming a "code of life" that prospective immigrants should abide by -- for example, by not stoning **women** or forcing them to wear veils.

The poet, Haydar Moussa, was part of a Muslim delegation that went to Herouxville on Sunday to plead for mutual respect and an end to ethnic stereotypes.

Moussa defended his work as merely a made-up cry of pain by what could be any devout Muslim woman hurt by anti-Islamic prejudice in Quebec.

"She's criticizing anyone who tries to bring her down, who tells her, 'Your veil is bad for our society,' " said Moussa, who came to Canada from Lebanon when he was eight years old and speaks for the Association of Young Lebanese Muslims.

"She's saying, 'You made mistakes and I never said anything. So why criticize me for something that is very personal?' " Moussa told the Montreal Gazette.

The poem, entitled Letter to You, reads in part: "My veil is not a kerchief/ It's my skin/My modesty, my dignity, my respect. And if you, old-stock immigrant/You have neither faith nor law/And you spent your youth drunk/And went from one male to the next/That's not the case for me."

Outrage greets poem criticizing Quebecers: Muslim poet reacting to Herouxville's 'code'

The poem was published Jan. 23 in the Montreal biweekly Sada Al Mashrek (Echo of the Orient). It ran beside a column by Najat Boughaba (writing under her nom de plume Najat Moustapha), a French literature scholar who led the Canadian Islamic Congress delegation to Herouxville.

The village is at the centre of a debate in Quebec society over how far to "reasonably accommodate" the demands of traditional religious minorities.

"I'm not a woman, but I'm an immigrant, and it was hurtful" to hear Herouxville's declaration and see it supported by a section of Quebec public opinion, Moussa said.

"I was hurt, and I wanted others to get a taste of what I got -- you understand?"

Posted on several Quebec and French websites critical of Islamic fundamentalism, including the blog of well-known Quebec commentator Richard Martineau and a Jewish site called Judeoscope.ca, the poem has drawn a flood of criticism, much of it anti-Arab.

"The friends of <u>Hezbollah</u> thank Quebecers by calling their daughters sluts," is the headline of one comment posted to the online forum of LibertyVox.com, a French site.

"This poem is in bad taste," a writer named Abdelkarim Mohammed commented on Martineau's site. "It juxtaposes the modesty and humility of Muslim **women** with the 'depravity' of Quebec **women**."

Load-Date: February 13, 2007

End of Document



Inside Today

The Gazette (Montreal)

August 24, 2006 Thursday

Final Edition

Copyright 2006 The Gazette, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 541 words **Byline:** The Gazette

Body

Kurd survivors describe grisly poison gas attacks

Iraqi Kurds yesterday told of entire families killed in chemical weapons attacks against their villages in the 1980s, saying survivors fled into the hills on mules as military helicopters fired on them. After hours of grim testimony in the genocide trial of Saddam Hussein, the chief judge adjourned until Sept. 11 to consider defence appeals over the legitimacy of the tribunal. Details, Page A15

Syria threatens to shut border

Syria said yesterday it would close its border with Lebanon if the United Nations stationed troops along its frontier as part of its mission to enforce a UN-backed truce between Israel and *Hezbollah* guerrillas. Details, Page A16

Private daycares fight back

Quebec's private daycares are going to court to fight the government's restrictions on charging more than \$7 a day for subsidized daycare. Details, Page A6

Man charged in fatal hit-run

A 24-year-old man accused of hitting and killing cyclist Murielle Chauvet on Ile Bizard is charged with manslaughter, dangerous driving, hit-and-run causing death and car theft. Details, Page A7

Female ruse in home invasion

A 23-year-old Brossard resident was the victim of a home invasion Monday night after he opened his door to a young woman pretending to be a neighbour lacking a key baking ingredient. Details, Page A8

Greens: Curb costly lawsuits

Quebec's Green Party argued yesterday the province should enact legislation to protect citizens from a growing tendency of corporations and developers - to muzzle critics through the courts by subjecting them to frivolous but costly litigation. Details, Page A9

Lawyer on hate website hit list

Inside Today

Richard Warman, an Ottawa human rights lawyer whose murder was called for by two anti-Semitic websites in the U.S., has asked federal authorities to block them - a move the CRTC says would be unprecedented in Canada. Details, Page A12

Business

Aerospace sector set to soar

Despite the uncertainty of terrorism's impact on aircraft purchases, the Conference Board says Canada's aerospace industry profits are expected to double to \$802 million this year. Details, Page B1

Shermag shares get a boost

With Shermag Inc. stock soaring for a second straight day, the company's CEO said news that value investor George Armoyan had taken a stake in the struggling furniture maker is "fantastic." Details, Page B1

Sports

Trainer keeps Habs in top form

Golf is no longer an offseason workout as veteran Canadiens trainer Scott Livingston works hard to keep players in top form year-round. Details, Page C1

Champ Car promoter upbeat

Alan Labrosse, promoter of 15th stop in the Bridgestone Champ Car World Series, is confident the race is going to be a success despite the dark cloud hanging over its future in Montreal. Details, Page C1

ARTS & LIFE

The soft side of Junior Boys

Junior Boys singer Jeremy Greenspan's vision of the world, as reflected in his songs, is rooted in his hometown of Hamilton, Ont.: "I find beauty in highways, radial towers, steel mills." Details, Page D4

Cafeine's indelible ambience

Quebec alt-rock pioneer Xavier Cafeine has a new solo album, Gisele, that paints generational portraits with razor-sharp pensees, as well as using self-deprecating humour to set the atmosphere. Details, Page D5

Graphic

Photo: Kurd survivors describe grisly poison gas attacks

Load-Date: August 24, 2006



Despite the 'withdrawal', the siege of Gaza goes on; ANALYSIS

The Independent (London)
October 5, 2006 Thursday
Second Edition

Copyright 2006 Independent Print Ltd All Rights Reserved



Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 558 words

Byline: JOHN DUGARD

Body

In August last year Israel withdrew its settlers and armed forces from Gaza, claiming that this brought to an end 38 years of military occupation. Of course, it did nothing of the sort. Israel retained power over Gaza by controlling its airspace, sea space and external borders. Sporadic shelling continued, as did the targeted assassination of militants. Despite this, there was at least an appearance of disengagement, which Israel could claim as a major step towards the peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

On 25 June 2006, a group of Palestinian militants attacked an Israeli military base near the Israeli-Egyptian border, which left two Palestinians and two Israelis dead. In retreating, the Palestinians took Corporal Gilad Shalit hostage and demanded the release of <u>women</u> and children in Israeli jails in return for his release. This act, together with the continued firing of Qassam rockets into Israel, unleashed a savage response, which continues to this day.

In July international attention was diverted from Gaza by Israel's attack on <u>Hezbollah</u>'s bases in Lebanon. Sadly, despite the ending of these hostilities, Israel's war in Gaza has disappeared from the radar of international concern. Yet it is as important as the conflict in Lebanon. It highlights the intractability of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and reveals, yet again, the brutality of Israel's occupation.

Israel's attack on Gaza has taken several forms. On the military front, it has made repeated incursions in which both militants and civilians have been killed. Targeted assassinations have continued, accompanied by "collateral damage" - the name Israel gives to the indiscriminate killing of civilians who happen to be in the proximity.

The Israeli Air Force has bombed all six transformers of the only domestic power plant in Gaza. Since then, the power supply has been substantially reduced. Generators are used to operate X-ray departments and operating theatres. Perishable food cannot be preserved.

Poverty in Gaza stands at 75 per cent. Food prices have inflated and sugar, dairy products and milk are low as commercial supplies from Israel are limited. Fish is no longer available as a result of Israel's sea blockade.

Despite the 'withdrawal', the siege of Gaza goes on ANALYSIS

Gaza's border crossings, for persons to Egypt, and for goods to Israel, have been mostly closed since 25 June. This has brought to a virtual end the export of produce' and drastically limited the import of foodstuffs and other goods.

Israel justifies its actions as a security operation designed to put an end to the firing of Qassam rockets into Israel and as pressure aimed at securing the release of Corporal Shalit. Israel's actions, in these circumstances, have been excessive.

In short the people of Gaza have been subjected to collective punishment in clear violation of article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. For what? Surely not for sporadic Qassam rocket fire and the capture of Corporal Shalit? Instead, it seems the people of Gaza are being punished for having elected a Hamas Government earlier this year.

Regime change, rather than security, probably explains Israel's punishment of Gaza. Whatever the reason, Gaza deserves more attention from the international community.

John Dugard is special rapporteur to the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Load-Date: October 5, 2006

End of Document



Inept Democrats face failure with poor start in Congress

The Times (London)

December 14, 2006, Thursday

Copyright 2006 Times Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 44

Length: 551 words

Byline: Bronwen Maddox

Body

It's a bad start, and the risk is that the Democrats are going to throw away their big chance.

This week has brought comedy to their efforts, as the new Democrat head of a congressional committee on intelligence proved unable to tell Sunni from Shia, incorrectly maintained that al-Qaeda belonged to the second persuasion, and stumbled into paralysed silence when asked the same question about the Shia group *Hezbollah*.

The bigger problem is the lack of Democrat strategy exposed by the past five weeks since the congressional elections -and above all, the lack of anything coherent to say on Iraq.

The choice of Silvestre Reyes, the Democrat who will now head the House of Representatives committee on intelligence, is the latest misjudgment by Nancy Pelosi, whose arrival as the first <u>female</u> Speaker of the House of Representatives triggered so much excited anticipation.

Even before Reyes' display of ignorance, in response to questions from a congressional reporter, Pelosi's decision to pick him for the key post was controversial. She had passed over the committee's most senior Democrat.

This follows the breathtaking mistake of Pelosi's first moves after the party's November 7 electoral victory, when she tried to insert a longtime ally as her chief deputy, despite questions about his opposition to the reform of ethics rules, and overwhelming House support for his rival.

But the concerns about strategy stretch beyond these early, inept decisions by a single leader.

On the budget, congressional leaders have chosen to put off tough spending battles until next year, agreeing to keep government spending at present levels until then.

That makes some political sense, in that it allows the leaders to concentrate on pushing through a few key measures, such as an increase in the national minimum wage, which they have decided are their priority.

But it deprives this budget, the first since the election victory, of much Democrat flavour.

The biggest gap in policy, however, may prove to be on Iraq. Democrats owe their reclamation of both houses of Congress to the unpopularity of the war, and to the collapse of confidence in the Bush Administration's competence.

Inept Democrats face failure with poor start in Congress

At the moment, they need do nothing but sit back and watch as Bush, looking more strained in each public address, flounders to find a response to the Iraq Study Group's case that the US pull its troops out.

The polls are still sliding against the President on those questions. The options are worsening, too. The Iraqi Government, which may itself be on the verge of splitting, presented Bush last week with an unattractive suggestion: that US troops pull back to guard the outskirts of Baghdad, leaving Iraqi forces in the centre.

As the US military, Iraqi Sunnis and Saudi Arabia have pointed out, this is a recipe for persecution of Sunnis by the Shia majority.

The Iraqi Government's request appears to suit the US by allowing it to pull back troops, but may, in effect, ask it to be complicit in sectarian oppression, the opposite of its aims.

At some point, Democrats will have to say what they think should be done in Iraq, if they are to look capable of winning elections, rather than accepting victory handed to them by a losing president. It wouldn't hurt, when they do that, if they were fluent in the difference between Sunni and Shia.

Load-Date: December 14, 2006

End of Document



Back to Palestine

The Times (London)

November 11, 2006, Saturday

Copyright 2006 Times Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 19

Length: 568 words

Body

Ismail Haniya, of the ruling militant group Hamas, yesterday offered to step down as Palestinian Prime Minister if the move would persuade the West to lift the economic sanctions that have left the Palestinian Author-ity unable to pay salaries owed to thousands of government employees. His move comes at a time when the situation in Gaza, overshadowed by US elections and the death sentence on Saddam Hussein, has rarely been so bleak. Not only are the sanctions causing enormous hardship; but the Israeli rocket attacks on Wednesday that killed 18 civilians in Beit Hanoun, mostly <u>women</u> and children, have produced widespread fury and led to a sense of despair at the daily tit-for-tat exchanges that have left more than 50 Palestinians dead in the past week.

Israel had expressed "regret" at the "technical error" that meant the artillery fire hit a densely populated area. It needs to do far more than that. The incident is one of several in which innocent civilians have been the victims of military retaliation. But this latest shocking miscalculation threatens severe political consequences. Public opinion in surrounding states has been in uproar, and Israel has faced censure in the United Nations. Hamas, which has maintained a ceasefire for almost two years, is under pressure from its supporters to sanction new suicide bombings. Negotiations on a prisoner exchange may have been derailed. And the fallout in Gaza could push fractious groups into fresh internecine clashes, increasing suffering and instability on Israel's border.

It is time for more initiatives. The Israeli Government, however, seems to be paralysed by indecision. The Lebanon conflict has left the political establishment in turmoil, and Ehud Olmert, the Prime Minister, has seen his popularity fall to a record low. Proposals for even limited withdrawal from the West Bank have been postponed indefinitely. Morale is low and the public mood, anxious and defensive, appears willing to rely only on a crushing military response to each new rocket attack from Gaza.

America, however, is well placed now to push for new thinking. The Bush Administration, humbled by its electoral defeats over Iraq, still retains huge influence in the Middle East. And in its new readiness to act more in concert with others, it is well aware of the clamour for a fresh focus on the core Palestinian issue, which the Central Intelligence Agency and others now assert is fuelling the anti-Western mood and driving Islamist militancy.

Two factors make a return to active intervention in the region more promising. The first is the new influence in Washington of James Baker, a steely Secretary of State under the President's father. He well knows the cost of letting things drift, and has a track record of pushing all reluctant parties into holding the Madrid peace conference at the end of the Gulf War.

The second fact is the liberation that a final stint in office brings. George W.

Bush has no need now to fear the electoral consequences of defying powerful lobbies in America: like Bill Clinton, he can afford to pursue a Middle East settlement. There is much to do: a prisoner exchange with both Hamas and

Back to Palestine

<u>Hezbollah</u> is within reach. And a Palestinian government of unity could diminish Hamas, stop rocket attacks on Israel and allow the West to lift its embargo. That, in turn, might make a return to a search for a settlement possible. It is overdue.

Load-Date: November 11, 2006

End of Document



World Ticker

The Toronto Star September 10, 2006 Sunday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A13

Length: 573 words

Body

Israel

PM says he's ready

to work with Abbas

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert offered a tiny flicker of diplomatic hope last night, saying he is ready to meet and "work closely" with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to revive stalled peace efforts.

Olmert said any such meeting, while not conditional on the release of a captured Israeli soldier in the hands of Palestinian militants, would require a return to the international community's widely discredited "road map" peace plan.

Olmert's statement came after a meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who is to continue a weekend of shuttle diplomacy today with meetings in Jerusalem and the de facto Palestinian capital of Ramallah.

Lebanon

Syria denies agreeing

to EU border guards

Italy's prime minister said yesterday that Syrian President Bashar Assad has agreed to the deployment of European Union "personnel" along Lebanon's border with Syria.

Syria's official news agency later denied news reports the EU personnel under discussion would be border guards. An EU presence on the border could help allay Israel's concerns about the smuggling of weapons to <u>Hezbollah</u> guerrillas in Lebanon, which the United Nations Security Council has demanded be stopped under the ceasefire it brokered to end the recent war in southern Lebanon. Syria has rejected the deploying of armed UN peacekeepers on the Lebanese side of the border.

Germany

Pope Benedict

visits his homeland

World Ticker

Greeted by a thunderous chorus of church bells, Pope Benedict began a six-day pilgrimage to his native Bavaria yesterday.

Tens of thousands of people poured into the narrow streets of Munich, where Benedict, 79, served as priest and archbishop more than a quarter-century ago. "My heart beats Bavarian," he assured reporters on his plane from Rome.

But the visit carries more than nostalgic meaning for the Pope, posing instead one of the challenges he has taken on in his papacy - combating secular trends in the West. Many Catholics in Germany complain about the Pope's opposition to ordination of **women**, gay marriage and married priests.

Iran

Nuclear negotiations

to resume today

Iran's nuclear negotiator and the EU's foreign policy chief meet again today after what they termed constructive talks in search of compromise that might avert looming United Nations sanctions over Tehran's atomic program.

The European Union's Javier Solana was trying to clarify whether Iran might shift closer to satisfying a demand to stop enriching uranium to qualify for trade benefits offered by world powers and pre-empt sanctions by the UN Security Council. The United States is pushing to launch sanction steps against Iran over Tehran's refusal to halt a nuclear fuel drive that Washington calls a veiled atom bomb project.

United States

Ex-fugitive charged

in trooper's shooting

A former fugitive suspected of fatally shooting a New York state trooper and wounding two others made his first court appearance yesterday, a day after surrendering in a field over the Pennsylvania state line following a five-month manhunt.

Ralph "Bucky" Phillips, who once threatened to "splatter pig meat all over Chautauqua County" in upstate New York, was charged in Chemung County, N.Y., with eight counts, including attempted aggravated murder, first-degree attempted murder and second-degree attempted murder, all in connection with the shooting of a state trooper in June. Phillips, 44, did not enter a plea.

From the Star's staff and wire services

Load-Date: September 10, 2006

End of Document



Conflicts cast shadow over festive Eid: Lebanese sad, Iraqis scared, Taliban defiant

The Gazette (Montreal)
October 24, 2006 Tuesday
Final Edition

Copyright 2006 The Gazette, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A16

Length: 498 words

Byline: ZEINA KARAM, AP

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

<u>Women</u> in south Lebanon wept at the graves of loved ones killed in the recent Israel-<u>Hezbollah</u> war, many Iraqis stayed home, the Taliban threatened Europe, and security was tightened elsewhere yesterday at the start of a major holiday marking the end of Ramadan.

The three-day Eid al-Fitr is customarily celebrated with family gatherings, presents and lunchtime feasts, but conflict has cast a shadow this year across much of the Middle East.

Cemetery visits are common during the holiday, but are usually less mournful, focusing on commemorating the departed.

In the bombed-out villages of southern Lebanon, however, the mood was sombre and festivities muted. "There is no Eid. There is only sadness and desperation and fear for the future," said Salma Salameh, 43, a schoolteacher in the predominantly Shiite village of Blatt.

Many Lebanese, meanwhile, gathered in cemeteries to pay their respects to the more than 855 Lebanese killed during the war, most of them civilians.

In the southern village of Qana, where an Israeli air strike on July 30 killed 29 Lebanese, <u>women</u> dressed in black wept over the graves. In Aitaroun, which lost 41 villagers to the war, families laid flowers and read Qur'anic verses at the graves.

The start of Eid al-Fitr, which means the festival of breaking the fast or the dawn-to-dusk ritual that observant Muslims follow during the month of Ramadan, is determined by clerics based on the sighting of the new moon.

While the holiday began in most Arab countries yesterday, it will start in Egypt, Syria and Jordan today.

Ramadan's end was a festive affair in the Gulf States of Kuwait and Bahrain, where children dressed up in their new holiday clothes and received sweets, cakes and money from neighbours and relatives.

But violence plagued other parts of the Mideast. In wartorn Iraq, many Sunni Muslims stayed inside out of fear that they would fall victim to car bombs or gunfire from Shiite militiamen in Baghdad.

Conflicts cast shadow over festive Eid: Lebanese sad, Iragis scared, Taliban defiant

Nadhim Aziz said there were few worshippers at a local Baghdad mosque to perform the early morning prayers that mark the holiday. "We were 50 to 60 in the mosque. Last year, there were about 400," Aziz lamented.

Jordanian officials stepped up security yesterday. In the capital, Amman, armoured personnel carriers manned by gun-toting soldiers could be seen at the city's main intersections and in front of luxury hotels.

In Afghanistan, fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar pledged to step up attacks against foreign troops. In an Internet message marking the start of Eid, Omar said, "The coming months will witness an intensification and better organization of the resistance against the crusaders."

Another Taliban commander, in a TV interview conducted in the Pakistani border region, said militants also plan deadly attacks on Western civilians in revenge for the 2001 invasion of their country. "It's acceptable to kill ordinary people in Europe because these are the people who have voted in the government," Mullah Mohammed Amin said.

Graphic

Colour Photo: HIDAJET DELIC, AP; In a traditional activity on the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr, Bosnian Muslims visit graves of relatives at Sarajevo city cemetery yesterday.

Load-Date: October 24, 2006



The Liberals mull some good ideas

The Toronto Star

August 26, 2006 Saturday

 $Copyright\ 2006\ Toronto\ Star\ Newspapers,\ Ltd.$

Section: NATIONAL REPORT; Pg. F06

Length: 572 words

Body

These aren't easy days for the proud party of Pierre Trudeau, Lester Pearson and Wilfrid Laurier. The federal Liberal leadership candidates have spent much of the summer in embarrassing disarray over Canada's military role in Afghanistan and the Israel/<u>Hezbollah</u> conflict. And the scramble to succeed Paul Martin is bound to expose more party fissures as the Nov. 28-Dec. 3 leadership convention draws closer.

But if this is a testing time for Liberals, under the shaky interim stewardship of Bill Graham, it is also a moment of opportunity and renewal in a season when Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives are failing to increase their standing in the polls.

Many of the 10 Liberal leadership aspirants are airing ideas on the economy, social justice and the environment that provide a progressive alternative to the Conservatives' unambitious agenda. While the Liberals need to get their caucus act together when Parliament resumes, if only to compete with the Conservatives' suffocating discipline, they need not shrink from a healthy, open policy debate.

As Michael Ignatieff sees it, the main Liberal challenge is to redefine "nation building" for the 21st century. Another perceived front-runner, Gerard Kennedy, extols the "power of altruism, of intelligent compassion" to transform society. And Bob Rae believes in a strong federal government that can reaffirm Canada's "spirit of engagement and commitment" with the world. They all are right.

While no single contender has a lock on good ideas, and many share similar views, the proposals on offer reflect a healthy recognition that Ottawa has a duty to move the nation forward, not just manage it.

On income policy, there is support for tax credits and income supplements for families earning less than \$25,000, to wean people from welfare and back into the workforce. For income tax cuts for middle and lower income groups. For policies that enable more <u>women</u> to join the labour force. And for ensuring that all qualified young people can attend college and university without incurring unpayable debt.

On social issues, candidates are proposing heavy investments in child care and early learning. Better parental benefits. And honouring and improving on the \$5 billion Kelowna accord to ease native poverty.

On the economy, there are proposals to spur Canada's productivity, and to invest in research and development, in urban infrastructure, in communications, in seaports and transportation, and in energy corridors.

On environmental issues, there is support for living up to Canada's Kyoto pledges to curb greenhouse gas emissions, or improving on them, with a variety of incentives to conserve fossil fuels and disincentives to waste.

The Liberals mull some good ideas

On immigration, there is recognition that accepting more workers' credentials and offering more language training would help people succeed.

On foreign policy, there is a spirited and principled debate on drawing the right balance between Canada's new-found role as a peace-builder in places like Afghanistan, where we must prevent state failure and a resurgence of terrorism, and our traditional role as a mediating party, a peacekeeper and a deliverer of aid. There is support for doubling foreign aid, a commitment we made decades ago but have not yet met.

This is hardly a complete list. But credible candidates are putting credible ideas in the window. The race has been called messy, undisciplined. It is also getting interesting.

Load-Date: August 26, 2006



Talk of the town; Television

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

February 19, 2007 Monday

First Edition

Copyright 2007 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: THE GUIDE; Pg. 6

Length: 494 words **Byline:** Jacqui Taffel

Body

Jenny Brockie returns to feed our hunger for ideas, writes Jacqui Taffel.

'I love a good chat and I'm a pretty inquisitive kind of person," Jenny Brockie says, explaining why, after three years hosting Insight, SBS's lively public forum program, she's as enthusiastic as ever. That this is an election year makes her job even more interesting, chatting to people around Australia about their thoughts and priorities as the pollies vie for their votes.

It's interesting, she says, to see which politicians are reluctant to come on the show, though she's too diplomatic to name names. She loves the fact that those who do appear can't spin the usual party line. "They really are forced to speak more naturally," she says, "because the dynamics of that room mean that everyone expects people to just get stuck into the topic and talk about what's really going on."

These topics have varied hugely, from happiness to autism to Sheikh Taj el-din al Hilaly's comments about <u>women</u> and rape. Brockie feels part of the show's success comes from its willingness to tackle anything, not just obvious news and current affairs angles. This year's first discussion centres on David Hicks but, as an award-winning journalist and documentary maker, Brockie also relishes topics such as lying or memory or first-time voters. "That we're eclectic is really important to me," she says.

When Insight changed in 2004 from a conventional current affairs format to a studio forum, some worried it was downgrading. Brockie, however, welcomed the change. "I felt there was a real, gaping hole," she says. "It seemed to me there was a hunger for ideas."

Now others have moved to fill that gap, with the launch of the ABC's Difference of Opinion, a similar forum hosted by Jeff McMullen. Brockie won't be drawn on the competition, except to say: "It's really good that people are talking about ideas. I think that has to be a fine thing for the country."

Where Difference of Opinion has a panel of four people out front, Insight usually seats everyone together in the audience - politicians, experts and members of the public. Some guests appear via satellite but Brockie says "there's something special about face to face, about having to sit next to your opponent and test your idea with that person sitting beside you".

There have been some "hairy moments". Last August, just before taping a show about Israel's attack on Lebanon, the foreign affairs editor of <u>Hezbollah</u> TV threatened to leave, saying he could not appear with Israeli

Talk of the town Television

representatives, even via satellite. After some fast talking from a producer, he relented, but key people dropping out is one of the show's hazards.

For Brockie, the rewards vastly outweigh the difficulties. "I get to bring all sorts of people together who otherwise might not come together," she says. "It's really satisfying when you feel you've thrashed around a single idea and drilled down into it as far as you can."

Insight returns to SBS on Tuesday at 7.30pm.

Graphic

PHOTO: Hot topic ... Insight host Jenny Brockie.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



Facing Facts on Iraq

The New York Times
September 24, 2006 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2006 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 4; Column 1; Editorial Desk; Pg. 11

Length: 543 words

Body

While Iraq is a central issue in this year's election campaigns, there is very little clear talk about what to do, beyond vague recommendations for staying the course or long-term timetables for withdrawal. That is because politicians running for election want to deliver good news, and there is nothing about Iraq -- including withdrawal scenarios -- that is anything but ominous.

In the real Iraq, armed Shiite and Kurdish parties have divided up the eastern two-thirds of the country, leaving Sunni insurgents and American marines to fight over the rest. Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki and his "national unity cabinet" stretch out their arms to like-thinking allies like Iran and <u>Hezbollah</u>, but barely lift a finger to rein in the sectarian militias and death squads spreading terror across Baghdad and the Shiite south.

The civilian death toll is now running at roughly 100 a day, with many of the victims gruesomely tortured with power tools or acid. Over the summer, more Iraqi civilians died violent deaths each month than the number of Americans lost to terrorism on Sept. 11. Meanwhile, the electricity remains off, oil production depressed, unemployment pervasive and basic services hard to find.

Iraq is today a broken, war-torn country. Outside the relatively stable Kurdish northeast, virtually every family -- Sunni or Shiite, rich or poor, powerful or powerless -- must cope with fear and physical insecurity on an almost daily basis. The courts, when they function at all, are subject to political interference; street-corner justice is filling the vacuum. Religious courts are asserting their power over family life. **Women**'s rights are in retreat.

Growing violence, not growing democracy, is the dominant feature of Iraqi life. Every Iraqi knows this. Americans need to know it too.

Beyond the futility of simply staying the course lies the impossibility of keeping the bulk of American ground forces stationed in Iraq indefinitely. They have already been there for 42 months, longer than it took the United States to defeat Hitler. The strain is undermining the long-term strength of the Army and Marines, threatening to divert the National Guard from homeland security and emboldening Iran and North Korea. Yet with the military situation deteriorating, the Pentagon has had to give up any idea of significant withdrawals this year, or for that matter anytime in the foreseeable future.

If there is still a constructive way out of this disaster, it has to begin with some truth-telling. Politicians are not going to press for serious solutions when their constituents have not been prepared to understand what the real options are. Republicans will not talk about genuine alternatives as long as their supporters have been primed to

Facing Facts on Iraq

believe victory is possible. Few Democrats will advocate anything that might wind up transferring responsibility for this awful mess to them.

Acknowledging the hard facts of today's Iraq must be more than a political talking point for the president's opponents. It is the only possible beginning to a serious national discussion about what kind of American policy has the best chance of retrieving whatever can still be retrieved in Iraq and minimizing the damage to wider American interests.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: September 24, 2006



Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

December 2, 2006 Saturday

First Edition

Copyright 2006 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 27

Length: 2080 words **Byline:** Tom Allard

Body

Terrorists are using the internet for everything from propaganda to planning attacks, writes Tom Allard.

The setting is familiar to anyone who watches the evening news. A large, executive-style desk, a laptop perched on top, a logo in the background and a screen showing shifting images to reinforce the newsreader's message. The only difference is the presenter, who is swathed in an Arab headdress and masked to hide his identity, and the subject of the broadcast, a call for an Islamic state for Iraq and a vow to use Iraq as a launching pad to crush the "Zionists" in Israel.

Welcome to the "Voice of the Caliphate", the latest offering from the Global Islamic Media Front, widely regarded as the mouthpiece of al-Qaeda and the worldwide jihadist movement.

Distributed over the internet, the mock news format is just one of many employed by al-Qaeda's highly sophisticated propaganda arm.

Previous instalments, many subtitled in English, have included detailed instructions on how to "gear up" for jihad and long theological justifications for Muslims to target innocent civilians to attack the interests of the US and its allies.

Almost invariably, the webcasts contain up-to-the-minute denunciations and rebuttals of recent statements by Western leaders. The rapid reaction is another feature of the way Islamic extremists spin their story for maximum effect.

If, as we are increasingly being told, the war on terrorism is a battle of ideas, to be won ultimately by force of argument rather than armed forces, then the overwhelming presence of jihadists on the web must be countered. The question is: how?

Professor Bruce Hoffman, a Georgetown University academic and one of the world's foremost terrorism analysts, says the use of the internet by jihadists has fundamentally changed the ground rules of terrorism. For the first time, the monopoly of commercial and state-owned media over the mass communication of a terrorist group's message has been usurped.

The implications, Hoffman says, are "enormous", not least because terrorism, at its core, has ultimately been about generating publicity, communicating a message through a violent - and preferably spectacular - act to achieve a political outcome.

"The art of terrorist communication has evolved to a point where the terrorists themselves can now control the entire production process," he says.

The target audience ranges from potential recruits, financial contributors and passive supporters to Western governments and their voting public. Young or old, male or <u>female</u> - Islamic extremists will have a tailored message only a mouse click away.

Blogs, chat rooms, and video and audio files - there is little from the online world that jihadists have not employed to spread their message.

In September the Global Islamic Media Front released a video game, The Night of Bush Capturing, which can be downloaded off the web. As songs of praise to jihad play in the background, players work their way through six stages, including "Americans' Hell" and "Bush Hunted Like a Rat". The final mission is to slay George Bush, in one-on-one combat.

Adam Raisman, an analyst who monitors extremist Islamic websites for the SITE Institute in Washington, says the internet is the most potent tool terrorists have.

Given the antecedents of the web in US military research during the Cold War, there is a bitter irony in the development for the West's military and intelligence establishment. The Cold War may have passed but the technology has been dramatically turned against its creator.

And it is not just the propaganda war, or using the internet to entice new recruits. The internet has also been a crucial planning tool and conduit for command and control for jihadists planning their attacks. The attacks of September 11, 2001, the Iraqi insurgency, the London bombings and the alleged terrorist plot in Sydney and Melbourne uncovered last year all used the internet to plan and execute operations.

There is also the use of the web to raise money, everything from T-shirt sales to advice on how to undertake credit card fraud and the details of bank accounts where funds can be sent.

More often than not, terrorists can spread their propaganda, plan their attacks and gather funds without being detected. It's a critical development because intelligence agencies have had considerable success penetrating radical mosques where much of the organising previously took place.

"Unfortunately, it's incredibly difficult for governments to track them down," Raisman says. "They set up proxy addresses, virtual servers and use password-protected sites."

Some of the techniques of evasion are disarmingly simple. Rather than send emails, some jihadists simply write and save draft emails, storing them in an account with a password that's known to other members of the cell. Because they are never actually sent, they can't be detected by intelligence agencies.

Raisman points to a recent publication by the al-Fajr group, another communications arm of al-Qaeda and its fellow travellers. He said it contained a very sophisticated manual on internet security, how to avoid hackers, secure personal files and ensure any computer that is captured is of little value to Western authorities.

Then there are offensive cyber operations, the possibility of terrorists bringing down critical electronic systems that underpin key sectors such as energy and banking.

Warnings on Thursday from the US Department of Homeland Security that al-Qaeda was planning an attack to disable online financial institutions and disrupt trading on Wall Street showed this threat in stark relief.

Interestingly, many experts on terrorism and the internet have downplayed this danger in recent times. But the fact such threats from al-Qaeda can spook US authorities, despite no other evidence of an impending cyber attack, shows that terrorist groups' mastery of the web has, at the very least, an extraordinary power to intimidate.

When it comes to jihadist propaganda on the internet, the fundamental message is the same: the West - the "Jews and Crusaders" - hates Islam. It seeks to occupy Muslim lands and it only understands violence. Jihad, therefore, is the only option and, moreover, is sanctioned by God.

Jihadist claims that they are winning the war are often accompanied by graphic images of terrorist blasts and the agonising deaths of hostages and soldiers.

"Unfortunately, Western governments have been slow on the uptake about the potency of this story-line," says Dr Kumar Ramakrishna, the head of the Centre for National Security Excellence at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies in Singapore.

"In the Middle East in particular, the balance of influence is skewed much more to the radicals, mostly because of the Iraq war."

In testimony to the US Congress earlier this year, Hoffman warned the US was "dangerously behind the curve" in dealing with the terrorist presence on the web.

The message should resonate in Australia, where the internet has wide penetration and is proving pivotal in inspiring militant Islamists.

Indeed, when police and ASIO agents swooped on the homes of 19 alleged terrorists in Sydney and Melbourne last year, they found an astounding array of violent material on their computers. Their electronic library was as voluminous as it was disturbing, including recipes for homemade explosives, poems in praise of jihad and grisly video and audio files of beheadings and terrorist attacks.

If shutting down the jihadists on the internet is impossible, Ramakrishna says, the West needs a multifaceted and integrated approach to sell its "counter-story".

"To discredit the story, you need to undercut it by showing their mistakes ... and a positive message about the West."

It's a theme that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, has addressed in two speeches over the past month.

First, the West needs to highlight "the bleak results of this extremist ideology in practice", he said this week. That is, an authoritarian, Taliban-style regime where entertainment and sport are banned and girls are not allowed to go to school.

The trump card for the West, Downer says, is democracy, "the extremists' Achilles heel".

Of course, the US and its allies have promoted the democracy agenda ever since they discovered that the former lraqi dictator Saddam Hussein did not have any weapons of mass destruction. But the democracy project has proved to be an absolute disaster. Afghanistan, the first experiment with democracy, has produced an ineffectual government unable to control large tracts of the country or provide basic services.

Elections in Iraq have a produced a Shiite-led administration that's similarly lame when it comes to enforcing security and is widely regarded in the Middle East as a Western stooge.

The Iraq invasion, of course, reinforced the central tenet of the radical Islamic view that the West wants to subjugate Islam and will use its overwhelming military power on the flimsiest of pretexts.

The one great hope, Lebanon, has proved to be short-lived, despite the ousting of its Syrian-backed regime.

The war with Israel greatly emboldened <u>Hezbollah</u> and its terrorist wing. While the Lebanese state was in disarray, <u>Hezbollah</u>'s well co-ordinated welfare arm gave relief, including large cash handouts, to those who had lost homes and family members. It's a similar story in the Palestinian territories, where Hamas also has a finely honed humanitarian operation. As such, Hamas and <u>Hezbollah</u> have made great strides in winning the "hearts and minds" of Muslims in the region and around the world.

Downer also noted, correctly, that the "battle of ideas" will be largely won by a debate between Muslims, with moderates reinforcing that the Islam forbids the killing of innocents and that Muslims are often the victims of terrorist acts.

What he didn't say was this has to be the case because, five years into the war on terrorism, the West is seriously on the nose in the Islamic world.

It's a reality that has been acknowledged by one of the most celebrated institutions of the US armed forces, its venerable military academy, West Point. "Since Western governments lack credibility in the Muslim world, they should pursue these [information] efforts indirectly," its Combating Terrorism Centre said.

The centre also made a telling observation about who the primary target of the campaign should be, and what exactly should be considered "moderate" Islam. In its Militant Ideology Atlas, it says that the target should be the Salafis - many of whom hold views abhorrent to many Westerners regarding <u>women</u> and secularism but who do not support violence.

"While it may be distasteful to work with non-violent Salafi leaders, they are best positioned to delegitimise jihadi violence and monitor the more militant efforts of their movement," it says.

In an Australian context, that means working closely with Muslim clerics such as Sheik Taj el-Din al Hilaly.

It is known that Australian counter-terrorism authorities were in despair about the rabid pursuit in the media of Hilaly after his comments likening rape victims to uncovered meat. His demonisation, however justified to many Australians, was viewed as vastly disproportionate by many Muslims and is seen by counter-terrorism officials as creating another grievance to be exploited by violent radicals.

Ramakrishna says it is vital the West recognises that the international jihadist movement "is not monolithic". He is calling for more efforts to address local grievances, the targeting of education and welfare, and co-ordinating activities with non-government Muslim groups.

Such policies will have to be integrated with more broad-brush diplomacy and strategic initiatives undertaken by Western governments.

Foremost among them is the urgent need to bolster the failing states that are its newly created democracies.

TERRORISM'S SERVER: JIHADISTS ON THE WEB

- *There are over 5000 militant Islamic websites, up from less than a dozen in 1998.
- *They are an extremely effective way for terrorist groups to plan operations, recruit followers, raise funds and distribute propaganda.
- *Their mastery of the web could extend to cyber-terrorism, such as disabling the communication systems that underpin key sectors such as banking and energy.
- *Western agencies are almost powerless to stop the jihadists' internet activities.
- *Western governments have been very slow to respond and are only now turning their attention to combating the potent "story" promulgated over the internet.

Graphic	
PHOTO:	
Load-Date: July 17, 2007	



Shiite? Sunni? Some in US learn who's who.

Christian Science Monitor December 15, 2006, Friday

Copyright 2006 The Christian Science Publishing Society All Rights Reserved

Section: USA; Pg. 2 Length: 975 words

Byline: G. Jeffrey MacDonald Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Highlight: While some in Congress made gaffes, police, businesses, and others are boning up on Muslim culture.

Body

Some in Congress may need a primer on Islamic extremists. Five years after 9/11, three members of the House Intelligence Committee in recent interviews couldn't answer basic questions about who's Sunni and who's Shiite in the Muslim world. But other American institutions are already boning up - especially when they have a stake in doing so. For example:

- * Law-enforcement agencies, from the FBI to the New York Police Department are learning Muslim customs in attempts to do their jobs more effectively.
- * Major hospitals, including one in Tampa, Fla., are training staff to honor Muslim beliefs about the body.
- * Business groups are studying Islamic law in order to raise capital among Muslims, who aren't allowed to charge interest.

In general, Americans don't know much about Muslims, surveys show. The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life found that the share of those saying they knew "not very much" or "nothing at all" about Islam actually grew from 61 percent in 2001 to 66 percent in 2005. In another 2005 Pew finding, 62 percent failed to identify Allah and the Koran as the terms Muslims use for God and sacred scripture.

Certain key sectors of US society also display a dangerous ignorance, Muslim advocates say. Topping the list this month is Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D) of Texas, the incoming chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. In an interview with Congressional Quarterly last week, he could identify the historic Sunni-Shiite split but didn't know that Al Qaeda is Sunni or that *Hizbullah*, which fought Israel this summer in Lebanon, is Shiite.

GOP Reps. Jo Ann Davis and Terry Everett, also on the intelligence committee, fared worse when the Congressional Quarterly interviewed them last summer.

But even on Capitol Hill, there are pockets of hope, Muslim advocates say. Congressmen tend to know more about Islamic culture when their own futures depend on working well with Muslims.

"In areas where there are large Muslim populations, you tend to see that members of Congress are more in tune with the thinking of the Muslim community," says Corey Saylor, national legislative director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim advocacy group in Washington. Among those with few Muslim constituents, he says, knowledge of Islamic culture is "better than it was five years ago, but we still have a long way to go."

Shiite? Sunni? Some in US learn who's who.

That same trend shows up in other sectors of society. Where the stakes are high, Americans are doing their homework.

FBI beefs up Muslim culture training

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, for instance, will emphasize Muslim culture when it expands introductory training for new agents from 18 to 21 weeks next month. In upcoming sessions, trainees will "drill down deeper" than they have in the past, for instance, into differences between radical Shiite cultures and radical Sunni ones, says Keith Slotter, assistant director of the FBI's training division. For the first time, new agent training will also cover dynamics surrounding suicide bombing.

"When a person from another culture says something, the meaning behind the words may not be the literal translation that an agent might want to jump to," Mr. Slotter says. "There are so many different nuances and aspects [that] to be an effective interviewer ... you're going to need those cultural skills."

Urban police are taking similar steps. About 100 members of the New York Police Department's hostage negotiating team, for instance, earlier this year spent a day learning to foster cooperation by honoring Muslim customs. For example, when entering a home, leave dogs outside and don't step on prayer rugs. In San Jose, Police Chief Rob Davis is a Mormon, but he has in the past fasted each day during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in order to foster understanding and closer ties with Muslims in his city.

Sometimes, the passion for knowledge has proved fleeting. When the Houston Police Department first offered a monthly continuing education course on Muslim culture at a local mosque in 2003, every class was near capacity with about 30 officers in attendance. But the department discontinued the course last year because not enough officers were signing up. The sharp decline in numbers coincided with a department policy shift.

"We used to have classes on city time, but now that you have to go on your own time, the majority of officers don't want to take this class," says Muzaffar Siddiqi, the department's liaison to Muslims. They're taking other courses online because "they can just sit at home and do it."

Some business people are also trying to learn more. Earlier this year, managers at East Cameron Partners, an energy development firm in Houston, studied Islamic finance in order to raise funds in the Middle East for oil and gas exploration. The result was the first-ever US issue of sukuk, an Islamic bond that generates revenue from sales, profits, or leases rather than interest. In September, International Swaps and Derivatives Association in New York began studying Islamic law requirements in order to craft international standards for more cross-cultural deals.

Focus on healthcare concerns

In healthcare, Tampa General Hospital has emphasized Muslim culture in its two-year-old diversity training program, which counts as continuing education for many of the hospital's 5,000 staffers. In March, Muslims will make their fourth presentation - more than any other group - to an expected crowd of about 150.

The education has had immediate on-the-job value for medical staff, according to the Rev. William Baugh, director of pastoral care at Tampa General. They now try to have <u>women</u> physicians visit Muslim <u>female</u> patients "because of the tremendous modesty," he says. And when a patient dies, nurses now accommodate family members who insist on taking the body to wash it.

(c) Copyright 2006. The Christian Science Monitor

Load-Date: December 14, 2006



Rockets can't keep Scots from their Israeli roots

Scotland on Sunday
August 20, 2006, Sunday
1 Edition

Copyright 2006 The Scotsman Publications Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Section: Pg. 3

Length: 1266 words

Byline: MURDO MacLEOD

Body

THEY are two proud nations separated by 2,500 miles, 14 inches of annual rainfall and 13 degrees centigrade in annual temperature. And while one enjoys calm and stability, the other is besieged and clinging to a fragile peace.

But the crisis in Israel is not stopping Scottish Jews setting off for a new life in one of the world's most troubled regions.

Adam Jacobs, 22, an engineering student from Giffnock, arrived in Israel 10 days ago in the certain knowledge he will be signed up for military service next month.

Jacobs, who quit his degree to make the move, is staying with other young arrivals near Jerusalem, and will head north to a fruit-growing kibbutz called Sasa near the Lebanon border later this month.

"I'm coming here because I feel closer to my Jewish roots," he said. "I want to explore my heritage and I feel at home here. I feel freer and that I can express my Jewishness as I want to. There's a real energy and vibrancy here that I want to be part of and the Jewish community in Glasgow is in decline. Over the past five years, I have felt a growing realisation that I wanted to come to Israel."

And on a flight east last Wednesday was Glaswegian Jack Coutts, 70, with his wife Alice, 66. Both worked for decades in the Scottish newspaper industry, but have now realised their dream of retiring to Israel, even if it means living in a war zone. "I wasn't afraid of the violence. I was actually more stressed about the packing than the rockets," said Jack.

"Every house here has a bomb shelter and we have been visiting Israel a lot over the years and have survived all kinds of scrapes. We have wanted to come to Israel for years and have been planning it and this wasn't going to stop us."

Across the world, migration to the Jewish state is either declining or levelling off - but not in the UK. Figures show that despite the long-running threat of suicide attacks within Israel, endless skirmishes with Palestinian militants and the current hostilities in Lebanon, 480 British Jews took Israeli citizenship last year.

The Jewish Agency - which promotes and organises migration - says that up to the end of July, 328 Britons had arrived in Israel. That figure is expected to rise to 550 by the year end.

Rockets can't keep Scots from their Israeli roots

Jacobs is unsurprised. "I feel that a lot about Israel doesn't come across in the British media. Israel is actually a very multicultural place, with Jewish people from all over with their distinctive cultures.

"You have Jews from Eastern Europe, the Middle East itself, North America and Britain. You have the Ethiopian Jews here and you have Arab Christians and Muslims. Over a million Arabs are citizens of Israel and they have all the rights to public service that other Israelis have."

Under Israeli law, all Jewish males must serve for three years in the Israeli Defence Force (IDF). Jacobs said: "I didn't come here specifically to go into the army, but I came here fully realising that I would be called up. It's compulsory here and I think it's only right that I do my duty for the country, just like everyone else does.

"After that, I want to continue my studies. I'm not sure exactly what I want to study, but I think I'd like to do engineering."

On the recent fighting, he said: "I'm as upset as anyone to see the pictures of people being killed on both sides. I want to build bridges between people and I don't want anyone to live under occupation or live in danger of suicide bombs."

He added: "Some of my friends thought I was crazy coming here; they were worried for me. I will miss Scotland, I'll miss my friends, I'll miss the football. I'm a Rangers supporter and I'll be keeping in touch with the football news."

Some emigrants have blamed what they see as growing anti-semitism in the West for their decision to move to Israel. But Jack Coutts, who is staying in temporary accommodation near Jerusalem but will live in Netanya, 60 miles from the border with Lebanon, insisted: "There wasn't anti-semitism. Scotland is a good place, very tolerant, but I am concerned about what I see as support for *Hezbollah* in Glasgow.

"I was dismayed when someone painted 'Hezbollah' outside the Garnethill Synagogue in Glasgow."

Shira Immerglueck, a spokeswoman for the Jewish Agency, which helped to organise both Jacobs' and the Coutts' immigration, said: "We did worry that some people would change their minds and cancel because of the current situation, but they didn't.

"A lot of Jewish people have the attitude that this is the time Israel needs them."

Meanwhile in Scotland, members of the Jewish community admit many are nervous about being too upfront about their origins and faith. The community is in decline, with about 6,000 Jews north of the Border compared with a peak of 80,000 in the middle of the last century.

Rabbi Nancy Morris, of the Glasgow New Synagogue, said: "I notice that the community feels more compelled to lay low compared to North America and not be very open about their Jewishness.

"Scotland is a friendly place and I have not experienced anti-semitism myself, but some of the commentary around just now is incitement against the Jewish community as well as against Israel."

Rabbi Gerald Levin, of the Garnethill Synagogue, said: "One feels under pressure, apprehensive, that something could happen.

"I personally feel that Scotland is tolerant, but next month will be interesting because we have our annual open doors' event, in common with many other bodies. It will be interesting to see how many people come to the building."

And Fiona Brodie, honorary secretary of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, said: "People should remember that not all Jews have the same view of Israel or the government's actions and not all Israelis approve of everything the government does, just like people have different views in this country. It's a democracy.

Rockets can't keep Scots from their Israeli roots

"I have no plans to move from Scotland; I'm settled here and it's home. It's important for me that Scotland has always been a friendly country. It's never had anti-Jewish legislation, for example."

BIRTH OF A COMMUNITY

SCOTLAND'S modern Jewish community is believed to have begun with migrants from Holland and Belgium who came to settle in Edinburgh in the 18th century.

Many worked in professions connected to the tailoring industry, including furs and leather, as well as jewellery and watchmaking.

The first Jewish congregation in Edinburgh was founded in 1816, and in Glasgow in 1823. The congregation in Aberdeen was founded in 1893.

Scotland's first fully fledged synagogue was set up in Edinburgh 1825.

Prior to that, a small number of Jewish students had come from south of the Border to Scottish universities. Scotland was attractive because students did not have to swear a religious oath to study.

The Jewish community grew dramatically towards the end of the 19th century with waves of migration from the Russian empire to the UK. It was during this period that the focus of Jewish life in Scotland moved decisively from Edinburgh to Glasgow. Scotland's oldest synagogue, at Garnethill, was founded in 1889.

Scotland's Jewish community was not without its own divisions, mostly linguistic. Rather than attend the Garnethill synagogue, which was mainly English-speaking, many Polish Jews opted to found their own synagogue in the Gorbals.

The population peaked at about 80,000 in the mid-20th century and began to decline after the war, as many left for England, the United States or Israel. There are about 6,000 Jews in Scotland today.

Prominent members of the Scottish Jewish community include former Tory Cabinet minister Sir Malcolm Rifkind and Lady Cosgrove, Scotland's first *female* judge.

Load-Date: August 21, 2006



Former Israeli soldier playing for UA tennis

University Wire

September 20, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 Arizona Daily Wildcat via U-Wire

Length: 1218 words

Byline: By Mike Ritter, Arizona Daily Wildcat; SOURCE: U. Arizona

Dateline: TUCSON, Ariz.

Body

Danielle Steinberg could be in a war-torn region. Instead, she finds herself on a tennis court, 7,483 miles away from conflict.

Had the Arizona <u>women</u>'s tennis player still been in the Israeli Army this summer -- where she had finished serving just two years ago -- during the war with Lebanese militant group <u>Hezbollah</u>, her work would have been entirely different.

"It was pretty hectic when I was there," Steinberg said about her trip to Israel over the summer. "I wasn't in danger or anything, but the thing about Israel is that it's never calm. Things are never OK in Israel, but it was more stressful than usual."

Although all <u>women</u> serve two years in the army, the extent of soldiers' work during their time in the army varies. After they are discharged from the Israeli Army, the majority of ex-soldiers simply find jobs and start anew.

When Steinberg turned 18, like all the other Israelis, she started her service, but now her serving is on the tennis court.

After her two years were up, Steinberg wanted a college tennis career. She picked Arizona solely based on what she had read about the school and athletic program on the Internet and what coaches told her in letters and over the phone.

"We received a letter of interest from Dani and went from there," UA head coach Vicky Maes said. "It was clear to us that she was an accomplished individual and that she had much to offer our program. We reviewed tape, results and spoke to her."

Said Steinberg: "It was kind of a gamble for me. I didn't know much about the American college system or college sports. I basically just followed my instinct. I really liked the people and the athletic department here. I had never visited, so I hadn't seen where I was going to, but I knew Arizona had a good athletic department, and I went with my instinct, and I'm not disappointed. I think it was an excellent choice."

When Steinberg entered Arizona, she was a 21-year-old freshman, something that is common in Israel but not in the U.S.

"It's funny," said Steinberg, now a sophomore. "In Israel my friends are just now starting to think about going to college. When I graduate I'll be 24 or 25, which is old in American terms because here you start at 18, but back

Former Israeli soldier playing for UA tennis

home, this is usually around the age that you start college. It was kind of funny for me to be a 21-year-old freshman. I was definitely the oldest freshman there was."

Not a tennis country

Steinberg, who is ranked No. 29 in the country at the collegiate level, comes from a country where there isn't a great deal of importance placed on athletics beyond basketball and soccer, said Racheli Marom, the Israeli Fellow at the Hillel Center.

"We have some really good tennis players that train internationally," she said. "People would watch it on international television, and it's part of the sporting culture in Israel, but it's not a huge sport there."

Steinberg said the tradition of college sports in America differs greatly from the athletic landscape in Israel.

"We don't have that, so the first week I was here, when I saw the facility and the amount of people involved, I was shocked," she said. "As an athlete, I've never been treated with such respect because it's not really a big priority in Israel, especially tennis."

Steinberg became interested in tennis when trainers from a tennis center came to her school in Israel and offered free lessons when she was 8. She played recreationally for about two years, but then she got serious.

In 2002 she won the Israeli doubles championship, and in 2004, she was a runner-up at the Israeli Championship.

"Danielle is feisty and very competitive," Maes said. "She hates losing and will fight for every point. She is a natural leader. She demands respect from her peers by leading not only by example but also vocally. She was very influential in our success last year."

Steinberg was not only the top freshman on the team last year; she also floated between the No. 1 and No. 2 spots on the entire team.

She compiled a 14-6 singles record on top of a 10-7 doubles season with partner Camelia Todorova, now a junior.

"She's definitely a key player on our team," Todorova said. "She's always motivated. She basically motivates the team. She's team captain, so everyone has a huge amount of respect for her. When it comes to match point, she's one of those players that never gives up."

Living through war

Steinberg is from Tel Aviv, Israel, which is located in central Israel, and she went back during the summer when Israel was at war with *Hezbollah*, a conflict that was fought mostly in the northern part of the country.

Steinberg said Tel Aviv stayed relatively peaceful during the time because all of the bombs were going off in the northern part, mainly Haifa, Israel. But she had several family members who were forced to move from that area because it was not safe.

When Steinberg served in the army, she was in the communications division. She practiced tennis and played in tournaments and was never really an active part of any war-related activities, with the majority of her load spent on office work.

"You get the special commissions only if nothing is going on," Steinberg said. "If I had been there this summer, my special commissions would have been canceled. I wouldn't have to go fight because I'm not trained for that, but I would probably have had to sleep at the base and work more intensively."

Although Steinberg realizes that pretty much everything in the Israeli Army is in one way or another tied to training or fighting a war, she said she is thankful about the timing of her service because her life would be completely different had she been a few years younger.

Former Israeli soldier playing for UA tennis

"Everything I did before was ultimately all war-related, but it was all backstage work," Steinberg said. "It would definitely be more intense if I was in the army right now, which I'm happy I'm not."

Adapting to the U.S.

Steinberg said that she has adapted to Arizona nicely. She said the American culture is very different from Middle Eastern culture, but as a whole, it's not too far off.

"We are kind of Americanized back home in Israel," Steinberg said. "The language wasn't such a big barrier for me, but it's not only me. My whole team is foreigners, basically."

Five of the eight players on the team are indeed from five countries, including Sweden, Slovenia, Poland and Canada.

As far as comparing Israeli youth to the American youth, however, Steinberg said she sees one glaring difference.

"I feel an 18-year-old Israeli is much more mature than an 18-year-old American, but it's just because of the circumstances that an 18-year-old has to go to the army. It just makes you mature faster. I don't know if it's good or bad, but that's the major difference I see."

Maes also said she thinks that Steinberg's maturity has helped her on the tennis court.

"I think her army experience has helped her feel more comfortable in a leadership role," Maes said. "She was not afraid to take charge, even as a freshman. She saw what needed to be said or done and did it, unafraid of how people would react."

"I believe her background has helped her mature much faster than some other kids would," Maes said. "This has allowed her to adjust quicker and produce immediately. She beat a lot of top-10 players last year, and that speaks for itself."

(C) 2006 Arizona Daily Wildcat via U-WIRE

Load-Date: September 20, 2006



Old teachings, new media; Behind Today's News - An in-depth examination of stories making news today; Web-savvy Muslim clerics are reaching out to Shiite faithful

thespec.com

April 11, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Metroland Media Group Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A06

Length: 1249 words

Byline: Kim Murphy, The Los Angeles Times

Dateline: QOM, IRAN

Body

This has always been a city with one foot in the present and two in the medieval past. A walk down its dusty main boulevard threads through epochs. Fast food chelo kebab stands and souvenir shops, with wallet-size portraits of the 7th century martyr Imam Hussein, crowd outside the colossal gold and blue domes of the Hazrat Masumeh shrine.

Mullahs in turbans pick their way defiantly through tangled ribbons of cars. Here, in a city that is the revered seat of Iran's powerful Shiite Muslim clergy and home to 52 Islamic seminaries, <u>women</u> in black chadors emerge from late-model Mercedes-Benzes with tinted windows.

Nowhere is this jarring juxtaposition of old and new more apparent than at the Aalulbayt Global Information Center, the place where Qom's ancient religious teachings and the Information Age intersect.

Here, stocking-footed men sit behind rows of computer screens in large rooms padded with deep Oriental carpets, typing out Web pages of Quranic analysis and religious edicts translated into 30 languages.

From here, via a server in Santa Clara, Calif., emanates www.al-shia.com, the most widely read source of Shiite proselytizing in the world. Also here is the worldwide communications hub for Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, Iraq's leading Shiite cleric, www.sistani.org, and for Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, www.leader.ir.

For years, many of Iran's clerics resisted a new age's preference for video screens over ancient Quranic calligraphy. They sanctioned the removal of satellite dishes from rooftops, called for website filtering to guard against pornography and peered at the nation's budding blogging craze as if it were a bizarre insect that would require new poisons. ("Blogging, due to its mundane nature, has the capacity to nurture the spirit of vulgarity ... (and is) a destructive plague," Sayed Reza Shokrollahi wrote a few years ago.)

Then they got it.

Old teachings, new media; Behind Today's News - An in-depth examination of stories making news today; Web-savvy Muslim clerics are reaching out to Shiite faithf....

Now, to browse through Iranian websites is to come upon a flood of pages featuring solemn-looking men wearing beards and turbans. Hundreds of Iranian clerics today have blogs of their own.

Want to know what Khamenei thinks about the U.S. "enemy," why a proper <u>hezbollah</u> soldier always has his boots laced, or how Iran is "a modern example of a religious democracy"? Read his website, available in five languages.

Cleric Mohammed Ali Abtahi, who rose to fame as former President Mohammad Khatami's chief of staff, has since become one of Iran's most popular bloggers, with his musings (<u>www.webneveshteha.com</u>) now collected in two best-selling books.

Even President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, though not a religious figure, has a blog (<u>www.ahmadinejad.ir</u>), through which he opines on everything from the "common human spirit" that links Iran and the United States to "the black years" of student repressions under the shah when he was a young revolutionary.

"Qom province is ranked first in Iran in terms of the ratio of population and Internet facilities," said Ibrahim Lajevardi, the cleric who heads the Aalulbayt. "In every bazaar and alley, you will find the Internet. This is because Qom is one of the most religious cities in Iran, and it was decided to have access to the Internet in order to spread this Islamic knowledge all over the world."

Qom's religious leaders hope to build new links between the mother ship and the world's 150 million Shiite Muslims. But moving Shiism to the Internet is also part of a wider government campaign to rebuild Iran as a geopolitical and technological powerhouse in the Middle East.

In February, Iran launched a research rocket nearly 100 miles into the atmosphere, in part as a step toward launching four new satellites by 2010 and expanding the number of Internet users from 7.5 million to 35 million. A 24-hour, worldwide English-language news network is scheduled to debut this spring.

Here in these halls filled with the sound of clicking keyboards, websites are produced for Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, <u>Hezbollah</u>'s spiritual oracle in Lebanon (<u>www.bayynat.org</u>), and 42 other ayatollahs.

The clerics provide advice on religious questions. ("Is it allowed to employ non-Muslims in my office?" Yes, but better to hire Muslims if you can. "Is it permissible to be party to temporary marriage with a woman who is 'known for adultery,' if no other woman is available and the person is in desperate need of marriage?" Not unless she repents.)

Other offices in Qom stray toward politics; some sites deliver the Shiite orthodoxy's views on everything from relations with Sunni Muslims to the role of the United Nations, the "Holocaust myth" and condemnations of the U.S. campaign in Iraq.

Iranian government-linked religious websites based on U.S. servers have come under scrutiny recently for possible violations of U.S. sanctions on doing business with Iran.

Nearly four dozen websites operated by the Qom-based Computer Research Center for Islamic Sciences were removed from servers in Bedford, Texas, in June 2005, said Aaron Weisburd of the Illinois-based Society for Internet Research, which monitors the activities of Islamist groups on the Internet.

Grand Ayatollah Yusef Saanei said clerics hoped their Internet writings would promote dialogue among faiths and, in his case, advocate a tolerant brand of Islam.

"We are on the Internet because it's one of the best devices to spread your ideas and thoughts and attitudes about the world," he said.

Old teachings, new media; Behind Today's News - An in-depth examination of stories making news today; Web-savvy Muslim clerics are reaching out to Shiite faithf....

From a set of storefront offices in Qom's main commercial district, the Office of Religious Weblog Expansion offers blog training for clerics and for young Muslims looking for a way to talk about religion in a contemporary way. At least 1,000 students have completed the training, among them a large number of **women**.

"A good, successful clergyman is one who has good relationships with others. And a blog is a good tool for that," said Ahmad Najmi, a 27-year-old cleric who writes the blog www.menbar.persianblog.com.

"In Iran, there have always been many questions from ordinary people about clergymen's personal lives -- like the curiosity about priests' personal lives in the West. So we use the blogs to introduce our personal lives, and it makes talking to people very easy," he said.

"Someone, when they're reading your blog, they'll be a friend of yours, after a passage of time."

Abtahi, the cleric from Khatami's administration, has delighted his blog viewers by posting private and informal photos of Khatami and his famous guests at home. He wrote about the theft of his cellphone, about his favourite barber, about how fat people need to be accepted in society.

But the cleric also used the blog to criticize the closure of newspapers, to call for harmony with Iran's religious minorities and to suggest that Iranians were ready "to take their guns" and defend the country "against the world's bullies, especially America."

But in return, he said, readers expect that "their authorities adopt policies that (allow them to) lead their own lives, instead of going to war."

At first, hard-liners accused Abtahi of trying to use the blog to manipulate Iran's youths. Today, he said, the site rarely rankles authorities.

"At first, blog writing was an astonishing thing for the government, a shock. And some in the government even viewed it as an opposition activity. Because in general, religion wants to control society. And the problem with blog writing, of course, is it's not controllable."

Now, he said, smiling, "even the hard-liners have their blogs. The technological revolution has changed the world."

Graphic

Photo: Tim Murphy, Los Angeles Times, Mohammed Ali Abtahi, formerly President Mohammad Khatami's chief of staff, is one of Iran's most popular bloggers.

Load-Date: April 11, 2007



The New York Times
August 7, 2006 Monday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2006 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 1353 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-9

In Deadliest Day for Israel, 15 Are Killed by Missiles

The deadliest <u>Hezbollah</u> rocket attacks in nearly a month of fighting hit northern Israel, killing 12 army reservists near the Lebanon border and 3 civilians in the port of Haifa. In Lebanon, Israeli airstrikes killed at least 16 people, according to Lebanese officials. A1

Efforts to speed adoption of a draft resolution to halt the fighting between Israel and <u>Hezbollah</u> faltered at the United Nations while sharp criticism of the measure rang out across the Middle East.

The Security Council, despite enormous pressure to take action in a war that has raged unchecked for 26 days, failed to hold an expected meeting to discuss the measure and schedule a vote. A6

Iraq Murder Hearing Starts

Steven D. Green, a former American soldier who is accused of raping a 14-year-old Iraqi and killing her and three members of her family, told fellow soldiers that "all Iraqis are bad people" after his unit began taking casualties, according to testimony in an American military hearing. A9

NATO Toll Rises in Afghanistan

A British soldier was killed by gunfire during an operation in Musa Qala, Afghanistan, a region known for Taliban sympathies, NATO said. The death brings to nine the number of NATO soldiers killed since they formally replaced American forces in southern Afghanistan. A9

Iran to Defy U.N. Resolution

During a news conference, Ali Larijani, Iran's security chief and top nuclear negotiator, said that Iran would defy the United Nations Security Council by refusing to halt its enrichment of uranium by the end of August. He accused the West, of double-dealing by first offering incentives for suspension of its nuclear enrichment program, and then by issuing a threat. A3

Hong Kong Surveillance Bill

Pro-Beijing lawmakers approved legislation that gives broad authority to the police to conduct covert surveillance, including wiretapping phones, bugging homes and offices and monitoring e-mail. The bill passed the 60-member Legislative Council on a vote of 32-0 after pro-democracy lawmakers walked out of the chamber in protest. A4

Mexican Vows More Protests

The presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador vowed that the daily demonstrations supporting his demand for a full recount of the results in last month's presidential race would convene at the courthouse where a special electoral court had denied his request. A3

NATIONAL A10-13

States Expand Rights Of Victims on Self-Defense

In the last year, 15 states have enacted laws that expand the right of self-defense, allowing crime victims to use deadly force in situations that might formerly have subjected them to prosecution for murder. The first of the new laws, which served as a model for the others, took effect in Florida in October. A1

Routine Duty on the Border

For the National Guard troops sent to the United States-Mexican border, their jobs may seem humdrum, but the Border Patrol has claimed some early success as the operation moves into full swing. Critics still question whether the Guard troops are making a big difference. A10

Immigration Hearings Criticized

When House leaders announced their plan to hold 21 immigration hearings in 13 states, they said it demonstrated a commitment to securing the border. But some lawmakers said the schedule of the hearings only heightened their concerns that the Republican leadership was using immigration as a political weapon. A10

Protester Returns to Texas

Cindy Sheehan, the 49-year-old California peace advocate whose son Casey died in Iraq, returned to Crawford, Tex., on the anniversary of her much-publicized march down a winding country road to the Bush ranch, where she asked unsuccessfully to meet the president. A10

Nashville Murder Trial Starts

Perry March, 45, goes on trial, accused of murdering his wife, whose remains have not been found. What began as a missing person report eventually sprawled to Mexico from Tennessee in a tangled skein of cases that riveted Nashville and included a plot to kill Mr. March's in-laws. A12

Local Issues in Montana Race

Jon Tester, left, a 49-year-old farmer and Democratic state senator, in his first run at statewide office, is trying to unseat Senator Conrad Burns in Montana. The nationally watched election a few months ago seemed to be swinging on the issue of Washington's ways and mores, but has now downshifted to local, idiosyncratic Montana issues. A13

SPORTSMONDAY D1-7

Woods Wins Buick Open

Tiger Woods notched the 50th victory of his career, defeating Jim Furyk by three strokes at the Buick Open and finding new ways to build on a reputation that is looming over golf once again. Mr. Woods finished the tournament at 24-under par 264. D1

N.F.L. Owners to Select Boss

With the 32 National Football League owners meeting in Chicago to select the next commissioner, almost everyone is willing to predict who will get the job. But nobody wants to predict how they will arrive at their choice. D2

NEW YORK/REGION B1-7

Muslims in U.S. Struggle After Serving in Iraq

For Muslim Americans who serve in the United States armed forces the trip home from Iraq has been especially fraught. They were called upon to fight a Muslim enemy alongside comrades who sometimes questioned their loyalty, and then returned home to neighborhoods where the occupation is dismissed as an imperialist crusade. A1

Lieberman Confronts Critics

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman confronted the anger roiling the Democratic Party over Iraq, in an attempt to explain his support for the war and to win back doubting voters in Connecticut before the state primary election tomorrow. A1

Taxes vs. Income in Suburbs

Property taxes grew faster than personal income from 2000 to 2004 in the suburbs of New York City, a reversal from the 1990's, when incomes soared and property taxes climbed more modestly, a review of statistics shows. A1

More Heat-Related Deaths

The number of deaths attributed to last week's sweltering weather rose to 22, and the mayor said the city would study how it could prevent such deaths in future heat waves. B3

ARTS E1-8

Returned Klimts to Be Sold

Four of five paintings by Gustav Klimt that were at the center of a restitution battle will be heading to Christie's for sale this fall, the president of the auction house said. E1

Candidate Seeks Help in Film

Representative Cynthia A. McKinney of Georgia, who had a scuffle with a Capitol police officer last March and is facing tough competition in a Democratic primary vote, has been promoting an award winning documentary that paints her as a progressive heroine, hoping for an increase in her poll numbers. E1

OBITUARIES B8

Susan Butcher

The dog sled racer who won the Iditarod race four times and became a pioneer for <u>women</u> and an influence in the treatment of animals, she was 51. B8

BUSINESS DAY C1-10

Google and Viacom Make Deal

Google has struck a deal to allow Web site owners to put video clips from Viacom, one of the biggest creators of television programming, on their pages. C1

Interest Rate Climb May Halt

After 17 consecutive interest rate increases, the Federal Reserve may pause in its campaign of monetary tightening, partly because a weak jobs report offered further evidence that the economy was slowing. C1

Stake in Forbes Media Sold

The family of Malcolm S. Forbes has sold a significant minority stake in Forbes Media, which includes the Forbes magazine, the Forbes.com Web site to Elevation Partners, a private equity group. C1

Movies and Global Markets

Hollywood is looking overseas to bolster the bottom line, and studios are finding that the rules of movie marketing in the United States do not translate in Tokyo or Moscow. C1

Peril of Rear-End Collisions

New crash tests show that many vehicles remain vulnerable in rear-end accidents, although automakers have greatly improved protection for drivers and their passengers in frontal and side-impact collisions. C2

Business Digest C2

EDITORIAL A14-15

Editorials: A truce for Lebanon; drug-fueled sports superstars; the Brooke Astor effect; next: is hot fudge nonfattening?

Columns: Bob Herbert, Paul Krugman.

Bridge E6

Crossword E2

Metro Diary B2

TV Listings E8

Weather D8

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos

Load-Date: August 7, 2006



<u>Israeli shelling kills 18 Palestinians in Gaza; A leader of Hamas calls for</u> retaliation - Correction Appended

The International Herald Tribune November 9, 2006 Thursday

Correction Appended

Copyright 2006 International Herald Tribune All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 1353 words

Byline: Ian Fisher and Steven Erlanger

Dateline: BEIT HANUN, Gaza

Body

lan Fisher reported from Beit Hanun and Steven Erlanger from Jerusalem. Taghreed El-Khodary contributed from Gaza.

*

Israeli tank shells killed 18 Palestinians, including 8 children and 6 <u>women</u>, at a cluster of houses here Wednesday, igniting a fury that threatened a steep escalation in violence, with a Hamas leader calling for retaliation against Israel.

In response to one of the largest single losses of life here in years, several top Hamas leaders called for renewed suicide bombings inside Israel, after largely observing a unilateral truce Hamas declared a year and a half ago. Khaled Meshal, leader of Hamas's political bureau and exiled in Syria, said Hamas would answer the deaths with "deeds, not words."

In a statement, Meshal said: "All Palestinian groups are urged to activate resistance despite the difficult situation on the ground. Our confidence in our military wing to respond is great."

Hamas's military wing also said in a statement that the United States should be taught "hard lessons" for supporting Israel. The threat, if vague, marked an unusual escalation for Hamas, an Islamic-based militant group that has pointedly portrayed its fight as against Israel alone. It was immediately disavowed by Ghazi Hamad, the spokesman for the Hamas-led government in Gaza.

Witnesses said that the shelling in this northern Gaza town began about 5:30 a.m., at a cluster of houses belonging to three brothers, one of whom died about a year ago, and dozens of extended family members. Ali Athamnah, 29, a doctor, said he heard the crash of a shell, then glass from the window spattered on his face. He looked down from his second-story balcony and saw one relative, Ahmad, wounded and scores of other family members running outside.

Then the other shells hit, and he did not see the crowd standing anymore.

"They just left they withdrew," he said, walking over puddles filled with blood, spattered human remains and sandals, many belonging to children. "They were gone." Others were reported killed while sleeping in other of the half-dozen houses struck.

"Nothing happened," mumbled Isra Athamnah, 5 years old, pocked with shrapnel wounds and in shock. The news that her widowed mother, Sanaa, 35, was dead, and she was now an orphan, did not sink in.

Others described how a tank shell hit a home, sending scores of sleeping members of the extended Athamnah family outside before dawn. The next volleys struck them crowded in a narrow alley between the houses, dismembering several among the dead, who ranged from less than a year to 70 years old, witnesses said.

World leaders, including at the United Nations, the European Union, Russia, Britain and Italy, condemned the incident. "It is hard to see what this action was meant to achieve and how it can be justified," said Margaret Beckett, the British foreign secretary.

Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, called for restraint by all parties, adding: "We deeply regret the injuries and loss of life in Gaza today. We have seen the Israeli government's apology and hope their investigation will be completed quickly."

The Israelis had pulled out of Beit Hanun on Tuesday morning after a six-day operation in which they effectively occupied the town and fought battles with militants, many of them from Hamas. During that operation, at least 52 Palestinians were killed, some 22 of them believed to be civilians, and one Israeli soldier in an operation Israel said was aimed at stopping Palestinian rocket fire into nearby Israeli towns like Sderot and Ashkelon. Nonetheless, on Wednesday, according to the army, 13 rockets were fired into Israel.

Israeli leaders, already on the defensive over their performance in the war against <u>Hezbollah</u> and the more than 300 Palestinians killed in operations in Gaza since the summer, issued immediate statements of regret. Defense Minister Amir Peretz ordered a halt to artillery attacks in the densely populated Gaza strip carried out to prevent Palestinian fighters from launching rockets into nearby Israeli cities and an immediate investigation into the incident.

The military said it had carried out "preventative" artillery shelling near the area in response to about 10 Qassam rockets fired in the previous 24 hours. The Israeli notion is that shelling open areas will deter Palestinian militants from firing rockets from there, even though the deterrence is not clear and the shells are not uniformly accurate. In this case, the military said in statement, initial reports showed rounds landing "at a location distant from the one reportedly hit."

Both Israeli political and military leaders laid the blame for any deaths on the Palestinian fighters who launch the rockets from civilian areas, then hide among civilians.

This is not the first time that such Israeli shelling has gone awry, hitting houses in Beit Hanun and nearby Beit Lahiya, and killing or wounding those inside or nearby and emboldening extremists on all sides. And it is not the first time, in what has come to seem like a tragic and fated script, that errant rounds have led to a halt or delay in efforts to find new paths of dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians, and among the Palestinian factions themselves.

The Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, and the prime minister, Ismail Haniya of Hamas, both of whom gave blood for the victims and visited them in hospitals, have been engaged in two days of supposedly climatic negotiations to agree on a new Palestinian government to replace the one run by Hamas and isolated internationally.

The intention is to have a government of "national unity" made up of experts and technocrats approved by the varying parties, in the hope that Western aid and Palestinian tax money will again begin to flow to a Palestinian Authority that has been unable to pay full salaries for nine months.

The idea was also to have the new government release an Israeli soldier captured on June 25, which would prompt an Israeli release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and a long-delayed meeting between Abbas and the Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert.

But this latest shelling, on top of the Beit Hanun operation that both Abbas and Haniya had already called a "massacre," caused Haniya to request a pause in their negotiations for the next three days of official mourning called on Wednesday in the Palestinian Authority. The two men met briefly Wednesday night, but without apparent result.

If Hamas follows through on calls to resume suicide bombings inside Israel, the whole plan may once again collapse, leaving Israel and the Palestinians in a condition of further violent confrontation with no clear political path.

In June, there was a similar cycle of violence that followed another apparently errant Israeli shelling that killed Palestinian civilians, including seven members of a single family, the Ghaliyas, enjoying a day at the beach. The Israelis said they were shelling areas where rocket teams had fired into Israel, and they denied having fired the particular shell that killed the family.

But no Palestinian believed the Israeli denial, and there was never any conclusive alternative explanation. The Ghaliyas became famous martyrs, and the military wing of Hamas announced that it was ending the cease-fire against Israel. The Hamas government belatedly went along, and Hamas started firing rockets again toward Israel, instead of simply supplying them to others.

More importantly, the Hamas military wing participated in the capture of the Israeli soldier, Corporal Gilad Shalit, later in June, precipitating the current political crisis that surrounded and has outlasted Israel's summer war against *Hezbollah* in Lebanon.

Calling Wednesday a "black day," Abbas announced the three days of mourning and condemned the Israeli attacks as disproportionately harsh compared to the damage caused by the Palestinian rockets, which he said he also opposed.

On Wednesday night, Israeli rockets killed Ahmed Awad and another Hamas member in the city of Gaza. Awad was said to be a rocket maker and the son-in-law of the Hamas foreign minister, Mahmoud Zahar.

Correction

An article Nov. 9 about an Israeli military attack in the Gaza town of Beit Hanoun that killed 18 Palestinians misstated the type of munitions used. They were artillery shells, not tank shells.

Correction-Date: November 17, 2006

Load-Date: November 17, 2006



In Syria, a revival led by women

The International Herald Tribune August 29, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 International Herald Tribune All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 1286 words

Byline: Katherine Zoepf

Dateline: DAMASCUS

Body

Enas al-Kaldi stops in the hallway of her Islamic school for girls and coaxes her 6-year-old schoolmate through a short recitation of the Koran.

"It's true that they don't understand what they are memorizing at this age, but we believe that the understanding comes when the Koran becomes part of you," Kaldi, 16, said proudly.

In other corners of Damascus, <u>women</u> who identify one another by the distinctive way they tie their head scarves gather for meetings of an exclusive and secret Islamic <u>women</u>'s society known as the Qubaisiate. There, participants say, they are tutored further in the faith and are even taught how to influence some of their well-connected fathers and husbands to accept a greater presence of Islam in public life.

These are the two faces of an Islamic revival for <u>women</u> in Syria, one that could add up to a potent challenge to this determinedly secular state.

Though officials vociferously deny it, Syria is becoming increasingly religious and its national identity is weakening. If Islam replaces that identity, it could undermine the unity of a society that is ruled by a religious minority, the Alawites, and which contains many different religious groups. Syrian officials, who had front-row seats as Hezbollah dragged Lebanon into war, are painfully aware of the myriad ways that state authority can be undermined by increasingly powerful, and appealing, religious groups.

Though Syria's government supports <u>Hezbollah</u>, it has been taking steps to ensure that the phenomenon that it helped to touch off in Lebanon does not come back to haunt it at home. In the past, said Muhammad al-Habash, a lawmaker who is also a Muslim cleric, "we were told that we had to leave Islam behind to find our futures."

"But these days," he said, "if you ask most people in Syria about their history, they will tell you: 'My history is Islamic history.' The younger generation are all reading the Koran."

<u>Women</u> are in the vanguard. Though men across the Islamic world usually interpret scripture and lead prayers, Syria, almost uniquely in the Arab world, is seeing the resurrection of a centuries-old tradition of shaikhas, or <u>women</u> who are religious scholars. The growth of girls' madrasas has outpaced those for boys, religious teachers here say.

There are no official statistics about how many of the country's 700 madrasas are for girls.

But according to a survey of Islamic education in Syria published by the pan-Arab daily Al Hayat, there are approximately 80 madrasas in Damascus alone, serving more than 75,000 <u>women</u> and girls, and about half are affiliated with the Qubaisiate.

For many years, any kind of religious piety was suspect here. But while men suspected of Islamist activity are frequently interrogated and jailed, subjecting <u>women</u> to such treatment would cause a public outcry that the government cannot risk.

In Syria, <u>women</u> have taken advantage of their relatively greater freedom to form Islamic groups, becoming a deeply rooted and potentially subversive force to spread stricter and more conservative Islamic practices in their families and communities.

Since Syrian intelligence agents still monitor private gatherings that involve discussion of Islam, groups like the Qubaisiate often meet clandestinely, sometimes with **women** guarding the door to deter interlopers.

The group is named for its founder, a charismatic Syrian shaikha, Munira al-Qubaisi.

A wealthy woman in her 50's living in Damascus, who has attended Qubaisiate meetings and who asked that her name not be used because she feared punishment, provided a rough description of the group's activities.

A girl thought to be serious about her faith may be invited by a relative, or a school friend, to come to a meeting, the woman said. There, a shaikha sits on a raised platform, addresses the assembled <u>women</u> on religious subjects and takes questions.

Qubaisiate members, the woman said, tie their head scarves so there is a puff of fabric under the chin, like a wattle. As girls and <u>women</u> progress in their study of Islam and gain stature within the group, the color of their scarves changes. New members wear white ones, usually with long, khaki-colored coats, she said. Later, they graduate to wearing navy blue scarves with a navy coat. At the final stage, the shaikha may grant them permission to cover themselves completely in black.

Hadeel, a Syrian woman in her early 20's who asked to be identified only by her first name, described how her best childhood friend became one of the Qubaisi "sisterhood," and encouraged her to follow suit.

"Rasha would call and say, 'Today we're going shopping,' and that would be a secret code meaning that there was a lesson at 7:30," Hadeel said. "I went three times, and it was amazing. They had all this expensive food, just for teenage girls, before the lesson. And they had fancy Mercedes cars to take you back home afterward."

Hadeel said she had at first been astonished by the way the Qubaisiate, ostensibly a <u>women</u>'s prayer group, seemed to single out the daughters of wealthy and influential families and girls who were seen as possessing leadership potential. "They care about getting girls with big names, the powerful families," Hadeel said. "In my case they wanted me because I was a good student."

<u>Women</u> speaking about the Qubaisiate asked that their names not be used because the group is still technically illegal, though it seems that the Syrian authorities are increasingly turning a blind eye to its activities.

"To be asked to join the Qubaisiate is very prestigious," said Maan Abdul Salam, a Syrian <u>women</u>'s rights campaigner.

Abdul Salam explained that such secret Islamic prayer groups recruited <u>women</u> differently, depending on their social position. "They teach poor <u>women</u> how to humble themselves in front of their husbands and how to pray, but they're teaching upper-class <u>women</u> how to influence politics," Abdul Salam said.

The Islamic school where Kaldi, the 16-year-old tutor, studies has no overt political agenda. But it is a place where devotion to Islam, and an exploration of **women**'s place in it, flourishes.

In Syria, a revival led by women

The school, at the Zahra mosque in a western suburb of Damascus, is a cheerful, cozy place, with soft Oriental carpets layered underfoot, and scores of little girls running around in their socks. Kaldi spends summers, vacations and some afternoons there, studying and helping younger children to memorize the Koran.

After girls in the Zahra school have committed the Koran to memory, they are taught to recite the holy book with the proper prescribed rhythm and cadences, a process called tajweed that usually takes at least several years of devoted study. Along the way, they are taught the principles of Koranic reasoning. And it is this art of Koranic reasoning, Kaldi and her friends say, that most sets them apart from previous generations of Syrian Muslim women.

Fatima Ghayeh, 16, an aspiring graphic designer and Kaldi's best friend, said she believed that "the older generation," by which she meant <u>women</u> now in their late 20's and 30's, too often allowed their fathers and husbands to dictate their faith to them. They came of age before the Islamic revivalist movement that has swept Syria, she explained, and as a result many of them do not feel an intellectual ownership of Islamic teaching in the same way that their younger sisters do. "The older girls were told, 'This is Islam and so you should do this," Ghayeh said. "They feel that they can't really ask questions.

"It's because 10 years ago Syria was really closed, and there weren't so many Islamic schools. But society has really changed. Today, girls are saying, 'We want to do something with Islam, and for Islam.' We're more active, and we ask questions."

Load-Date: August 29, 2006



<u>Israeli shelling kills 18 Palestinians in Gaza; A leader of Hamas calls for</u> retaliation - Correction Appended

The International Herald Tribune November 9, 2006 Thursday

Correction Appended

Copyright 2006 International Herald Tribune All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 1348 words

Byline: Ian Fisher and Steven Erlanger

Dateline: BEIT HANUN, Gaza

Body

Israeli tank shells killed 18 Palestinians, including 8 children and 6 <u>women</u>, at a cluster of houses here Wednesday, igniting a fury that threatened a steep escalation in violence, with a Hamas leader calling for retaliation against Israel.

In response to one of the largest single losses of life here in years, several top Hamas leaders called for renewed suicide bombings inside Israel, after largely observing a unilateral truce Hamas declared a year and a half ago. Khaled Meshal, leader of Hamas's political bureau and exiled in Syria, said Hamas would answer the deaths with "deeds, not words."

In a statement, Meshal said: "All Palestinian groups are urged to activate resistance despite the difficult situation on the ground. Our confidence in our military wing to respond is great."

Hamas's military wing also said in a statement that the United States should be taught "hard lessons" for supporting Israel. The threat, if vague, marked an unusual escalation for Hamas, an Islamic-based militant group that has pointedly portrayed its fight as against Israel alone. It was immediately disavowed by Ghazi Hamad, the spokesman for the Hamas-led government in Gaza.

Witnesses said that the shelling in this northern Gaza town began about 5:30 a.m., at a cluster of houses belonging to three brothers, one of whom died about a year ago, and dozens of extended family members. Ali Athamnah, 29, a doctor, said he heard the crash of a shell, then glass from the window spattered on his face. He looked down from his second-story balcony and saw one relative, Ahmad, wounded and scores of other family members running outside.

Then the other shells hit, and he did not see the crowd standing anymore.

"They just left they withdrew," he said, walking over puddles filled with blood, spattered human remains and sandals, many belonging to children. "They were gone." Others were reported killed while sleeping in other of the half-dozen houses struck.

"Nothing happened," mumbled Isra Athamnah, 5 years old, pocked with shrapnel wounds and in shock. The news that her widowed mother, Sanaa, 35, was dead, and she was now an orphan, did not sink in.

Others described how a tank shell hit a home, sending scores of sleeping members of the extended Athamnah family outside before dawn. The next volleys struck them crowded in a narrow alley between the houses, dismembering several among the dead, who ranged from less than a year to 70 years old, witnesses said.

World leaders, including at the United Nations, the European Union, Russia, Britain and Italy, condemned the incident. "It is hard to see what this action was meant to achieve and how it can be justified," said Margaret Beckett, the British foreign secretary.

Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, called for restraint by all parties, adding: "We deeply regret the injuries and loss of life in Gaza today. We have seen the Israeli government's apology and hope their investigation will be completed quickly."

The Israelis had pulled out of Beit Hanun on Tuesday morning after a six-day operation in which they effectively occupied the town and fought battles with militants, many of them from Hamas. During that operation, at least 52 Palestinians were killed, some 22 of them believed to be civilians, and one Israeli soldier in an operation Israel said was aimed at stopping Palestinian rocket fire into nearby Israeli towns like Sderot and Ashkelon. Nonetheless, on Wednesday, according to the army, 13 rockets were fired into Israel.

Israeli leaders, already on the defensive over their performance in the war against <u>Hezbollah</u> and the more than 300 Palestinians killed in operations in Gaza since the summer, issued immediate statements of regret. Defense Minister Amir Peretz ordered a halt to artillery attacks in the densely populated Gaza strip carried out to prevent Palestinian fighters from launching rockets into nearby Israeli cities and an immediate investigation into the incident.

The military said it had carried out "preventative" artillery shelling near the area in response to about 10 Qassam rockets fired in the previous 24 hours. The Israeli notion is that shelling open areas will deter Palestinian militants from firing rockets from there, even though the deterrence is not clear and the shells are not uniformly accurate. In this case, the military said in statement, initial reports showed rounds landing "at a location distant from the one reportedly hit."

Both Israeli political and military leaders laid the blame for any deaths on the Palestinian fighters who launch the rockets from civilian areas, then hide among civilians.

This is not the first time that such Israeli shelling has gone awry, hitting houses in Beit Hanun and nearby Beit Lahiya, and killing or wounding those inside or nearby and emboldening extremists on all sides. And it is not the first time, in what has come to seem like a tragic and fated script, that errant rounds have led to a halt or delay in efforts to find new paths of dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians, and among the Palestinian factions themselves.

The Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, and the prime minister, Ismail Haniya of Hamas, both of whom gave blood for the victims and visited them in hospitals, have been engaged in two days of supposedly climatic negotiations to agree on a new Palestinian government to replace the one run by Hamas and isolated internationally.

The intention is to have a government of "national unity" made up of experts and technocrats approved by the varying parties, in the hope that Western aid and Palestinian tax money will again begin to flow to a Palestinian Authority that has been unable to pay full salaries for nine months.

The idea was also to have the new government release an Israeli soldier captured on June 25, which would prompt an Israeli release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and a long-delayed meeting between Abbas and the Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert.

But this latest shelling, on top of the Beit Hanun operation that both Abbas and Haniya had already called a "massacre," caused them to cancel their negotiations for at least three days of official mourning in the Palestinian Authority. Haniya reportedly demanded the pause; Abbas conceded.

If Hamas follows through on calls to resume suicide bombings inside Israel, the whole plan may once again collapse, leaving Israel and the Palestinians in a condition of further violent confrontation with no clear political path.

In June, there was a similar cycle of violence that followed another apparently errant Israeli shelling that killed Palestinian civilians, including seven members of a single family, the Ghaliyas, enjoying a day at the beach. The Israelis said they were shelling areas where rocket teams had fired into Israel, and they denied having fired the particular shell that killed the family.

But no Palestinian believed the Israeli denial, and there was never any conclusive alternative explanation. The Ghaliyas became famous martyrs, and the military wing of Hamas announced that it was ending the cease-fire against Israel. The Hamas government belatedly went along, and Hamas started firing rockets again toward Israel, instead of simply supplying them to others.

More importantly, the Hamas military wing participated in the capture of the Israeli soldier, Corporal Gilad Shalit, later in June, precipitating the current political crisis that surrounded and has outlasted Israel's summer war against *Hezbollah* in Lebanon.

Calling Wednesday a "black day," Abbas announced the three days of mourning and condemned the Israeli attacks as disproportionately harsh compared to the damage caused by the Palestinian rockets, which he said he also opposed.

"I don't believe in the rockets but their reactions cannot be justified," he told reporters in Gaza. "We totally condemn the international silence and any acts that can be used as justification for their Israeli massacres."

lan Fisher reported from Beit Hanun and Steven Erlanger from Jerusalem. Taghreed El-Khodary contributed from Gaza.

Correction

An article Nov. 9 about an Israeli military attack in the Gaza town of Beit Hanoun that killed 18 Palestinians misstated the type of munitions used. They were artillery shells, not tank shells.

Correction-Date: November 17, 2006

Load-Date: November 17, 2006



The woman who has to get Bush out of his tangles

The Times (London)
October 14, 2006, Saturday

Copyright 2006 Times Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 52

Length: 1270 words

Byline: Gerard Baker, US Editor

Body

With the Republicans reeling and Bush under pressure over Iraq, North Korea and the Middle East, Condoleezza Rice tells Gerard Baker, US Editor, things are not as bad as they are painted.

ALREADY beset by a long and demoralising war in Iraq and a steep decline in its prestige around the world, the US confronted a new and frighteningly unpredictable challenge to its global power this week.

North Korea's claim of a nuclear weapons test cast doubt on the credibility of a Bush Administration that once vowed to stop the "world's worst dictators from acquiring the world's worst weapons". President Bush was assailed at home and abroad after the test for having attacked the wrong country -lraq -in 2003 and allowing the North Koreans to develop the bomb. Meanwhile, that other founder member of the Axis of Evil, Iran, continues to defy US efforts to stop it joining the nuclear club.

The task of unravelling the various Gordian knots into which the Administration seems to have tied itself falls to Condoleezza Rice, the Secretary of State. Dr Rice returned this week from her first lengthy trip to the Middle East since the war in Lebanon in the summer -another area where US policy seems troublingly ineffective -and walked straight into the spinning propeller of the North Korea crisis.

But if she was feeling the heat from running a foreign policy that is evidently close to boiling point, she showed no signs of it when I sat down with her in her elegantly panelled offices on the seventh floor of the State Department.

The Secretary acknowledges that what unites so many of the challenges that now confront the US is a widespread alarm in the world at American intentions and Washington's effect on global stability. What has concerned people, she believes, is a sense that the US has moved too fast and has destabilised the Middle East.

It's an understandable concern given what has happened in Iraq and elsewhere, but Dr Rice says that it is based on an unreasonable reading of recent Middle East history.

When people say life is worse in the Middle East today, she asks: "Was it better when Lebanon was occupied by Syrian forces? Was it better when Saddam Hussein ruled Iraq and invaded two other countries? Was it better in 1979 when Iranian students held Americans hostage in Teheran for 444 days? Better when Yassir Arafat led the second intifada in the Palestinian territories? Sometimes I sit in wonderment at what we are supposed to have destabilised."

Yet it is clear that Dr Rice has spent most of her two years at the State Department trying to clean up some of the debris that was produced by the brusque diplomatic style of the first Bush term.

The woman who has to get Bush out of his tangles

She has, more or less single-handedly, altered fundamentally the emphasis of Bush policy, spearheading efforts to produce multilateral, co-operative solutions to crises with America's allies.

This approach was illustrated again with North Korea. She was at pains to point out that the US had no intention of attacking North Korea. Dr Rice and her team, in fact, have spent much of the past week in intense negotiations with other members of the United Nations Security Council to try to get "sanctions that matter". Senior American officials expressed confidence privately that a UN agreement on measures would be achieved within days.

But the US is still under pressure this week from critics who say the refusal to negotiate directly with North Korea sets back any prospect of a lasting settlement. On Wednesday Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, called on President Bush to agree to direct bilateral discussions. In Dr Rice's view, however, this is a red herring. She insists that the reason Kim Jong II is urging bilateral discussions has nothing to do with any specific commitment he might be prepared to offer the US. She said this week: "If he wants a bilateral deal it is because he doesn't want to face the pressure of other states that have leverage. It's not because he wants a bilateral deal with the United States. He doesn't want to face the leverage of China or South Korea or others."

In the Middle East Dr Rice senses from her trip last week a significant change in sentiment in many states in the region since the Israel-<u>Hezbollah</u> conflict. Senior European diplomats say that they have detected a shift in American policy as a result of the war -an awareness that the US must do more to promote a peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

But if anything, the message Dr Rice seemed to draw from her trip is that the Arab countries in the region have viewed with alarm the rise of Iran -abetted by its support for <u>Hezbollah</u> against Israel -which they see as a troubling potential shift in the strategic balance.

This may augur better for efforts to isolate Iran than it does for any new breakthrough on peace between Israel and the Palestinians, though Dr Rice insists that the US is still pursuing a peace settlement, in spite of the stance of Hamas in the territories.

One result of the recent diplomacy may be the engagement of more of Iraq's neighbours in efforts to stabilise the country. But that is unlikely to be anywhere near enough. With Democrats looking increasingly likely to take control of Congress in next month's mid-term elections, and with the British military now apparently in open revolt against the Government's policies, as evidenced by the remarkable outburst by General Sir Richard Dannatt, Chief of the General Staff, all eyes are on a possible US-led exit plan.

James Baker, the former Secretary of State, has been heading a bipartisan commission charged with coming up with recommendations for a new path in (and presumably out of) Iraq. One foreign policy specialist involved in the Baker effort said this week that it was almost certain that it would end up recommending engagement with America's enemies and adversaries -not only the insurgents in Iraq but also the Syrian and Iranian regimes. The Secretary of State is careful not to rule that out. Indeed, she points out that there have been various discussions between the US and Syria and between Iraqi leaders and insurgents.

And earlier this year Zalmay Khalilzad, the US Ambassador to Baghdad, was scheduled to hold discussions with representatives of the Iranian Government. The US has become increasingly concerned at the extent of Iranian interference in Iraqi politics and in Iraq's security, and wanted some form of political dialogue.

But shortly before the talks were due to take place in Baghdad the Iranians withdrew unexpectedly. Dr Rice has also said that the US and Iran could hold their first face-to-face talks in 27 years if Tehran is prepared to meet its obligations over its burgeoning nuclear programme.

Dr Rice is confident that transatlantic relations will withstand not only the present tensions but also whatever political transitions there may be on both sides of the Atlantic.

The woman who has to get Bush out of his tangles

She declines diplomatically to comment on imminent changes at the top in Britain, though biographers might wish to note that, while she has been politically close to Tony Blair, she has at least one thing in common with Gordon Brown. They are both the children of ministers of religion.

One political change will not be happening, she says wearily, yet again: there will be no Condoleezza Rice presidential campaign in 2008. And she insists that the current strength of anti-US opinion needs to be placed in some historic perspective. "I remember the Reagan Administration. I can remember back in the 1980s when **women** were chaining themselves to the gates of Greenham Common. People thought Ronald Reagan was going to cause a nuclear war. Nobody thinks that today."

Load-Date: October 14, 2006



Daily Mail (London)

August 1, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 Associated Newspapers Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Section: ED SC1; Pg. 48

Length: 1288 words

Body

Bra bully

FUNNY how two accounts of the same incident can differ. In one, a misunderstood, high-achieving child from a middleclass two-parent family innocently pings the bra strap of a pupil and is arrested (Mail).

In the other, it wasn't a bra strap but the front underwiring, the better to humiliate the other child by - making tissue paper fall out in front of everyone else in class.

So is this a poor misunderstood child or a spiteful little bully starved of attention because the parents are too busy working and doing their DIY on a Saturday to instill a few real values?

I notice the father couldn't resist claiming the victim had a 'history of absenteeism'. Perhaps his daughter and her gang have made the child afraid to go to school?

My daughter's life was made a misery at her independent school by highachieving middle- class pupils with professional parents. It's not difficult to see the other side of this ugly story and I'm glad the victim's parents were robust enough to stand up for their daughter.

Hopefully this girl now realises the bras of other *females* are off-limits. A valuable lesson for later life, I should think.

Name and address supplied.

A wonderful life

DESPITE all its problems, what a wonderful country we live in (especially the bit north of Hadrian's Wall).

Imagine it: there's a knock on your door and you answer it to find a distinguished looking chap standing there.

'Excuse me, old chap, I'm Rear Admiral Tim Laurence. I have Her Majesty the Queen down on the beach and we were wondering whether you might be so kind as to shuttle her around the island a bit before we throw a few shrimps on the barbecue for lunch?' This and the story of the shopkeeper on Gigha made me smile and feel all was right in this corner of the world.

Now imagine this: you're in your summer cottage on an island off the coast of Maine, U.S. Suddenly a helicopter swoops low over your house. You look outside and see sinister, black-clad assault teams sliding down ropes from the hovering chopper.

They take up defensive positions, forming a perimeter around you, brandishing automatic weapons. Their leader, his face smeared in camouflage greasepaint declares: 'Sir, we are commandeering your house as an operations centre for the afternoon while the President has a barbecue on your beach.

'You will be escorted to town and allowed back once he has left. We thank you for your co-operation.' JOHN McGILL, Dumfries.

BBC luxury

OLYMPICS, tennis, football and now the Lebanon conflict - another excuse for the BBC to send reporters, camera crews, correspondents and news readers to every town and village (as long as they have a good hotel) in the area.

They even interview each other when the main news has already been reported by another of their colleagues.

It would be interesting to know how these choice postings are allocated.

M. BLAIR, Old Kilpatrick, Strathclyde.

National

I'M GETTING sick of the 'bring back National Service' types. They seem to airbrush out the fact that it was abolished by a Tory government, at the behest of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, because it was militarily useless.

Joining the British workforce in the Seventies, you could spot the former conscripts a mile off. They'd be the professional skivers, the shirkers, the ones working the system - the way they'd learned to in the Forces.

National Service gave us many things: the sicknote culture, the don'tblameme mentality and a generation of barrack room lawyers.

K. CHISHOLM, Oban.

Islamic punishment

ONE particular example of injustice faced by Christians who have converted from a Muslim background is the issue of the Islamic apostasy law.

In traditional Islamic law, sane Muslim men who choose to adopt another belief and refuse to return to Islam should be put to death.

Some schools of Islam teach that this should be applied to **women** as well.

Other punishments include marriage annulment, removal of children and loss of all property and inheritance rights.

There are several references to apostasy from Islam in the Quran. However, none specifies whether punishment will occur in the afterlife, or whether it is to be carried out by the Muslim faithful before death. Neither do they specify exactly what the punishment will be.

CHARLES KNOX, Arbroath.

Hear our voice

I'D LIKE to mention my great despair at the media. We have a renowned Christian festival in Keswick with thousands flocking to the area to listen to Christian speakers and to praise God.

Why, in a supposedly Christian country, have we had no media reporting on this? This should, and hopefully will, be rectified soon. Otherwise Christians in Britain will feel they are being forgotten altogether and dismissed.

J. CARTER, Dumfries.

Voice of our own

THE present international crisis is unavoidable when there are two countries in the UN which consistently ignore international law.

Israel seems to think it can bomb civilians, journalists and even official UN representatives with impunity.

This arrogance can be traced back to its decision to assassinate suspected terrorists without any attempt to bring them to trial. This has now been extended to everyone who lives outside its borders.

Britain's silence on this issue, and the Bush administration's torture of suspects in Cuba without regard to the Geneva Convention has embarrassed the international community and made absurd the idea of international human rights.

If certain countries can completely ignore international law, what is the point of the United Nations? And if Britain backs every move by the U.S.

and Israel irrespective of its legality, what is the point of Scotland being represented by Britain?

In Scotland most people would not agree with the U.S. interfering in the Middle East. We would not agree with a carte blanche approach to Israel and most people would want an immediate end to these hostilities.

Unfortunately, it is obvious Scotland's distinctive international voice will never be heard as long as it tied up with America's client state in Europe, the UK, and figures such as Tony Blair and David Cameron.

It's time for independence and it's time for our own voice to be heard on the international stage.

JOE MIDDLETON, Edinburgh.

Ashamed of my heritage

I'M ASHAMED to be Jewish - there, I've said it. Once I'd stand my corner against anyone daft enough to criticise me or mine, nip it in the bud before it got out of hand and we all ended up in cattle trucks again.

Even the tolerant British banned Jews from mainstream life in the Middle Ages and some 114 of them were burned to death in York. My time in the Army was spent with one eye looking out for uneducated fools, from privates to officers, who had it in for me, the only Jewish lad in the regiment.

The tiny Palestine homeland which in 1947 became the state of Israel thrived as Jews from all over the world helped to make it a haven for all. But its government got greedy, annexed the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and, quite rightly, the local dispossessed Arabs were angry and resentful.

Now the overreaction of the government and the military has led to the killing of civilians and the breakdown of law and order in the Middle East.

Bush and Blair are part of the cause: I'm ashamed to be Jewish - and to be part of Blair's England.

A. D. LEVY, Wolverhampton.

Underhand *Hezbollah*

ACKNOWLEDGED rules of engagement become meaningless when the aggressors hide in bedrooms, dining rooms, kitchens and basements and rocket launch pads are installed below blocks of flats, schools and clinics where people go about their daily activities.

Why have thousands of missiles been installed in domestic settings? What is their purpose? Israel must defend itself and neutralise these weapons.

The moral responsibility for Israel's military action rests with $\underline{\textit{Hezbollah}}$ for

Load-Date: August 3, 2006



Weighing the threat of an Islamic A-bomb; Would an apocalypse be embraced?

The International Herald Tribune
October 28, 2006 Saturday

Copyright 2006 International Herald Tribune All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1 **Length:** 2166 words

Byline: Noah Feldman **Dateline:** NEW YORK

Body

For nearly 50 years, worries about a nuclear Middle East centered on Israel. Arab leaders resented the fact that Israel was the only atomic power in the region, a resentment heightened by America's tacit approval of the situation.

But they were also pretty certain that Israel, which has never explicitly acknowledged having nuclear weapons, would not drop the bomb except as a very last resort. That is why Egypt and Syria were unafraid to attack Israel during the October 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Today the nuclear game in the region has changed. When the Arab League's secretary general, Amr Moussa, called for "a Middle East free of nuclear weapons" in May, it was not Israel that prompted his remarks. He was worried about Iran, whose self-declared ambition to become a nuclear power has been steadily approaching realization.

The anti-Israel statements of the Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, coupled with Iran's support for <u>Hezbollah</u> and Hamas, might lead one to think that the Arab states would welcome Iran's nuclear program. After all, the call to wipe the Zionist regime from the map is a longstanding cliche of Arab nationalist rhetoric.

But the interests of Shiite non-Arab Iran do not always coincide with those of Arab leaders. A nuclear Iran means, at the very least, a realignment of power dynamics in the Gulf. It could potentially mean much more: a historic shift in the position of the long-subordinated Shiite minority relative to the power and prestige of the Sunni majority, which traditionally has dominated the Muslim world.

Many Arab Sunnis fear that the moment is ripe for a Shiite rise. Iraq's Shiite majority has been asserting the right to govern, and the lesson has not been lost on the Shiite majority in Bahrain and the large minorities in Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. King Abdullah of Jordan has warned of a "Shiite crescent" of power stretching from Iran to Lebanon via Iraq and, by proxy, Syria.

But geopolitics is not the only reason Sunni Arab leaders are rattled by the prospect of a nuclear Iran. They also seem to worry that Iran might actually use nuclear weapons if it gets them.

A nuclear attack on Israel would engulf the whole region. But that is not the sole danger: Sunnis in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere fear that the Iranians might just use a nuclear bomb against them.

Even as Iran's defiance of the United States and Israel wins support among some Sunnis, extremist Sunnis have been engaging in the act of takfir, condemning all Shiites as infidels. On the ground in Iraq, Sunni takfiris are putting this theory into practice, aiming at Shiite civilians and killing them indiscriminately. Shiite militias have been responding in kind, and massacres of Sunni civilians are no longer rare.

Adding the nuclear ingredient to this volatile mix will certainly produce an arms race. If Iran is going to get the bomb, its neighbors will have no choice but to keep up. North Korea, now protected by its own bomb, has threatened proliferation and in the Middle East it would find a number of willing buyers.

Small principalities with huge U.S. Air Force bases, like Qatar, might choose to rely on an American protective umbrella. But Saudi Arabia, which has always seen Iran as a threatening competitor, will not be willing to place its nuclear security entirely in American hands.

Once the Saudis are in the hunt, Egypt will need nuclear weapons to maintain its relevance in the regional power balance and sure enough, last month Gamal Mubarak, the second son of President Hosni Mubarak and Egypt's heir apparent, very publicly announced that Egypt should pursue a nuclear program.

Given the increasing instability of the Middle East, nuclear proliferation there is more worrisome than almost anywhere else on earth. As nuclear technology spreads, terrorists will enjoy increasing odds of getting their hands on nuclear weapons.

States including North Korea might sell bombs or give them to favored proxy allies, the way Iran gave <u>Hezbollah</u> medium-range rockets that <u>Hezbollah</u> used this summer during its war with Israel. Bombing through an intermediary has its advantages: Deniability is, after all, the name of the game for a government trying to avoid nuclear retaliation.

Proliferation could also happen in other ways. Imagine a succession crisis in which the Saudi government fragments and control over nuclear weapons, should the Saudis have acquired them, falls into the hands of Saudi elites who are sympathetic to Osama bin Laden, or at least to his ideas.

Or Al Qaeda itself could purchase ready-made bombs, a feat technically much less difficult than designing nuclear weapons from scratch.

So far, there are few nuclear powers from whom such bombs can be directly bought: As of today, only nine nations belong to the so-called nuclear club. But as more countries get the bomb, tracing the seller will become harder and harder, and the incentive to make a sale will increase.

The prospect of not just one Islamic bomb, but many, inevitably concentrates the mind on how Muslims whether Shiite or Sunni might use their nuclear weapons.

In the mid-1980s, when Pakistan became the first Islamic state to go nuclear, it was still possible to avoid the awkward question of whether something distinctive about Islamic belief or practice made possession of nuclear technology especially worrisome. Most observers assumed that Islamic states could be deterred from using nuclear force just like other states: by the threat of massive retaliation. In the past two decades, however, the way violence is discussed and deployed in the Muslim world has profoundly changed, particularly with the rise of suicide bombing.

In historic terms, this development is new and unexpected. Suicide bombing has no traditional basis in Islam. It became a tool of modern terrorist warfare only in 1983, when Shiite militants blew up the U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon.

What makes suicide bombing especially relevant to the nuclear question is that, by design, it unsettles the theory of deterrence. When the suicide bomber dies in an attack, he means to send the message "You cannot stop me, because I am already willing to die."

To make the challenge to deterrence even more stark, a suicide bomber who blows up a market or a funeral gathering in Iraq or Afghanistan is willing to kill innocent bystanders, including fellow Muslims. According to the prevailing ideology of suicide bombing, these victims are subjected to an involuntary martyrdom that is no less glorious for being unintentional.

If an Islamic state or Islamic terrorists used nuclear weapons against Israel, the United States or other Western targets, like London or Madrid, the retaliation would cost the lives of thousands and maybe millions of Muslims.

But following the logic of suicide bombing, the original bomber might reason that those Muslims would die in God's grace and that others would live on to fight the jihad. No state in the Muslim world has openly embraced such a view. But after 9/11, the possibility can no longer be treated as fanciful.

We urgently need to know, then, what Islamic traditions might say about the bomb. Of course, there is no single answer to this question. Nevertheless, contemporary Muslims are engaged in interpreting their tradition to ascertain how and when nuclear power may be used. Their writings, contained in fatwas and treatises that can be found on the Web and in print, tell a fascinating and disturbing story.

The last two decades have seen a challenge to the Islamic tradition of warfare under law, a challenge driven mostly by the attempt to justify suicide bombing despite its evident inconsistency with Islamic tradition, including the principle of protecting **women**, children and fellow Muslims.

The reaction to 9/11, which has, so far, been the high-water mark of suicide bombing, illustrates the difficulty of reconciling suicide bombing with Islamic law. The 9/11 attacks were certain to kill and did kill <u>women</u>, and Muslims, all in direct contravention of classical jihad principles. Since the whole point of 9/11 was to announce and embody jihad on the international stage, the attacks quickly became the centerpiece of a high-stakes debate about whether they qualified as legitimate acts of jihad.

The position of the Muslim scholars and observers who condemned the 9/11 attacks was simple and consistent across the Sunni-Shiite divide: This was not jihad but an unlawful use of violence.

As for bin Laden, his thought had developed gradually. In early pronouncements, before 9/11, he spoke as if the killing of <u>women</u> and children was inherently an atrocity. After 9/11, however, bin Laden began to suggest that American civilians were fair game.

In Saudi Arabia in particular, radical Muslim scholars with much more learning than bin Laden have sought to develop legally persuasive justifications for civilian killings. Probably the most sophisticated effort from a legal standpoint is a document titled "A Treatise on the Law of the Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction Against the Unbelievers," written in 2003 by a Saudi dissident named Sheik Nasir bin Hamad al-Fahd. Fahd, a theorist rather than an activist, is currently back in prison, as he has been off and on for almost a decade.

The treatise begins with the assumption that the world's Muslims are under attack. But how are today's Muslims supposed to defend themselves, given their military inferiority? Fahd's response is that, if they have no other choice, they may use any means necessary including methods that would otherwise violate the laws of jihad. "If the unbelievers can be repelled" only by using weapons of mass destruction, then "their use is permissible, even if you kill them without exception."

Lest his argument prove too much, Fahd tempers it by the claim that the Muslims fighting the jihad may not inflict disproportionately more harm on the enemy than the enemy has inflicted on them. That raises the question of the extent of American guilt.

"Some Brothers have added up the number of Muslims killed directly or indirectly by [American] weapons and come up with a figure of nearly 10 million," the treatise states. This total, Fahd concludes, would authorize the use of weapons of mass destruction to kill 10 million Americans.

But would an Islamic state be prepared to take the jihad to the enemy even if it would result in what amounts to collective suicide through the destruction of the state and its citizens? If the leaders of Iran or some future leaders of

a radicalized, nuclear Saudi Arabia shared the aspiration to martyrdom of so many young jihadis around the world, might they be prepared to attack Israel or the United States, even if the inevitable result were the martyrdom of their entire people?

The answer depends to a large degree on whether you consider Islam susceptible to the kind of apocalyptic, millennial thought that might lead whole peoples, rather than just individuals, into suicidal behavior.

It is important to note that for all his talk of the war between civilizations, bin Laden has never spoken of the End of Days. For him, the battle between the Muslims and the infidels is part of earthly human life, and has indeed been with us since the days of the prophet himself. Even he might not be prepared to unleash a global nuclear conflagration on the expectation that a better order would emerge once many millions of Muslims and infidels died.

With respect to Shiite eschatology, there is greater reason for concern. Iran's Shiism is of the "Twelver" variety, so called because the 12th imam in the line of succession from the prophet disappeared into a state of occultation or being hidden from which he is expected to return as the mahdi, or guided one. The mahdi's appearance will usher in a golden age of justice and peace to be followed by the Day of Judgment.

Moktada al-Sadr's Shiite militia in Iraq is called Mahdi Army. Recently, Ahmadinejad contributed to renewed focus on the mahdi, by saying publicly that the mission of the Islamic revolution in Iran was to pave the way for the mahdi's return, and by visiting the mosque at Jamkaran, on the outskirts of Qom, where, according to one tradition, the vanished imam was last seen. Some reports suggest that youth religion in Iran increasingly focuses on venerating the vanished imam.

Yet although a renewed Shiite messianism does create some cause for concern about the potential uses of an Iranian bomb in particular because it suggests that Ahmadinejad may be more a utopian than a realist it is almost certainly a mistake to anticipate that Iran would use its nuclear power in a way that would provoke large-scale retaliation and assured self-destruction.

Ahmadinejad surely understands the consequences of using a nuclear bomb, and Shiite Islam, even in its messianic incarnation, still falls short of inviting nuclear retaliation and engendering collective suicide.

Noah Feldman is a law professor at New York University and adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Load-Date: November 8, 2006



Laughter amid the tears; Even in the blood-soaked Middle East, Arab media outlets use comedy shows and SNL-like skits to give viewers the lighter side of the news. In a region not known for free speech, humor is often the instrument for a truthful -- and cathartic -- dialogue.

USA TODAY March 29, 2007 Thursday FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2007 Gannett Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 11A

Length: 1969 words

Byline: Souheila Al-Jadda

Body

The Middle East is embroiled in wars, power struggles and conflicts from Iraq to Lebanon to Israel and the Palestinian territories. Nothing is going right in the region, or so it seems.

Such troubles bring to mind a popular Arabic proverb: "When problems get so bad, they become funny."

Arab media outlets take the proverb one step further, increasingly using satire and humor to help people cope with the harsh realities on the ground while sending blatant and sometimes provocative political messages to captive audiences.

Though humor and satire are a staple of Western cultures, there is often the misguided assumption in the West that on the other side of the world -- particularly in war-stricken lands -- humor is a foreigner. A scan of Arab television, however, proves otherwise.

Outbreaks of humor

In Lebanon, for instance, sectarian and political tensions are high in a country with 17 official religious sects. Late last year, in the wake of the Israel-Lebanon conflict, members of the opposition party <u>Hezbollah</u> began holding an open-ended protest in a bid to bring down the current Lebanese government.

Enter La Youmal (Arabic for "Not Boring"), a popular Lebanese comedy that airs on Future TV. The show recently featured a skit mocking these protests.

In the scene, two crowds of protesters are yelling at each other. One group, led by a man, is carrying bright yellow *Hezbollah* flags and chanting, "We will make the government collapse." The other group, led by a woman, is carrying Lebanese flags and chanting, "You will not." Finally, the man -- who it turns out was recently married to the woman -- declares, "It's 2:30 already. What did you make for lunch?" She responds with the menu, and the newlyweds head off together, leaving the protesters in their wake. The humor is clear, yet the message is important: Despite their differences, at the end of the day the Lebanese people are one family.

As ongoing political and sectarian strife become more violent in Lebanon, the Palestinian territories and Iraq, more messages of unity such as this one are desperately needed, even if they come in the form of satire -- a safe way of poking fun at the very sources of these divisions.

The Lebanese advertising company 05amam sees a business opportunity as well as a social one. As part of a public awareness campaign to make light of group divisions, one of the agency's street signs says, "Parking for Maronites Only." Maronites are a Christian sect in Lebanon. Other signs might say, "Parking for Druze Only." And on and on. 05amam also distributes humorous signs, pamphlets and other paraphernalia to promote tolerance and coexistence.

"By laughing, it might unite us," Khodar Maccaoui, 05amam's vice president, told Future TV. "We don't think that this campaign is going to eradicate sectarianism in Lebanon or make it disappear. ... The objective is to show people that if you are Shiite, Sunni, Maronite or Orthodox, we are all Lebanese."

A societal glue

In the Arab world, people's life stories are often shaped by outside forces well beyond their control: authoritarian regimes, violent conflicts, political turmoil and daily life struggles as a result of difficult economic conditions. That these people have endured is a testimony to their resiliency, which is fueled by family ties, love, faith and optimism. So what's the glue that keeps all of these pieces together? Humor.

Another weekly parody show, CBM, which airs on Saudi-funded MBC TV, is the Arab equivalent of Saturday Night Live. The show, which has a multinational cast, presents satirical skits, including ones that tackle regional and international politics. Just as SNL takes pointed shots at the powers that be, CBM is not shy about telling it like it is.

In one episode, a fortuneteller predicts what will happen in the future. "George W. Bush will give 217 speeches," she says. "And he will repeat the same thing over and over and over. America will use its veto power in the U.N. four or five times and continue to pursue North Korea and Iran over nuclear weapons."

As for the Arab world?

She says, "2007 will be exactly like 2006. Just like 2006 was exactly like 2005, and 2005 was exactly like 2004. Actually, the Middle East will remain the same for the next 30 years. You don't need a fortuneteller to tell you that!"

Arab humor often uses comedy templates created in America. Virtually every episode of CBM spoofs an Arab pop song and video, just as "Weird Al" Yankovic has lampooned American music artists. Last year, Iraqis debuted a parody news show, Hurry Up, He's Dead. CBM also performs a short version of a satirical newscast much like Jon Stewart's The Daily Show.

In one scene, a correspondent wearing a large Afro wig interviews a wailing Iraqi woman dressed in black whose husband mysteriously died moments after he entered his room.

Reporter: "Was he killed by a car bomb inside his room?"

Widow: "No. He died mysteriously. That would have been better; at least I would have known what killed him."

Reporter: "Did unidentified assailants assassinate him?"

Widow: "No. No. ..."

Reporter: "Was he mistakenly killed by American gunfire?"

Widow: "No. ..."

Reporter: "Were there signs on his neck indicating that he had been kidnapped and slaughtered like a lamb?"

Widow: "... No. No. That didn't happen."

Reporter: "Do you think he died from an aneurism or a heart attack?"

Widow: "Now, that is what's confusing me. It seems that this is how he died. He died very mysteriously."

Reporter: "... It appears that Taymour Al-Baghdadi died of natural causes. But what is the secret behind the fact that he did not die like all other Iraqis? What were the mysterious conditions that allowed him to die differently from other people in Iraq? These questions are confounding observers and investigators."

Though this portrayal of Iraq might be viewed as dark or even cynical, it's reality for many. According to the United Nations, more than 34,000 Iraqi civilians were killed in sectarian violence last year. So there's no need to explain the punch line. And make no mistake, there are tears along with the laughter.

Bitter truths

In another scene, a male advice columnist receives a call from someone claiming to be U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. She asks him how to get the Arab people to like her. He lists off some 20 suggestions, including changing her foreign policy, her hair, makeup and the way she dresses, among other things.

Then she asks, "If I do all that, then will the Arab people like me?"

He replies, "Actually, no. No matter what you do, the Arab people will never like you!"

Behind every joke lies a hint of truth. After all, these days humor and satire are the least threatening ways to speak the truth, especially in a region where free speech is curtailed and the consequences of saying such truths can mean harassment, jail or even death.

While these shows are pushing the envelope of speech, they rarely spoof Arab leaders by name, sticking with the generic leader dressed in military fatigues or a neatly pressed suit. For example, a long-time Syrian comedy program, Maraya, uses satire to criticize the government for its inefficiency and corruption, but you won't hear President Bashar Assad or other top officials mentioned specifically.

The success of these types of shows also relies on something very familiar to those in Hollywood: ratings. So to satisfy the audience's appetite for laughter, Arab TV shows rely on well-honed tricks of the trade: over-the-top characters and exaggerated storylines. Yet these shows always manage to find that kernel of truth, that common experience that speaks to an audience of millions with a knowing wink and a nod.

If people in the Middle East can learn to look at the current social strife through the lens of humor and satire, perhaps these difficult times won't seem quite as dark -- or hopeless. And perhaps one day, the region's tears of despair will become tears of laughter.

Souheila Al-Jadda is associate producer of a Peabody award-winning show, Mosaic: World News from the Middle East, on Link TV. She's also a member of USA TODAY's board of contributors.

Role reversal

In a recent CBM show on Saudi-funded MBC TV, a couple sitting in their living room talked about men getting the right to drive -- a play on the fact that **women** are not allowed to drive in Saudi Arabia:

Husband: Here is your tea, the one you ordered.

Wife: God willing, you made it right, and not black like your face, as usual.

Husband: No, I made it blacker than my face.

Wife: Now, we'll see. Well, it's OK, it's acceptable.

Husband: Zahra, I want to tell you something.

Wife: Well, say it!

Husband: (stuttering) Well ... uhhhh.

Wife: As long as you are stuttering like this -- typical of men -- then for sure you're going to ask for something. Say it and get it over with.

Husband: Zahra, my dear, did you read the news in the paper today?

Wife: I read it. Can you believe it? It is the end of days when men are driving cars like women. May God protect us.

Husband: Why, why? Isn't this one of our rights, as men?

Wife: One of your rights? It seems you want to go cruising the streets, going from mall to mall and cafe to cafe -- going about wherever you want, just like **women**.

Husband: No, Zahra, that's not what I meant.

Wife: What did you mean?

Husband: You know, you drive and go out with your friends. And I am here at home. What if one of the kids got sick? I have to take them to the hospital. What if I need something? I am imprisoned inside the house.

Wife: And what about the female driver I hired?

Husband: I have a driver. But everyday she takes the car and goes out with her friends driving in the Sinayeea area.

Wife: May God forgive you, Oh Minister, for this legislation you introduced. Who's going to save us from these men?

Husband: Zahra, what kind of car do you intend to buy me?

Wife: Enough! You're bothering me. You're giving me a headache. What's wrong with you? What's with the complaining? A woman can't relax in her home. I am better off going out with my girlfriends. I need you out of my face. Go and clean the kitchen.

Husband: This society, this *female* society is oppressive. When are we ever going to get rid of you?

Popular Arab comedies

La Youmal (Not Boring), Future TV: A popular sitcom show that includes an all-star Lebanese cast. The show uses humor and satire to highlight social, political and diplomatic difficulties.

Maraya (Mirrors), Syria TV: A longtime sitcom that has included some of Syria's most famous comedians, including Yaser Al-Athmeh. Maraya often tackles political, economic and social problems in Syria. The late Syrian president Hafez Assad, who was known to suppress public criticism of the government, is said to have liked the program.

Tash Ma Tash, Saudi TV: This long-running Saudi comedy show often uses satire to critique social problems in the Saudi kingdom, including religious extremism and terrorism. The show has caused controversy at times. The program once provoked senior Saudi religious clerics, or sheiks, to issue a fatwa (religious edict) deeming it sinful to watch.

CBM, MBC TV: The equivalent of Saturday Night Live, except that this show is recorded and then aired. The program showcases skits, satirical newscasts and song parodies. It boasts an international cast, hailing from Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt, among others. Also like SNL, famous actors and singers appear on the program.

Basmat Watan (Nation's Smiles), LBC TV: This popular comedy and variety program has long been a part of the Lebanese television diet. The program sparked controversy last year when it spoofed <u>Hezbollah</u> leader Hassan Nasrallah in the weeks leading up to the Israel-Lebanon conflict. The Shiite leader's supporters protested the characterization by rioting in the streets. The producer of the show later apologized.

Graphic

PHOTOS, B/W, MBC TV (3)

PHOTO, B/W, CBM, MBC TV

Load-Date: March 29, 2007



Something old, something new

Guardian.com August 18, 2006

Copyright 2006 Guardian Unlimited (© Guardian Newspapers Limited) All rights reserved

theguardian

Length: 1067 words

Highlight: Pakistan's oldest religious party aims to harness rationalism and democracy in the creation of an Islamic

state, hears Randeep Ramesh.

Body

In a poorer, shabbier suburb of Lahore, Pakistan's second biggest city, far from the smooth motorways and glitzy restaurants is the sparse environment of the headquarters of Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan's oldest religious party.

While outside lies the chaos of modern-day south Asia, with bullock carts jostling for space with buses whose horns blare aggressively, inside Mansoora all is calm. <u>Women</u> covered in burkas stroll with their children; the azan, or Muslim call to prayer, sees men gather in the mosque.

Mansoora was built and is run by Jamaat, a party that openly seeks a moral and social "Islamic" transformation of Pakistan. The radical scholar Maulana abu Ala Maududi, who can accurately be described as one of revivalist Islam's most influential thinkers, founded the party in 1941.

Maulana Maududi died almost four decades later with his dream of an Islamic state in Pakistan unfulfilled. Yet Jamaat transformed the country. Its student wing has made inroads into universities, its mosques have mushroomed across Pakistan and the party runs more than 500 madrasas.

The party's appeal, apart from muscle power that has been used to intimidate secular voices, lies in Maulana Maududi's vision of Islamic modernity. Jamaat emphasises rejecting western culture and intellectual domination by appropriating modern ideas of rational progress.

Economics, history and politics are all part of the syllabus for Jamaat's students. Although the party attracts a certain amount of lumpen cadre, its leadership is scholarly.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad, the emir or prince of Jamaat, is a small man with a neat beard. Over cups of tea and sweet biscuits, he affably discusses the place of Islam and his own organisation within, and without, Pakistan.

Although Jamaat has ties to parts of the army, the emir says that the Pakistani president, Pervez Musharraf, who took power in a military coup seven years ago, is a "dictator". Jamaat does contest elections - with limited parliamentary success. Its main demand at present is that General Musharraf should hang up the khaki if he wants to participate in next year's polls.

Given that the president is considered a liberal, the media is unshackled and political parties are free to organise and criticise in Pakistan, is this verdict not a bit harsh?

Something old, something new

No, replies Jamaat's leader. Gen Musharraf is running a "total dictatorship" where people are locked up without charge.

"It is not Jamaat people, but we know people who have been targeted," he says. "We are mobilising people against the military dictatorship because in a democracy nobody can do these things. We have seen this happen in the alleged plot [to blow up US-bound flights from the UK]."

Qazi Hussain Ahmad has serious doubts about the claims of a terrorist plot with roots in Pakistan. "We believe that this was a well-orchestrated ploy to divert the attention from the massacre of innocents of Lebanon by Israel."

These arguments appear invidious, but they are easily made in Pakistan, where there seems to be a large audience ready to believe them. Scepticism of the western world can be traced to the misadventures in Iraq, the apparent knee-jerk backing for Israel, the human rights abuses in Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo Bay.

The message from the emir is that perception quickly becomes reality in Pakistan. So Jamaat has honed its public relations skills and now boasts an impressive set of rapid rebuttals to the "western view" of recent events.

In the party's eyes, <u>Hizbullah</u>'s war with Israel shows that "resistance movements which are inspired by higher objectives cannot be defeated". That even if Osama bin Laden "is killed or martyred he will be more dangerous than [if he were] alive. Al-Qaida is not an organisation but a phenomena." That the Americans will learn that "the Afghan people cannot be enslaved".

American officials have taken such trenchant criticism in their stride, but other powers have been less inclined to give Jamaat the benefit of the doubt. Russia has labelled it as a "terrorist" organisation, one which "not only blasts, kills and hatches terror acts, it launders money and pumps it through official financial structures".

The emir says Russia's actions are the baggage of history, "because of two past events. One is that we opposed them in Afghanistan and Chechnya. We believe the Chechen people must be given their rights and the problem must be solved through dialogue. In Afghanistan, we gave humanitarian support [to the mujahideen] when the Soviets invaded."

Jamaat is not an "armed group", he says. "We are working peacefully within the Pakistani constitutional system."

It is worth keeping in mind Jamaat understands that politics cannot be debated for long with bullets. Hence the need to distance Jamaat from the notion that it is armed and dangerous. What it is attempting to do is simply say there is more than one version of modernity available in the global market of ideas.

George Bush pithily described his enemies as "Islamic fascists". One would expect such groups to denounce democracy, capitalism and ideas of secular progress, preferring perhaps spiritual missions to "liberate people". That might be another way of talking about jihad.

But although Jamaat's strand of thinking is a reaction to western modernity, it is rooted in assumptions familiar to us all. Hence the emir argues his case on the basis of democracy and human rights.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad likens Gen Musharraf to other "rulers and kings in the Islamic world" who are afraid of democracy. He says that "whenever there are free elections, the Muslim Brotherhood will come to power in the Arab world". The reference is instructive given that Jamaat's ideology fathered the Egyptian-based radical group.

"The people are tired of the regimes which have made them subservient to foreign missions," he says. "You see, [Syrian president] Bashar al-Assad made a very good speech where he said that a new Middle East is being created, but it is not one the Americans want. It is one of resistance."

Jamaat has been able to take the tools of rationality and employ them in the service of the party's agenda. Its cadre is not seized by the conviction that rational thought and science will unlock the ordering of the world. Jamaat's followers believe in the power of Islam, which they believe will see off the dry mastery of reason. If in the process they end up laying claim to modern ideas, they reason, so be it.

Something old, something new

Load-Date: August 18, 2006



TV previews; Tuesday March 6

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

March 5, 2007 Monday

First Edition

Copyright 2007 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: THE GUIDE; Pg. 24

Length: 620 words

Byline: Lenny Ann Low

Body

The Simpsons

Ten, 7.30pm

Here are three short, scary stories in The Simpsons's annual Halloween special Treehouse of Horror. First up, Homer swallows a piece of burning space marshmallow from the sky. Taking over his body, the green substance turns him into a voracious, ever-swelling monster, terrorising the streets of Springfield as he devours barbecue-sauce-spattered teenagers and beer-battered Germans.

Next, the tale of the golem, a creature of Jewish folklore, made from clay, which carries out written orders placed in his mouth. Unsurprisingly, Bart gets hold of him and wreaks havoc as his dearest, and most violent, wishes are realised.

The action then transfers to sepia-toned, Depression-era Springfield where a radio report of strange cylinders falling from Mars terrifies residents. It turns out to be jolly old Orson Welles broadcasting his 1938 radio drama version of The War of the Worlds, but then real disaster strikes.

This fast-paced Simpsons ends with a succinct yet salient point about the motivations for war in modern times.

The Cutting Edge: Jihad TV

SBS, 8.30pm

Cyberspace is an increasingly important tool in modern war. Forget the crowded online chat rooms for celebrity-watchers, lonely teenagers, romance-seekers and computer-game devotees; the burgeoning number of propaganda films made available by Jihadi groups in Iraq, Afghanistan and Chechnya are the latest hot web links.

British reporter and director Paul Eedle, who has reported on Islamic movements since the 1980s, explores the various kinds of films, their message and who makes them. Films range from images of suicide bombers smiling for the camera before driving their explosive-filled car into Iraqi checkpoints to news bulletins hosted by men in black balaclavas.

TV previews Tuesday March 6

In one segment, Eedle meets Lebanese children playing <u>Hezbollah</u> video games in order to ready themselves for active duty in adulthood. He also discovers that those who buy, download and watch them are not necessarily craving combat against Western powers.

First Tuesday Book Club

ABC, 10pm

Tonight's guests include actor Jacki Weaver and Chaser writer and performer Craig Reucassel joining up with regulars Jason Steger, literary editor of The Age, and screenwriter Marieke Hardy. Tonight's books are Mister Pip, the sixth novel by New Zealand writer Lloyd Jones, and The Solid Mandala, a very hefty read by Patrick White.

It is easy to become engrossed by the show's panel and host, Jennifer Byrne, discussing the two novels. Some love, some dislike and some hate the books up for review, yet not all have comprehensive reasons for their feelings. This is an arts program so a fair bit of smug quippery must always be encouraged. Nonetheless, Weaver's passionate responses are enjoyably unassuming and Reucassel manages to be erudite, sharp and very funny in the same sentence.

This program would work better with a Spicks & Specks-style set and format rather than following the standard look of armchairs in a low-lit, sapless book room.

Hot Docs: Sisters in Law

SBS, 10pm

In Kumba, a small Muslim village in the Republic of Cameroon in western Africa, small miracles of justice are carried out every day. Prosecutor Vera Ngassa and judge Beatrice Ntuba are two tenacious <u>women</u> working against a male-dominated society entrenched by ignorance and arrogance. Cases include a man who beats his wife every day if she does not have sex with him and a woman who has battered and scarred her six-year-old orphaned niece.

Despite the harrowing nature of these cases, this compelling documentary is uplifting viewing. Its narrative-free structure allows the actions, intelligence, strength and no-nonsense approach of Ngassa and Ntuba, and their remarkable fight for justice, to shine.

Graphic

PHOTO: The Simpsons

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



Blaming the victim

Ottawa Citizen

December 28, 2006 Thursday

Final Edition

Copyright 2006 Ottawa Citizen, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A16

Length: 624 words

Byline: The Ottawa Citizen

Body

The world has been graced with gifted religious leaders whose spiritual insight and moral authority sparked political transformation. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. helped dismantle segregation in the United States. Pope John Paul II helped dismantle communism in Europe.

Next to those giants, how puny looks Rowan Williams, the confused Archbishop of Canterbury. Mr. Williams has long been a controversial figure in the Christian establishment, a gadfly intellectual of sorts. When he was named to head the Church of England in 2002, not a few Anglicans worried that this sometimes eccentric poet would embarrass the flock.

Well, he has. Last Saturday, Mr. Williams published an article in the Times of London blaming the "crusading West" for the persecution of Christians in Muslim lands. Specifically, the Iraq war has "put Christians in the whole Middle East at risk." The flight of Christians from the Muslim world, he laments, only fuels the "myth" that "Islam can't live with other faiths."

The statement is a classic expression of what psychologists call rationalization. Counsellors who deal with domestic violence see it all the time, where an abused wife desperately tries to rationalize the abuser's actions. Typically this translates into self-hatred: "He abused me because I deserved it."

Christians and other religious minorities have suffered terribly in some parts of the Muslim world, but rather than place blame on the governments and extremists who do the persecuting, Mr. Williams blames ... himself, that is, non-Muslims. His Times article suggests that Muslim treatment of Christians is an expected response to western provocations.

Battered <u>women</u> will rationalize their abuse because the alternative, admitting they married bad men and must now leave the relationship, is too frightening. What is Mr. Williams' motivation for rationalizing persecution of his own religious community? Hard to say, but for years he has moved in activist circles whose members hold the West to be responsible for many of the world's ills. Perhaps the Archbishop has invested so much of himself into this anti-West cosmology that it simply does not compute that Christians could ever be innocent victims. If Christians are being killed, it's got to be because they provoked the killers.

Mr. Williams has little understanding of the modern Middle East. Non-Muslims in the region have had a rough time of it long before the Iraq war. *Hezbollah*, the hugely popular Lebanese-based group, has been around for more

Blaming the victim

than two decades. Its official program, published in 1985, contains a long section calling on Christians to "embrace Islam so that you can be happy in this world and the next."

Islamic groups were issuing fatwas against "Jews and Crusaders" -- "crusader" meaning Christian -- years before George W. Bush became U.S. president. The long struggle of Egypt's Coptic Christians for equal rights, and freedom from discrimination, has nothing to do with events in Iraq.

Mr. Williams suggests that the suffering of Christian minorities stems from the West's anti-Muslim foreign policy, but in truth the West's foreign policy has been pro-Muslim. The West saved the Muslims of Bosnia and Kosovo against the aggression of the Serbs. The West helped Muslim Afghanistan defeat the Soviets. The West tried to mount a humanitarian intervention in Somalia in the 1990s.

There have been times and places where non-Muslim minorities have lived comfortably in Islamic societies. But unfortunately there have been times and places where they have not. Mr. Williams is more a theologian than a pastor, but he should nonetheless know that when a minority or any other vulnerable party suffers persecution and humiliation, it is generally unhelpful to blame the victim.

Load-Date: December 28, 2006



A growing number use the veil to provoke us

The Sun (England)
October 9, 2006 Monday

Copyright 2006 NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD All Rights Reserved

Section: OPINION Length: 607 words

Byline: Trevor Kavanagh

Body

WHAT is the difference between a burka and a balaclava? Is the veil a garment or a veiled threat?

It all depends.

A black balaclava exposing the eyes and mouth would not attract a second glance on the ski slopes or mountain ranges.

But it scares the pants off bank clerks -or kidnap victims waiting to have their throats slit.

The burka and the full veil go unremarked in their countries of origin.

But in Britain, they sharply define one section of society and deliberately exclude the rest.

And what were once masks imposed by men are increasingly adopted by some <u>women</u> as a silent gesture toward the host nation.

Jack Straw is castigated for asking Muslim women to show their faces so they can have a proper conversation.

Those who say you can't see the face of someone on the telephone are missing the point. Neither can they. You are on equal terms.

And even then we sometimes misinterpret a remark because we can't see the expression that goes with it. Wearing a veil is like talking from behind a one-way mirror. It is covert and slightly sinister.

I don't even like talking to someone wearing dark sunglasses, especially those with reflective lenses. It seems rude and intimidating. It places me at a disadvantage.

As Mr Straw points out, there is a reason for saying: "I see what you mean."

All of this is self-evident. It is the furore, the explosion of anger caused by his remarks, which are truly worrying.

While everyone was squabbling about veils, a much more alarming revelation was broadcast the same evening on BBC Newsnight.

Hate

A growing number use the veil to provoke us

In a virtually unreported item, they showed filmed evidence of radicalised Muslims targeting idealistic young students on university campuses.

They sit down and preach to small groups, some of whom security forces fear will become suicide bombers as a result.

So far, says one of the students, only a minority have been influenced. That's all you need.

Meanwhile, young men are being recruited across the country at secret meetings addressed by charismatic preachers of hate.

Our jails serve as intensive breeding grounds for militancy among an ever expanding number of Muslim prisoners.

Ministers have been told hundreds of terrorists are being groomed, with thousands more ready to offer support.

This is not the start. We are well down the road towards a divided nation where some predict Palestine-style conflict between one section and another.

Too gloomy?

A world statesman alarmed by *Hezbollah*'s sophisticated missile attacks on Israel from Lebanon thinks not.

"In ten years, we may see rockets like these being fired from the suburbs of Paris," he told me.

And London?

In this context, the growing tendency to adopt the veil ceases to be a fuss about nothing. Islamic extremism thrives on grievances.

For some <u>women</u> the veil is a genuine expression of faith. For most, it is imposed by men who treat <u>women</u> as second-rate citizens.

For an increasing minority it is a form of passive aggression. It is provocative.

So, when someone stupidly -but predictably -reacts by ripping off a woman's veil, a useful grievance is up and running.

Warning

By the time anyone tries to restore order, that grievance is halfway round the Muslim world, with plenty more where it came from.

It feeds the case for those preaching jihad.

Meanwhile, we risk losing the slender chance of winning the hearts and minds of half the Muslim population -the **women** who don't want to see husbands, sons or brothers turned into human bombs.

Jack Straw is not, as one angry veiled woman said, a "powerful white man telling women how to dress".

He is warning sensible Muslims not to fuel tensions which may one day see parts of Britain at war with one another.

Load-Date: October 9, 2006



Inside Today

The Gazette (Montreal)

November 2, 2006 Thursday

Final Edition

Copyright 2006 The Gazette, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 571 words **Byline:** The Gazette

Body

93 per cent of Canadians in favour of medical pot

In a nationwide survey, an overwhelming 93 per cent of Canadians indicated they accept the idea of people legally smoking marijuana for health reasons. Support for the overall legalization of pot is also strong. Details, Page A15

Critics wary of NDP-Tory deal

Environmentalists are nervous about NDP leader Jack Layton's deal with Prime Minister Stephen Harper to have a Commons committee rewrite the Clean Air Act. Many fear the move will distract attention from a rival bill that would require Ottawa to respect the emissions-cutting targets of the Kyoto Protocol. Details, Page A12

Good morning, Afghanistan

The Canadian military is launching a radio station to help convince Afghans in the volatile south that their country is a safer place, says the man who yesterday took command of Canada's nearly 2,200 troops stationed in Kandahar. Details, Page A17

MacKay echoes U.S. claim

Calling <u>Hezbollah</u> the "Taliban on steroids," Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay accused the group, with the backing of Syria and Iran, of plotting to overthrow the Lebanese government. The claim echoes a White House announcement earlier in the day. Details, Page A24

Sex attacks get more violent

A man being sought in a series of sexual assaults in the Montreal North area appears to be growing more violent in his attacks on **women**. In September, he began using a knife to threaten his victims.

Details, Page A6

Rescue boats spring a leak

The first of what was supposed to have been 10 rescue boats has been pulled from service after it took on an unacceptable amount of water during a Sept. 24 rescue on Lake St. Louis. Details, Page A7

Inside Today

Business

Zooz in before shopping

Jane Somerville figured Montreal's many independent furniture retailers needed a website. The result? Zoozmontreal.com, a consumer-friendly tool to help harried home decorators zero in on a particular piece by item, room, style or a store's geographical location. Details, Page B1

Couche's U.S. outlets go solo

A U.S.-based licensee that currently operates hundreds of stores for Couche-Tard has decided to take its business solo. Couche-Tard will lose licensing fees from 320 outlets. Details, Page B4

Sports

Koivu is up for Hurricanes

Canadiens captain Saku Koivu has all the motivation he needs for tonight's game in Raleigh, N.C., against the defending Stanley Cup-champion Carolina Hurricanes. Details, Page C1

Winning profitable for Als

The Alouettes did more than clinch first place in the East Division last weekend at Toronto; they might also have ensured a nominal profit for owner Robert Wetenhall this season. Details, Page C1

Arts & Life

Chekhov's Vania impressive

Oncle Vania, an interpretation of Chekhov's 1899 classic play, has some instantly memorable moments. It's playing at Theatre Jean-Duceppe. Details, Page D5

- today's columnists

Pass the peanut butter, it looks like Ignatieff is toast.

MACPHERSON, OPINION, A23

MIKE BOONE on problem-solving:

Volunteer mediation aims for fairness. MONTREAL, A7

HENRY AUBIN on climate change:

Red Cross is preparing for natural disasters. OPINION, A23

JAY BRYAN on income trusts:

Flaherty has done Canada a big favour. BUSINESS, B1

RANDY PHILLIPS on Tiger Woods:

Millions of reasons for skipping PGA Tour final. SPORTS, C5

BROWNSTEIN on finding common ground:

Middle Eastern Comedy Night is just the ticket. ARTS, D1

t'cha dunlevy on Califone:

Inside Today

"Hippie anthem" rediscovery led to their best CD. ARTS, D3

Graphic

Photo: (93 per cent of Canadians in favour of medical pot)

Load-Date: November 2, 2006



<u>Media: How I stood up to Richard Desmond: A run-in with the Express</u>
<u>proprietor and a war in the Middle East ensured that David Rowan has had a</u>
<u>busy first year as editor of the Jewish Chronicle - Correction Appended</u>

The Guardian - Final Edition

December 4, 2006 Monday

Correction Appended

Copyright 2006 Guardian Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: GUARDIAN MEDIA PAGES; Pg. 6

Length: 1026 words **Byline:** David Rowan

Body

During my second week as editor of the Jewish Chronicle it became apparent that not all readers share my notion that serious journalism has on occasion to highlight rather than suppress those awkward truths that prove uncomfortable to the powerful.

We had picked up on widespread concern that the new president of Norwood, a leading Jewish charity supporting vulnerable <u>women</u> and children, was to be Richard Desmond, much of whose fortune was built on pornography. Our front-page splash cited opposition to the appointment from Jewish parliamentarians, from the rabbi holding the family portfolio in the chief rabbi's cabinet, to charity office-holders and from Norwood insiders, balanced with support from Norwood executives and other senior Jewish establishment figures.

Only on an inside page did we introduce JC readers to some of Desmond's television interests, among them Red Hot Only 18, Red Hot Raw and Television X Raw. Desmond, his lawyers and his wealthy friends soon let us know that they thought the JC's coverage of his first public appointment ought to have been rather more laudatory.

And then, just as we were getting back to normal, along came Israel's unexpectedly intense war with <u>Hizbullah</u>. If I had ever expected to be gradually eased into the editorial hot-seat, that hope evaporated once the ranting emails started denouncing our staff as "anti-Semites" simply for allowing space for a few dissenting voices amid the overwhelmingly pro-Israel tone of readers' published opinions.

But for all the unexpected fireworks, the JC is a remarkable and highly satisfying newspaper to find myself editing. Founded 165 years ago, and owned by a trust which protects its editorial independence, the paper enjoys an authority far beyond its immediate constituency.

To its credit, the board has been true to its guarantee of my editorial freedom, even when the new, more inquisitive editorial line has prompted uncomfortable consequences.

Desmond's response to our interest in his new Norwood role, for instance, was to use his Sunday Express to smear our chairman. In striving to be fair, we initially sought to offer Desmond a full opportunity to respond to concerns

Media: How I stood up to Richard Desmond: A run-in with the Express proprietor and a war in the Middle East ensured that David Rowan has had a busy first year a....

expressed in the community, and, although he declined, we went out of our way to offer space to his supporters as we set out to quantify his generous philanthropy.

After publication we gave prominence to a number of highly critical letters from Desmond's friends - including Gerald Ronson, Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, Uri Geller and Man Group CEO Stanley Fink. Equally forcefully, letters from other readers supporting the paper's position were soon questioning whether monetary wealth rather than morality should determine how senior appointments are made in the Jewish community.

And then Desmond decided to have his say. In a full-page article, the Sunday Express claimed that the JC's chairman, Peter Levy, who had retired two years earlier as chairman of the property company Shaftesbury plc, "has links with a club involved with the sex industry" - a laughably tenuous claim based on one of Shaftesbury's tenants reportedly being a members' club where "hostesses" were available for dining. Considering that Levy has no editorial involvement with the JC, this was nothing more than a misjudged personal smear.

Of course, much of the JC's work comes down to chronicling the achievements of a remarkable if relatively small community of about 300,000 people. For a community that encompasses such widely divergent interpretations of the Jewish identity, the greatest challenge has been to position the newspaper, and its internet arm that we are developing, as an inclusive forum for debate open to all reasonable viewpoints. At every lunch meeting and every private briefing, it can feel as if I am being urged to take the paper to one or other political extreme, or to make the editorial line unquestioningly pro- or determinedly hostile to Israel. My answer, invariably, is that while some of our cultural coverage (such as the appearance of <u>women</u> in some of our arts-page photographs) may mean the JC will struggle to win the acceptance of the ultra-orthodox, it is the paper's role to host the conversations and to encompass the debates that touch all Jews in Britain, whether they identify through synagogue membership, family history or simply cultural pride.

And then along come events to test our resolve. Almost as soon as the first Katyusha missiles began raining over northern Israel in July, the JC started receiving its own rhetorical surgical strikes in the form of emails, letters and telephone calls demanding a dogmatic response. Many readers insisted that the newspa per pledge unconditional support to Israel's war effort and that we acknowledge only "the spillage of Jewish blood by Arab scum". A minority called for a more critical response, pointing out the apparent flaws in Israel's intelligence-gathering and military planning, and berating the loss of civilian lives on both sides. Others hot-headedly sought to cast around ill-judged accusations of Israeli "genocide" or, in the case of a religious group of Jewish anti-Zionists, the specific complaint that my newspaper considered Israel to have a pre-Messianic right to exist.

In fact, it soon became obvious that Israel faced a fundamental threat to its existence, a view it transpired that was shared among mainstream British Jewry, religious and secular.

So, as our editorial line reflected, Ehud Olmert, the prime minister, was obliged to act in the interests of his nation's preservation. We questioned the specifics - the lack of any apparent exit strategy, and the appalling costs in civilian lives. Yet we sought to act as the fair broker hosting the wide-ranging debate taking place in the British Jewish community, while ensuring that we reported what was happening in Lebanon and northern Israel. These are the hallmarks of a healthy, lively and independent journalistic enterprise.

A fuller version of this article is in the British Journalism Review, Volume 17 Number 4, from Sage Publications, 1 Oliver's Yard, 55 City Road, London EC1Y 1SP. Tel: 020-7324 8701. Email: subscription@sagepub.co.uk

Correction

* A piece by David Rowan, editor of the Jewish Chronicle (How I Stood up to Richard Desmond, Media, page 6 today), is an edited version of a piece for the British Journalism Review. The writer has asked us to point out that he did not see our edit before publication; the full version will be placed on MediaGuardian.co.uk.

Media: How I stood up to Richard Desmond: A run-in with the Express proprietor and a war in the Middle East ensured that David Rowan has had a busy first year a....

Correction-Date: December 4, 2006 Monday

Load-Date: December 4, 2006



Misunderstandings of Islam require clarifications

University Wire

December 1, 2006 Friday

Copyright 2006 The Lariat via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 588 words

Byline: By Nohayia Javed, The Lariat; SOURCE: Baylor U.

Dateline: WACO, Texas

Body

Over the last few years, I have found myself defending my religion and myself more often, more vehemently and more desperately. I turn on the TV to find my religion being attacked, my way of life being crucified, my beliefs twisted and distorted. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine that Islam, the religion of peace, would be the violent enemy whose followers must be destroyed at all costs.

Islam, the only religion under whose rule people of all faiths lived peacefully, is now the foe. I wonder how a religion that has brought peace to the lives of billions of people can be so wrongly and unjustifiably misrepresented to the rest of the world. Muslims are not terrorists. We are not violent. We are not hateful. Most non-Muslims have a wrong conception of Islam. Many of the stereotypes and phrases that have become synonymous with Muslims and Islam have been fed into the minds of unsuspecting Americans through the media. So here I am to set the record straight:

- 1. Islam means peace, the submission to God and is in NO WAY terroristic.
- 2. Islam teaches that when anyone kills a single innocent person, it is as if he has killed all of mankind. And anyone who saves the life of one innocent person, it is as if he has saved all of mankind.
- 3. Muslims believe in five things: the oneness of God; Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) as the last messenger of God and all the other prophets from Adam to Noah to Moses to Jesus (pbut); the holy Quran and the Psalms of David, the Torah, and the Bible; the Angels; and the Day of Judgment.
- 4. Muslims are told by the Quran to abide by the laws of the land they live in as long as it does not conflict with Islam. So Muslims living in the U.S. abide by the laws of the U.S. If our country is attacked, we fight for it. The same way, if Muslims living in Lebanon or Palestine or Pakistan or Indonesia or China or Australia are attacked, they have to fight for their countries, their homes and their families.

Stop now and think to yourself -- Why does <u>Hezbollah</u> exist? Why are people fighting in Kashmir? What do the Palestinians want and why? It is easy to remember our own losses and justify our actions and label others as dissidents and terrorists for wanting their freedoms and retributions for their dead.

5. The words "Islamic terrorists," "Islamofacists" and "militant Islamists" are all paradoxical. In a religion that teaches peace over and over again, that tells you to fight ONLY if you are attacked, that tells you that you cannot burn the vegetation of the enemy, you cannot poison the enemy's wells, you cannot rape the <u>women</u> of the enemy, and you must bury the dead of the enemy if they flee, that you cannot kill an innocent, you cannot commit suicide (it

Misunderstandings of Islam require clarifications

is one of the ONLY two unforgivable sins in Islam), you cannot be a true believer unless you want for your brother what you want for yourself -- how can these teachings of Islam be linked with words like terrorism? How 1.6 billion Muslims live peacefully in every country of the world if all Muslims are terrorists.

6. Muslims are peaceful. We live, marry, have children, go to school, have jobs and worship just like everyone else. True, Muslims dress differently -- we wear long robes, scarves on our heads and men have beards; we worship differently -- we have a call to prayer and we line up in rows and prostrate; we say Allah instead of God; but that doesn't make us violent. Why then are Muslims only seen as terrorists? Something is wrong with this picture. Can you see what it is?

(C) 2006 The Lariat via U-WIRE

Load-Date: December 1, 2006



It's boom or bust for the world's great civilisations

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)
February 28, 2007 Wednesday
First Edition

Copyright 2007 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 17

Length: 572 words

Byline: DOUG ANDERSON

Body

DATELINE 8.30pm, SBS: Oh for the days when Beirut was rightfully regarded as the Paris of the Middle East. Sectarian strife has erupted again and this luckless city is once more in the thrall of extremists convinced that the only way to achieve their aims is to bomb, burn, shoot and incite hatred. Sophie McNeill examines how a national strike, initiated by the Opposition, exploded into another bloody conflict between Sunnis and Shiites. She interviews a *Hezbollah* top cat, Sheik Noradeen, the US ambassador and ordinary people in the street to form an impression of a deteriorating situation. George Negus contributes a tete-a-tete with the Prime Minister, Fouad Siniora, about the potential for civil war. Later, a look at China's emerging middle class - a group expected to number close to 150 million within three years. What will they spend their cash on? Chris Hammer asks every one of them. Trips to Australia? Whitegoods that require energy provided by Aussie coal? The dotted line separating communism from a free market economy is almost torn and the mass migration of workers looking for a share of the nation's prosperity continues both to fuel China's boom and create new social problems.

McLEOD'S DAUGHTERS 7.30pm, Nine: "Ah, the stone's been cast in blood that's thicker than water ... and the sins of a family fall on the daughter." It's as if Barry McGuire and P. F. Sloan anticipated this instalment of the popular drama, which begins tonight with a bit of biff over the future of Killarney, and Jodi intervening to help Riley make peace with his father whose life is dwindling fast. Hopeless, redundant men and practical <u>women</u> multi-tasking like there was no tomorrow. And of course, for P. F. Sloan, there was no tomorrow - as viewers who remember the lyrics to Eve of Destruction will doubtless recall. And while the young <u>women</u> at Drover's Run have a clear eye to the future, **women** in other parts of the world do not ...

OSAMA (2003), 10pm, SBS: Many doco watchers will recall a British program chronicling efforts to locate the green-eyed Afghan girl who famously appeared on the cover of National Geographic magazine. When she was eventually located after the fall of the Taliban, changes in her appearance and demeanour spoke reams for the fate of a generation. Several generations. Here was an individual ravaged into premature old age by a cruel, corrosive war - her vitality a trivial flitter of collateral damage. Just another poverty-stricken spirit consumed by the endless vicissitudes of a marginal existence. Australia is sending more personnel to Afghanistan to contain Taliban war lords and allegedly religious loons. This searing film from Siddiq Barmak suggests many things - almost none of them positive - and reveals the plight of a girl, her mother and grandmother trying to survive in a culture of fear and loathsome oppression. Plenty of glitter and glamour in the film world earlier this week as the Oscars, golden symbols of a depressingly bankrupt system, were handed out in the usual orgy of self-congratulation. Sure, we need entertainment and escapist distraction but we also need films that remind us how much we have and how (perhaps) the academy's profligacy in conducting such rituals could do some good in the world - not just profit

It's boom or bust for the world's great civilisations

margins for corpulent tycoons, glamorous tuggers, greedy schmoozers and all the other useless corsets and parasites cranking off on the red carpet.

Graphic

DRAWING: Rocco Fazzari

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



Democrats' debate wacky, witty, wise

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

August 29, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 Times Publishing Company All Rights Reserved

Distribution: PASCO TIMES; CITRUS TIMES; HERNANDO TIMES

Section: PASCO TIMES; Pg. 1

Length: 556 words

Byline: ANDREW SKERRITT

Body

It was a display of comedy, conceit and composure, a meeting of the egocentric, the eccentric and the earnest: David Werder, John Russell and Rick Penberthy. They are the Democrats vying to send U.S. Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite, R-Brooksville, into early retirement.

I call them the funny guy, the tough guy and the smart guy who are trying to impress voters in the 5th Congressional District, which includes Pasco, Citrus and Hernando.

The three got together Friday evening for a debate in Land O'Lakes. I was there to ask questions. The decent crowd in the Copperstone facility meeting room suggested Democrats in central Pasco wanted to be wooed. They weren't disappointed.

Bearded Werder, dressed in his trademark hat and suspenders, stood in marked contrast to the conservative dark suits worn by Penberthy and Russell.

For those new to the area, Werder is almost famous. He's the guy who sat on a parking lot flagpole in Clearwater for over a year back in the early '80s. By the laughs he got at the debate, his crusader act seems best suited for the Improv.

It's going to take more than wit to unseat two-term incumbent Brown-Waite, who has been strong on constituent services in a district laden with veterans and seniors.

But being a Republican incumbent isn't what it used to be. And at least two of the three Democratic challengers fancy their chances of giving Brown-Waite a tough race this fall.

All three men toed the line of Democratic orthodoxy. They don't want President Bush to privatize Social Security. They would change course with Cuba: more openness and fewer sanctions.

On the question of support for Israel, however, there were cracks in the Democratic solidarity.

"To not support Israel is political suicide," Werder offered.

Penberthy is a rock-solid backer of Israel as "the only functioning democracy in the Middle East" and would have supported the U.S. House of Representatives' resolution pledging support for Israel in the recent conflict with *Hezbollah*.

Democrats' debate wacky, witty, wise

But unlike the Bush administration, he believes the United States should negotiate with Syria and Iran. "Countries we are not talking to hold the key to peace in the Middle East," Penberthy said.

But Russell was openly critical of Israel's disproportionate response in the bombing of Lebanon. "We need to use our leverage (with Israel) to make them more accountable," he said.

After the debate, Russell got an earful from at least one of the Jewish women who didn't like his criticism of Israel.

Russell doesn't mind the push back. An acute-care nurse, he plays up his 10 years of postsecondary education, citing his master's degree in nursing and business management. (While in college, he seemed to have skipped the course on making friends and influencing people.)

Russell is a candidate who is easy to agree with, but don't expect him to pretend to be the nice guy.

"I'm the tough guy in this race," he said.

Meanwhile, Penberthy, unlike too many other Democratic candidates, seems to have done his homework in preparing to rebut some of the effective Republican sound bites.

For those who accuse Democrats of wanting to cut and run in Iraq, Penberthy, the teacher and veteran, has a tart response:

"I want to cut the loss of American lives and let Iraqis run their own country," he said.

The audience loved that line. The question is, Will they love it in the voting booth?

Load-Date: August 30, 2006



Iranian Shells Land in Kurdish Villages in Northern Iraq, Killing 2

The New York Times
August 20, 2006 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2006 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 1; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8

Length: 576 words

Byline: By EDWARD WONG and YEREVAN ADHAM; Damien Cave contributed reporting from Baghdad for this

article.

Dateline: SULAIMANIYA, Iraq, Aug. 19

Body

Artillery shells fired from Iran have landed in remote northern villages of Iraqi Kurdistan in the past four days and have killed at least two civilians and wounded four others, a senior Kurdish official said Saturday. Dozens of families have fled the region.

The shells have been aimed at an area around Qandil Mountain, known as a base for militant Kurdish opposition groups seeking independence from Turkey and Iran, said the official, Mustafa Sayed Qadir, a senior member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which governs the eastern half of Iraqi Kurdistan.

"A lot of homes have been damaged and livestock killed," he said. A shepherd was wounded Saturday, and two **women** were among the three people wounded on previous days, he added.

The government of Iraq is aware of the shelling, which has taken place occasionally in recent months, but has not taken an official position, he said.

The president of Iraq, Jalal Talabani, is the head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. He has at times had a close relationship with Iran, especially when he sought Iranian support in the 1990's against rival Kurdish leaders and Saddam Hussein. But Mr. Talabani is also aware of the Iranian government's poor treatment of its Kurdish minority. Iranian officials could not be reached for comment Saturday evening.

Iran and Turkey have sizeable Kurdish populations that live in mountainous areas bordering Iraqi Kurdistan. In recent weeks, the two countries have stepped up warnings to Kurdish militant groups, perhaps fearing that they might have enough of a haven in Iraqi Kurdistan to inject new vigor into independence movements in Iran and Turkey. Iraqi Kurdistan is autonomous from the rest of Iraq and is home to most of this country's five million Kurds.

It is unclear what weaponry or troops Iran has amassed along its border with Iraqi Kurdistan.

American officials have accused Iran of supporting <u>Hezbollah</u> in its recent battle against Israel. This month, the American ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, said Iran had been pushing small Shiite militias to step up attacks against the American-led forces in retaliation for Israel's assault on Lebanon.

Iranian Shells Land in Kurdish Villages in Northern Iraq, Killing 2

An American military spokesman said some Shiite militias had been training in Iran and had received weapons from individuals or groups in that country. However, the spokesman, Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, said the military had not found any evidence that the Iranian government was involved.

In Baghdad on Saturday, thousands of Shiite pilgrims converged on a shrine in the northern part of the capital for an annual procession, walking a route secured by police officers as a citywide ban on driving emptied the streets in an effort to prevent sectarian attacks and panic.

At least three Shiites were found dead in Baghdad, shot in the head, according to hospital officials. But the Interior Ministry could not confirm whether they were pilgrims.

Elsewhere in Iraq, battles continued to rage. An American soldier died from wounds suffered during fighting in Anbar Province, the American military said in a statement. An Iraqi police patrol was ambushed by sniper fire in Mosul, killing a policeman and wounding another, the police said.

In a series of gun battles in and around Baquba, at least six people were killed. A civilian died from stray gunfire after an attack on an Iraqi police checkpoint in a western suburb; nearby, gunmen killed two professors from Diyala University.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: August 20, 2006



<u>Israeli president facing indictment; Charges against Katsav could include</u> rape

The International Herald Tribune January 24, 2007 Wednesday

Copyright 2007 International Herald Tribune All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 614 words

Byline: Greg Myre - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The Israeli attorney general plans to indict President Moshe Katsav on charges of rape and other sexual offenses, the Justice Ministry announced Tuesday, in what would be the most serious criminal case involving a senior Israeli official.

Katsav, whose post is largely ceremonial, has denied any wrongdoing. He did not comment Tuesday, but planned to hold a news conference Wednesday, his lawyers said.

"The president is convinced that he is a victim of false allegations and attempts to remove him from his office, and he will fight to prove his innocence," David Libai, an attorney for Katsay, said at a news conference in Tel Aviv.

The developments Tuesday again prompted calls for the president to resign.

"I think the president must announce his resignation at once," Zahava Gal-On, a <u>female</u> member of Parliament, told Israel radio. "I believe he should have taken this step a long time ago, but now, with the attorney general's announcement of such a harsh indictment, there should be no delay."

Through his lawyers, Katsav, 61, has indicated previously that he might suspend himself at some point, and would resign if indicted. He has generally maintained a low profile since the allegations first surfaced last summer.

But in recent weeks he has been more visible and has hinted he would rather contest the charges from office, the Israeli media reported.

If he chooses to remain in office, Katsav would be afforded a hearing before any charges are filed. But the public announcement by the Justice Ministry made it highly likely that Attorney General Menachem Mazuz would ultimately issue an indictment.

"The attorney general, with the agreement of the state attorney, reached the conclusion that there is sufficient prima facie evidence to indict the president," the Justice Ministry said.

Under Israeli law, a sitting president cannot be put on trial. But he can be tried if he resigns, is impeached by Parliament or after the conclusion of his seven-year term, which ends this summer.

Israeli president facing indictment Charges against Katsav could include rape

According to the Justice Ministry, Katsav could face a rape charge involving a woman who worked with him when he was tourism minister in the late 1990s. In addition, he could be charged with sexual misconduct involving three **women** who have worked at the president's office since 2000.

Katsav, who is married and the father of five, could also face charges of fraud and breach of trust, according to the Justice Ministry.

Since the president's position has only limited authority, Katsav's case is not expected to have a direct impact on the Israeli government led by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. But the case comes at a time when many Israelis have expressed deep disappointment with the country's leadership.

Olmert is himself the subject of two formal investigations. One involves the sale of his private home in Jerusalem and the purchase of a new house. The second inquiry, announced last week, will seek to determine whether Olmert acted improperly to help friends before the 2005 privatization of a leading Israeli bank.

Several other Israeli politicians are at various stages of the legal process in cases ranging from improper political appointments to sexual misconduct.

Also, Olmert and the country's military leaders have been roundly criticized for the handling of the war last summer in Lebanon with *Hezbollah*, and the prime minister's poll ratings have plummeted.

Katsav's case became public in July when the president said he was the target of blackmail by a former <u>female</u> employee who was accusing him of sexual harassment.

But when the police began investigating they found the woman's claims to be credible, and several other <u>women</u> also came forward with accusations of sexual impropriety.

Load-Date: January 25, 2007



Kosher electricity, discredited general, and a telegenic hope

Hindustan Times

January 28, 2007 Sunday 11:44 AM EST

Copyright 2007 HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 577 words

Byline: Hindustan Times

Dateline: NEW DELHI, India

Body

NEW DELHI, India, Jan 28 -- he Past few weeks have been very depressing. A wave of revivalism is sweeping Israel. The Lord rested on the Shabbat (Saturday), and pious Jews insist Israel must follow suit. To do anything else is distinctly non-kosher.

So we now have kosher electricity, which means no Jew will attend to any problem which may arise at a power plant or transmission line in this country from Friday evening to Sunday morning. Ditto with our kosher Railway service: it is only the handful of non-Jews employed who are allowed to work, and who keep the system going. Kosher El Al (the Israeli national airline) will not fly on the Shabbat. Kosher clothing stores have sprung up which sell only loose-fitting apparel to <u>women</u>, and where the colour red is banned. A new underground movement called the Bleach Underground has arisen which sprays bleach on the clothes of 'inappropriately dressed' <u>women</u> in orthodox neighbourhoods.

A Canadian orthodox woman, on her way to pray at the Western Wall, was beaten up for sitting at the front in the bus in Jerusalem. There are even rumours of young men demanding that their bride's parents buy them expensive apartments and give them a monthly allowance. (Dowry is hardly unique to Indian culture, one realises.)

The Halutz affair

It all began with a sort of collective wish to sweep the Lebanon War of last summer under the carpet, erase the scars of a none too emphatic engagement to recover Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser. (These are household names in Israel: the two soldiers whose abduction by the <u>Hezbollah</u> sparked off the war.) The Israeli Defence Force (IDF) that till the war believed itself to be the finest fighting force in the region seems paralysed and confused.

Every journalist and talk show host has, over the autumn and winter, become an expert in military strategy. Superannuated generals and members of the Knesset with limited standing and influence have all jumped onto the bandwagon, giving in-depth interviews. They were all screaming for the chief of the Israeli army, Dan Halutz's head. After Halutz's long demanded resignation finally came through, each word of his letter of resignation was used to pillory him still further. Whatever Halutz's motives in resigning, so completely soul destroying are the commentaries, he certainly will not sleep well at night if he takes the papers seriously.

If that was not enough muck-raking, there was the Hebron settlers' violence against Arab neighbours that added fuel to the sensational headlines. Videos were freely available, accusations and counter-accusations flew; human rights groups were glorified/vilified according to the political leanings of the media group discussing them. Prime

Kosher electricity, discredited general, and a telegenic hope

Minister Ehud Olmert is under a cloud, as is chief of the opposition Labour party, Amir Peretz. Both are being urged to follow Halutz's example.

Feminine touch

<u>Women</u> seem to be playing the only stabilizing role globally in all the chaos created by men and their petty bickering and back-stabbing. In Israel, after Golda Meir, the comely Foreign Minister, Tzipi Livni is being projected by some, again in the media, as the next PM. Perhaps this is a sign of the times to come; numbed audiences wish to see more telegenic personalities on their television screens, and canny producers are calculating TRP's in decimals by cynically pushing the most aesthetically pleasing.

The Hindustan Times is provided through HT Syndication, New Delhi.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at httsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: January 29, 2007



Irish tackle challenge of helping Lebanon recover

The Irish Times

December 9, 2006 Saturday

Copyright 2006 The Irish Times All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Pg. 14

Length: 1034 words

Body

LEBANON: Camp Ida is beginning to take shape as a UN base, writes Michael Jansen, in Ibl al-Saqi, South Lebanon

Camp Ida sprawls among young olive trees on a green hill west of the purple mass of Mount Hermon and the Golan Heights. An Israeli observation post gleams white on a distant peak. On the summit of a nearer mountain lies the town of Shebaa, whose 14 farms on the slopes of Hermon, occupied by Israel in 1967, are at the heart of the lingering territorial dispute between Lebanon and the Jewish state.

To the south is the devastated hill town of Khiam, the site of some of the most bitter fighting between <u>Hizbullah</u> defenders and Israeli invaders during the 34-day July-August conflict; to the west the picturesque regional capital of Merjayoun.

The sun is high, the sky a soft blue laced with thin white cloud, the air clear, cold and clean. Once they saw this spectacular setting, the Finnish-Irish advance team chose an olive hill over a banana plantation near the coastal city of Tyre.

The camp, named after the daughter of Lieut Col Osmo Toivanen, commander of the Finn-Irish Battalion, is a hive of activity.

Bucketloaders, backhoes and bulldozers set about domestic tasks, extending the platform by flattening the red earth and laying fresh white gravel and drainage pipes. White SUVs, armoured personnel carriers and more heavy construction machines circulate or settle in designated parking lots.

Mini-recce vehicles, the sports version of armoured scout cars driven by Irish soldiers, await orders to accompany Finnish teams clearing sites for camps for the Malaysian and Indonesian contingents, newcomers to South Lebanon.

The new dining hall, a super-tent, was inaugurated on Wednesday night in honour of Finland's national day.

Greyish-white Turkish prefabs to replace the winterised tents accommodating the troops are being unpacked and erected in stages. Offices were installed in Finnish prefabs in dark green.

As the camp takes shape, amenities arrive by ship. Stout for the Irish and a wooden sauna for the Finns are expected by Christmas. A decorated fir tree lurks somewhere in one of the tents. More are certain to sprout for the Finnish Christmas Eve and Irish Christmas Day festivities.

Irish tackle challenge of helping Lebanon recover

Lieut Col Billy Harrington, deputy commander of the battalion and commander of the Irish contingent of 257, says the bi-national Finn-Irish Battalion, classified as a force asset, is "tasked only by headquarters" at Naquora.

The battalion consists of a Finn-Irish headquarters and a joint logistics company, an Irish mechanised company and Finnish engineers. The common language is English.

While the Irish are professional soldiers, 75 per cent of the 205 Finns are reserves who are specialists in particular fields of construction. They clear the land, prepare infrastructure, erect shelters and maintain sites.

There are 22 <u>women</u> in the battalion - 16 Irish and six Finns. Sixty of the Irish and 20 Finns have served in Lebanon before.

This is Col Harrington's fourth tour here; his first was in 1979 with Fourth Irishbatt.

The battalion also provides employment for dozens of Lebanese and buys some of its supplies from local provisioners, boosting commerce in the area.

Farmers also receive rent for their land, which is at a premium for the expanded force.

In early October, after intensive consultations, Ireland and Finland, long-standing contributors to the original UN Interim Force (Unifil), decided to combine forces.

Ireland rushed troops to the area in 1978 after an Israeli incursion, and Finland sent soldiers in 1982 following Israel's invasion and occupation of the southern half of the country.

Both pulled out in 2001 when Israel withdrew from all but the Shebaa farms. Col Harrington observes: "We had to look very seriously at what we could contribute" to the new Unifil, dubbed Unifil II.

"The Finns proposed engineers, we offered protection. But this is not open-ended. We're committed to develop Unifil sites for other forces. We will see where we are after 12 months."

Kosovo was the proving ground for multinational brigades containing troops from half a dozen countries. "The idea was not popular a few years ago," he says. But the practice seems to suit peacekeeping because it enables countries to contribute without overstretching their capabilities.

The work at the olive hill began with the clearing of unexploded ordnance by huge mine- sweeping machines called flails, sniffer dogs, and men in armour armed with detection devices. "At all of the sites we have found something," the colonel says.

UN experts estimate that Israel fired tens of thousands of shells and more than a million cluster bombs into southern Lebanon during the summer. Until this is cleared the region cannot rebuild, farmers cannot tend their crops in safety, children are not free to play in gardens or fields.

"Unifil II is very different from Unifil I. It is more robust." Its mission is to assist the Lebanese army in reestablishing Lebanese sovereignty between the "blue line" border with Israel and the Litani river and to ensure that armed elements are excluded from this area.

At present there are 8,961 troops from 22 nations in the force. This should rise to 10,500 by the end of the year, a five-fold increase over Unifil I.

Unifil II is divided into two territorial sectors - east and west.

Spainbatt is in charge of the eastern sector, where Indian and Nepalese as well as Indonesian, Malaysian, Irish and Finnish troops are deployed.

Irish tackle challenge of helping Lebanon recover

During previous postings to South Lebanon, full-strength Irish and Finnish battalions ran clinics and built facilities for communities in their areas of operations. Col Harrington says the joint force has not yet decided what to doperhaps football fields for village boys.

The vet accompanying the sniffer and guard dogs could also give a hand to Indbatt's vet, Lieut Col Bapu Parasanalli. As the only vet south of the Litani, he is the "most wanted man" in Unifil. Desperately poor farmers who lost half their livestock during the summer conflict cannot afford to call private vets to treat their cattle, sheep, chickens and dogs.

Once Camp Ida is in order, the hardworking Finn-Irish Batt will find ways to help Lebanese civilians recover from the conflict.

Load-Date: December 9, 2006



PAKISTAN FACING PRE-FRENCH REVOLUTION LIKE SITUATION: IMRAN

The Frontier Star

November 22, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 News Bites Pyt Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 582 words

Body

ISLAMABAD Nov 22 (SANA): Chairman Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan has said that Pakistan was facing a pre-French revolution like situation. However, he said a silent revolution had already started in the country and private electronic media was playing important role in this regard. Delivering a lecture on "Leadership" at a private university here on Wednesday, he said that rich people were not paying taxes and instead living in lavish lifestyle on the taxes given by poor. Similar conditions prevailed in France before the French revolution, he said.

Imran Khan said that no ruler in Pakistan had remained successful after Quaid-e-Azam because they all lacked vision. He said Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was a genius leader but even he could not achieve what he wanted. Bhutto failed because he used his vision to remain in the power only. He said the present rulers were also saying that until they were in power, Pakistan would remain safe. This was because power had become their only objective, he added.

The PTI chairman said that the present rulers were fearful. That's why they were not 'leaders'. He said that present rulers could not take stand against the US because they were fearful of US turning the country into 'Tora Bora'. Citing the example of the leadership of Hassan Nasarullah in Lebanon, he said, owing to this US and Israel could not defeat *Hezbollah*. On the contrary, he said, our rulers were polishing the boots of the US.

Imran blamed the rulers that they were spoiling the nation by showing it the easy path. He said to become a great nation; we would have to follow a hard path.

The Tehrik-e-Insaf leader said that the present government was a 'coalition of reforms' consisting of thieves which he had refused to join. He said President Musharraf had himself admitted in an interview that he wanted to see me as prime minister.

Later replying to different questions by students, Imran Khan said that his vision was that Pakistanis were the most talented people and had excelled in various field throughout the world. In this connection he cited the example of Pakistanis ending monopoly of Jews in textile business in Manchester.

Referring to double education system in the country, he said, due to this we had stopped producing original thinkers. That's why; he said we had no intellectuals who could respond to the current propaganda against Islam. He demanded to enforce education emergency in the country. Similarly he said employment and revenue emergencies should also be enforced in the country.

Imran told the gathering that his party had the best economic, law and education experts in the country. He said Hamid Khan; Senior Vice President of his party was the best legal expert in the country. He further said that he had also selected an education minister who would take charge if his party came to power. He said that next elections would see a clear divide between the pro-US and pro-sovereign forces in the country.

PAKISTAN FACING PRE-FRENCH REVOLUTION LIKE SITUATION: IMRAN

Criticizing US, he said it was now saying that it was ready to talk to moderate Taliban in Afghanistan. He questioned why she was not ready to talk to them before large scale massacre of Afghans and a lot of bloodshed in Pakistan's tribal areas. Demanding the setting up of a Supreme Judicial Council, he said only an independent judiciary could protect the rights of <u>women</u> in the country rather than any <u>women</u> protection law. Imran said that an independent judiciary was panacea for all ills in the country including feudalism.

Load-Date: November 23, 2006



Inside today

The Gazette (Montreal)

August 31, 2006 Thursday

Final Edition

Copyright 2006 The Gazette, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 606 words **Byline:** The Gazette

Body

Acute water shortage has B.C. town reeling

Businesses in and around Tofino, B.C., scrambled yesterday to find tankers to truck in water, in a desperate bid to keep the tourist-reliant community operating. On Tuesday, authorities ordered all businesses to shut down after the town's reservoir hit an all-time low. Details, Page A12

Supporters flying Tigers' flag

Raising the flag of the Tamil Tigers - now banned as a terrorist group - and praising the "fallen heroes" of the struggle for a Tamil homeland are a part of Tamil student club activities at several Canadian universities. Details, Page A11

Man killed in drive-by shooting

Police are searching for the killers of a car passenger who was slain in a drive-by shooting yesterday in Riviere des Prairies. Two men on a motorcycle targeted a Cadillac. It's the 28th homicide this year in Montreal. Details, Page A7

Actor Glenn Ford dies at 90

Quebec-born actor Glenn Ford, who played strong, thoughtful protagonists in films such as The Blackboard Jungle, Gilda and The Big Heat, died yesterday at the age of 90. Details, Page E7

Feds: Afghan mission on track

The security in volatile southern Afghan-istan will improve over the next year and Canada will pour "resources" into reconstruction efforts, Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor predicts. Details, Page A16

Olmert firm on Lebanon siege

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert signals that he will not lift the air and sea blockade of Lebanon or withdraw more troops until two Israeli soldiers seized by *Hezbollah* are freed.

Details, Page A16

Inside today

Business

Van Houtte mulls income trust

Van Houtte's board of directors says it might consider merging or converting the coffee giant into an income trust private company to boost sagging share value. Details, Page B1

Canada's trade surplus drops

Canada's global trade surplus has shrunk dramatically, in part reflecting the strength of the Canadian dollar, and will likely shrink even more as the U.S. economy slows and if energy prices continue to retreat. Details, Page B5

Sports

Federer and Nadal advance

Roger Federer, the No. 1 seed and defending champion advanced easily at the U.S. Open, while the second seed, Rafael Nadal, also reached the second round, ousting Mark Philippoussis. Details, Page C1

Als' Bell loses starting job

Ricky Bell, the veteran defensive back, hasn't been benched, but appears to have lost his starting spot in the Alouettes' secondary for tomorrow's game against British Columbia. Details, Page C5

Arts & Life

Film tells story of Abenakis

Waban-Aki: People From Where the Sun Rises is documentary filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin's fascinating personal look at Odanak, the Abenaki village near Sorel where she spent most of the first nine years of her life. Details, Page D3

Canadian's photo honoured

His photo of a mother and child in an emergency feeding centre in Niger, chosen from among more than 80,000 pictures, is the World Press Photo of the Year 2005, but Canadian Finbarr O'Reilly still considers himself a beginner. Details, Page D4

- Today's columnists

"It's quite likely markets will give some investors a stomach-churning ride."

BRYAN, BUSINESS, B1

MIKE BOONE on pedestrian crosswalks:

The perilous discourtesy of city drivers. MONTREAL, A6

DON MACPHERSON on CEGEP brochures:

PQ can count on traditional labour allies. OPINION, A19

RANDY PHILLIPS on Lisa Meldrum:

Golfer takes aim at CN Women's Tour title. SPORTS, C5 BILL BROWNSTEIN on the F--- movie:

It can be used as a noun, adjective, verb or adverb. ARTS, D1

JUAN RODRIGUEZ on Marc Ribot:

Inside today

Guitar wizard's take on the global music scene. ARTS, D4

DOUG CAMILLI on Spider-Man 3:

Director's call for reshoots is rarely a good sign. ARTS, D5

Graphic

Photo: (Acute water shortage has B.C. town reeling)

Load-Date: August 31, 2006



Full esteem ahead on the good ship families R us

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

February 27, 2007 Tuesday

First Edition

Copyright 2007 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Entertainment; Pg. 17

Length: 597 words

Byline: DOUG ANDERSON

Body

HOT DOCS 10pm, SBS: All Aboard Rosie's Family Cruise. Viewers with a reasonably liberal view of what constitutes a family are likely to find this doco life-affirming and joyous. Those who subscribe to a more conventional definition may find it extremely offensive. It's the story of a Love Boat-style cruise organised by the gay actress/comedian Rosie O'Donnell and her partner, Kelli. Fifteen hundred individuals in gay, lesbian, blended/crossgender and straight families embark on a week-long cruise of the Caribbean aboard a luxury liner. Stigma and judgement are left on the wharf in New York as the Norwegian Dawn sets sail. O'Donnell is not exactly renowned for her subtlety and restraint but excess and self-indulgence aren't the prime elements of the program. It's about self-assertion and esteem. And people. Just people. Local commuters - biased or not - will be thankful the upmarket cruise ship did not drop anchor in Sydney Harbour.

CUTTING EDGE 8.30pm, SBS: Will Israel bomb Iran? That's the question posed in tonight's doco, which begins with footage showing Iranian-made weapons deployed by <u>Hezbollah</u> militias during the recent nastiness in Lebanon. Three former Israeli prime ministers offer their views on the prospect and images revealing Israel's readiness to defend itself with maximum prejudice are included. Should such a scenario be countenanced? Is it inevitable? Yes and no, but rest assured it is being contemplated out of necessity. The consequences of any preemptive action are too grotesque to contemplate but in lesser-of-two-evils equations consequences must be factored into the thinking - as the almost certain destruction of Seoul was probably factored into the recent nuclear proliferation contretemps with North Korea.NOT ALL TEA AND SCONES 8pm, ABC: Could a program about middle-aged and elderly women making cups of tea and chatting about recipes for scones have much to recommend it? Do such women contemplate doomsday scenarios in Tel Aviv and Tehran? The formidable history and spirit of the Country Women's Association is illuminated in Carmel Travers's four-part series. Tonight's initial instalment introduces the association's NSW state president, Judy Richardson, a resilient and engaging mother of 11 (and grandmother of 32) who ignores a debilitating medical condition to offer leadership to 12,000 country women in NSW - more than a quarter of the organisation's national membership. Is the CWA relevant? Of course it is. But the future? The strengths that have prevailed for the past 85 years continue to sustain the association but its membership is greying fast and the endless challenges accompanying life on the land - as have been abundantly evident lately - appear to daunt the Now generation. Will the CWA wither or can its valuable social initiatives and work ethic survive?

20 TO 01 7.30pm, Nine: Bert reappears with another useless cavalcade of dross in a seemingly endless series, this week looking at The Rich and Famous. The previously advertised shower of inconsequentiality, Amazing Moments in Music, has been postponed for reasons unexplained but possibly connected to the recent legal brouhaha

Full esteem ahead on the good ship families R us

involving Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and her fear of being humiliated by John Farnham fans hurling their panties at her during a proposed concert tour. As the Minister for Irradiated Mutton and Acid Rain, Senator Adrienne Whopper, was heard to remark in the Parliament House cafeteria during last week's show: "It's a program full of chew but utterly devoid of bite. Oh for footage of Derryn Hinch being devoured by wild hogs."

Graphic

DRAWING: By Rocco Fazzari

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



Police say President should face rape charge

The Times (London)
October 16, 2006, Monday

Copyright 2006 Times Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 33

Length: 660 words

Byline: Ian MacKinnon in Jerusalem

Body

AFTER a lengthy investigation in which President Katsav of Israel endured days of questioning over a sex scandal, the police recommended last night that he faces charges of raping and assaulting **women**.

The final decision on whether the President should stand trial on the charges of rape, sexual assault and fraud -the most serious ever laid against an Israeli leader -falls to Menachem Mazuz, the Attorney-General.

He is expected to reach a conclusion within two weeks on whether to indict President Katsav, who would almost certainly be forced to resign if the charges were laid against him.

Even though the President has relatively little power and his role is largely ceremonial, if he were forced from office the sensation would add further to the woes of Ehud Olmert, the Prime Minister, already under pressure for his handling of the 34-day conflict with *Hezbollah*.

The 61-year-old Iranian-born President is not the first Israeli leader to come under suspicion. The previous president, Ezer Weizman, quit over allegations of improperly accepting gifts worth hundreds of thousand of pounds.

Several prime ministers have been suspected of financial misdeeds, and a former defence minister was convicted of sexual harassment. But the scope of the police evidence passed to Mr Mazuz yesterday -alleging sexual assault, illegal wire-tapping of staff at the President's residence, fraud and improprieties in the pardons process -far outstrips accus-ations against past leaders.

In a joint statement capping months of investigations, Israel's Justice Ministry and police said: "There is prima facie evidence of a number of incidents, in which several <u>women</u> who worked under his authority were involved, whereby the President carried out sex crimes of rape, sexual molestation by force and without consent."

President Katsav, who vehemently denies any wrongdoing, was also suspected of "a violation of a law against eavesdropping", it said, summing up findings presented by the police investigating team.

The President, who has been in office since 2000, is immune from prosecution unless he is impeached by the Israeli Parliament. However, there is a clamour among MPs for the married father of five to resign.

The inquiry began after a former employee alleged last April that the President had forced her to have sex under threat of dismissal. In all, ten <u>women</u> came forward making allegations of sexual harassment while the President was in office or in his previous role as a Likud party minister in the government.

Police say President should face rape charge

Police who presented their findings yesterday based their case on the evidence of five of the <u>women</u>, including two who allege rape, ruling out the testimonies of the five others as they had passed the statute of limitations.

Investigators also recommended that there was insufficient evidence to press charges against the original complainant, who was accused of attem-pting to blackmail the President over sexual harassment.

Officers questioned President Katsav at his official residence in Jerusalem for days. Last night Zion Amir, the President's lawyer, issued a statement pointing out that the police were not authorised to bring charges and noted that previously when police had recommended putting senior officials on trial, the Attorney-General had dismissed most cases.

A POLITICIAN'S LIFE

*Born in Yazd, Iran, in 1945

*Emigrated to Israel with family in 1951

*Enlisted in Israel Defence Forces in 1964 and reached rank of corporal

*In 1968 became the first student from his village, Kiryat Malachi, to attend Hebrew University of Jerusalem, graduating in 1971 in economics and history

*In 1969 became youngest Israeli mayor; elected as coalition leader in Kiryat Malachi

*Elected to Knesset in 1981

*Served as a minister in Housing, Labour, Transport and Tourism departments under Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir

*Deputy Prime Minister 1996-99

*Beat Shimon Peres to presidency in 2000, the first Israeli President to have been born in a Muslim country

Load-Date: October 16, 2006



Jewish New Year begins on sour note

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

September 23, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

Copyright 2006 Prince George Citizen All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Pg. 16

Length: 604 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Israelis entered the Jewish New Year, which began Friday night, shaken by the summer's inconclusive war in Lebanon, angry at their leaders and coping with growing gaps between rich and poor.

The gloomy mood was easy to gauge at Jerusalem's open air Mahane Yehuda market, where last-minute shoppers stocked up on food ahead of a two-day holiday when Jews are to take stock of their lives.

At Gideon Cohen's fruit and vegetable stand, the most popular merchandise was the pomegranate, traditionally consumed on the Rosh Hashana holiday because its numerous seeds evoke the many virtues the person eating it hopes to embody in the coming year.

Cohen said he could measure the country's level of prosperity by his pomegranate sales, and that the numbers weren't good. A year ago, Rosh Hashana pomegranates went for eight shekels (US\$1.85) a kilogram (2.2 pounds), he said, but this year he had to drop the price to four, and sales were still down.

Government statistics released before the holiday showed that despite a general improvement in the economy in 2005, one-fourth of all Israelis live below the country's poverty line.

Gideon On, a 48-year-old butcher, sells sheep heads, consumed by some Jews of Middle Eastern origin as a literal representation of the Rosh Hashana wish that the Jewish people "be the head, and not the tail" -- leaders, not followers. The wish is also tied to the holiday's name, which translates literally as "the head of the year." On said he had sold dozens of heads this week at 50 shekels (\$11.50) apiece.

On's two sons fought in Lebanon in the month-long war against <u>Hezbollah</u> guerrillas that claimed the lives of 120 Israeli soldiers and 39 civilians this summer. His sons, like many other reservists, came back angry because their impression was that the army was unprepared and the political leadership confused, On said.

"They took our kids to the army, and they dropped like flies," On said. "We have a good army, but it doesn't have the leaders it deserves."

That sentiment appears to be widely shared throughout Israel. Early in the war, polls handed Prime Minister Ehud Olmert a favourable rating of around 70 per cent. One poll published Thursday saw his approval rating sink to 22

Jewish New Year begins on sour note

per cent while Defence Minister Amir Peretz mustered just 14 per cent. Another survey showed only seven per cent of Israelis think Olmert is fit for the country's top post.

The malaise extended to dismay over a series of scandals that have tarred top leaders, including Olmert.

Yitzhak Cohen, a vendor of honey -- traditionally paired with apples for a sweet new year -- said he couldn't remember a time when "every one of our leaders had a criminal file."

An exaggeration, perhaps. But the state comptroller's office, a government watchdog, is looking into possible irregularities in Olmert's purchase of a Jerusalem home. Eight <u>women</u> have accused President Moshe Katsav of sexually harassing them. And an Olmert ally, Haim Ramon, recently resigned the job of justice minister to face trial on sexual misconduct charges.

"These are good people," Cohen said, waving at the shoppers passing outside his store. "Don't they deserve better?"

Despite the vendors' glum assessments, a poll of 499 people by the Dahaf Research Institute published on Friday showed that 88 per cent of Israelis think their country is a good place to live. The margin of error was 4.5 percentage points.

Ahead of the holiday, the army imposed a security closure on the West Bank and Gaza. Despite the travel ban, several thousand medical workers, clergy, farm labourers and teachers will be able to enter Israel, the army said.

Load-Date: September 25, 2006



World at a glance

The Evening Standard (London)
August 31, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 Associated Newspapers Ltd. All Rights Reserved



Section: LL 04; Pg. 6 Length: 596 words

Body

Israel's use of cluster bombs immoral, says UN diplomat

. A SENIOR UN diplomat has launched an attack on Israel branding its use of cluster bombs in southern Lebanon as "completely immoral". Jan Egeland said civilians were facing "massive problems" returning home due to 100,000 unexploded bombs which were dropped during the last days of the conflict between Israel and *Hezbollah*. Mr Egeland, the UN's head of humanitarian affairs, said: "What's shocking and I would say to me completely immoral is that 90 per cent of the cluster bomb strikes occurred in the last 72 hours of the conflict, when they knew there would be a resolution." He added: "Every day people are maimed, wounded and killed by these weapons. It shouldn't have happened." The ceasefire came into effect on August 14 ending the month-long war.

Mafia victim sees family murdered

. A MAFIA hit squad forced its victim to watch his wife and teenage son have their throats slashed and then be shot dead before he too was killed.

Businessman Angelo Cottarelli, 56, his wife Marzenne, 41, and son Luca, 17, were targeted after he double-crossed Godfathers in a deal over prostitutes for nightclubs.

Remarkably, Cottarelli survived for several hours after the attack and, although unable to speak, answered police questions by blinking.

Forensic teams were today combing the murder scene at the family's home in Urago Mella, a smart residential zone on the outskirts of Brescia. A police source described it as "something out of a Quentin Tarantino film - there was blood everywhere".

Picture of the day

. "MUM, there's a train coming!" A group of muscovy ducklings struggle to follow their mother over the railway line in Bonita Springs, Florida. The adult duck eventually returned and took her offspring safely back to water.

World at a glance

Mormon leader faces rape charges

. A MORMON leader who was on the run from US police for more than a year is to be prosecuted in two states, authorities said. Warren Jeffs, 50, leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, will be prosecuted first in Utah, then in Arizona, on charges that he arranged marriages of underage girls to older men. In Utah, he will be prosecuted for two more serious charges of rape by an accomplice. Jeffs was captured on Monday in Las Vegas and is being held in the state's County Clark jail. He is said to have at least 40 wives and nearly 60 children.

Gun boy 'sacrifices' his own father

. A TEENAGER has confessed to shooting his father in revenge for "abuse".

When asked by police why he killed his father, Alvaro Rafael Castillo, 19, said: "Sacrifice. The world is cruel. Somebody had to put him out of his misery. He abused all of us." Castillo was arrested after he turned up at his former high school in Hillsborough, North Carolina, with two guns and opened fire in the car park. A girl was hit on the shoulder and a boy was struck by shattered glass.

Police later forced their way into the family's home and found the body of Rafael Castillo. When asked why he opened fire, Castillo said: "Columbine.

Remember Columbine" - a reference to America's worst school shooting in 1999 when two students killed 13.

Snogging? It's Italian for mugging

. A YOUNG Italian couple who perfected a novel form of highway robbery have been arrested in Milan. They would kiss and cuddle passionately in their parked car until a passer-by stopped to investigate then the man, armed with a knife, would leap out and attack. Police say at least three <u>women</u> were robbed and beaten by the 27-year-old romeo and his 26-year-old girlfriend, who are in custody.

Graphic

DEADLY: CLUSTER BOMB

Load-Date: August 31, 2006



After Protests, Think Tank Taps Women

The Forward January 26, 2007

Copyright 2007 The Forward Association, Incorporated All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. A10

Length: 669 words

Body

A prestigious Israeli institute, responding to a flap that erupted last summer when it failed to include <u>women</u> at a high-powered parley on the future of the Jewish people, has appointed three <u>women</u> to its board of directors.

The Jewish People Policy Planning Institute, a Jerusalem-based policy consortium, added to its board Morlie Levin, executive director of Hadassah International; Ruth Gavison, human rights professor at the Hebrew University, and Suzanne Last Stone, professor at Cardozo School of Law, specializing in Jewish law. The move came as a result of intense pressure from Jewish communal leaders who raised hackles this past June after the institute neglected to include <u>women</u> participants in a two-day brainstorming session for the leadership of major Jewish organizations, held at the Wye Plantation.

Institute leaders say that the addition of the new <u>women</u> board members is meant to signal a dedication to eliminating the gender

imbalance in its ranks. Critics say that the institute's response also underscores the success of last summer's efforts to shine a spotlight on the dearth of <u>women</u> participating in its programs and, more broadly, points up the fact that Jewish organizations can evolve when communal leaders press for change.

What this incident demonstrates is that when people speak up, it actually has an effect, said organizational consultant Shifra Bronznick, founding president of Advancing <u>Women</u> Professionals and the Jewish Community. Bronznick led the charge to address the lack of <u>female</u> representation at the institute's June meeting.

While Bronznick said that she welcomed the addition of the <u>female</u> board members, calling it tremendous progress, she nevertheless

added that <u>women</u> become completely integrated into a group once they comprise a full third of its makeup. With the addition of Levin, Gavison and Stone, four of the 16 board members are <u>women</u> short of the one-third threshold that Bronznick described.

As a result of Bronznick's efforts last summer, more than 55 influential Jewish communal leaders, among them mega-philanthropist Lynn Schusterman and David Ellenson, president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, sent letters of protest to Ambassador Dennis Ross, the institute's board chairman, and to Avinoam Bar-Yosef, the institute's director general.

Ross told the Forward that in the wake of the fracas, the board convened and decided to take swift action in order to redress the concerns that had arisen. Sometimes when you make a mistake, the most important thing is to learn from it, he said. Ross also said that the broader issue of gender imbalance in Jewish organizations was one

After Protests, Think Tank Taps Women

that the institute may take up in its policy work. It's a larger question for the Jewish world generally about the character and scope of what the position of **women** is, especially in the upper reaches of organizations, he said.

Levin, Gavison and Stone are all highly respected professionals in Jewish policy circles. Before becoming executive director of Hadassah International in 2005, Levin was a senior analyst at the RAND Corporation and served as a strategic planning and marketing consultant for Fortune 500 companies. Gavison is a founding member of the Israeli Association for Civil Rights and has served as both its chairperson and president. She is a member of the Winograd Commission, the five-member commission of inquiry appointed by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to probe last summer's war with <u>Hezbollah</u>. Stone serves as director of Cardozo's program in Jewish law and interdisciplinary studies and recently held the Caroline Zelaznik Gruss and Joseph S. Gruss visiting chair in talmudic civil law at Harvard Law School.

In addition to the new board appointments, the institute has hired Ruth Yaron, a former spokeswoman for the Israeli military, to serve as a senior member of the institute, focusing on strategies to improve the image of the Jewish people.

Load-Date: January 25, 2007



The Man the U.N. Won't Thank

New York Sun (Archive) March 30, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: OPINION; Pg. 9

Length: 619 words

Body

On March 23, Hillel Neuer, representing UN Watch, spoke to the 4th Session of the Human Rights Council, meeting in Geneva. His remarks follow. An editorial appears on the adjacent page:

Mr. President,

Six decades ago, in the aftermath of the Nazi horrors, Eleanor Roosevelt, Rene Cassin, and other eminent figures, gathered here, on the banks of Lake Geneva, to reaffirm the principle of human dignity. They created the Commission on Human Rights. Today, we ask: What has become of their noble dream?

In this session we see the answer. Faced with compelling reports from around the world of torture, persecution, and violence against **women**, what has the Council pronounced, and what has it decided?

Nothing. Its response has been silence. Its response has been indifference. Its response has been criminal.

One might say, in Harry Truman's words, that this has become a Do-Nothing, Good-for-Nothing Council.

But that would be inaccurate. This Council has, after all, done something.

It has enacted one resolution after another condemning one single state: Israel. In eight pronouncements - and there will be three more this session - Hamas and <u>Hezbollah</u> have been granted impunity. The entire rest of the world - millions upon millions of victims, in 191 countries - continue to go ignored.

So yes, this Council is doing something. And the Middle East dictators who orchestrate this campaign will tell you it is a very good thing - that they seek to protect human rights, Palestinian rights.

So too, the racist murderers and rapists of Darfur <u>women</u> tell us they care about the rights of Palestinian <u>women</u>; the occupiers of Tibet care about the occupied; and the butchers of Muslims in Chechnya care about Muslims.

But do these self-proclaimed defenders truly care about Palestinian rights?

Let us consider the past few months. More than 130 Palestinians were killed by Palestinian forces. This is three times the combined total that were the pretext for calling special sessions in July and November. Yet the champions of Palestinian rights - Ahmadinejad, Assad, Khaddafi, John Dugard - they say nothing. Little 3-year-old boy Salam Balousha and his two brothers were murdered in their car by Prime Minister Haniyeh's troops. Why has this Council chosen silence?

The Man the U.N. Won't Thank

Because Israel could not be blamed. Because, in truth, the dictators who run this Council couldn't care less about Palestinians, or about any human rights.

They seek to demonize Israeli democracy, to delegitimize the Jewish state, to scapegoat the Jewish people. They also seek something else: to distort and pervert the very language and idea of human rights.

You ask: What has become of the founders' dream? With terrible lies and moral inversion, it is being turned into a nightmare.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Reply by U.N. Human Rights Council President Luis Alfonso de Alba:

For the first time in this session I will not express thanks for that statement. I shall point out to the distinguished representative of the organization that just spoke, the distinguished representative of United Nations Watch, if you'd kindly listen to me. I am sorry that I'm not in a position to thank you for your statement. I should mention that I will not tolerate any similar statements in the Council. The way in which members of this Council were referred to, and indeed the way in which the council itself was referred to, all of this is inadmissible. In the memory of the persons that you referred to, founders of the Human Rights Commission, and for the good of human rights, I would urge you in any future statements to observe some minimum proper conduct and language. Otherwise, any statement you make in similar tones to those used today will be taken out of the records.

Load-Date: March 30, 2007



A growing number use the veil to provoke us

The Sun (England)
October 9, 2006 Monday

Copyright 2006 NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD All Rights Reserved



Section: OPINION Length: 607 words

Byline: Trevor Kavanagh

Body

WHAT is the difference between a burka and a balaclava? Is the veil a garment or a veiled threat?

It all depends.

A black balaclava exposing the eyes and mouth would not attract a second glance on the ski slopes or mountain ranges.

But it scares the pants off bank clerks -or kidnap victims waiting to have their throats slit.

The burka and the full veil go unremarked in their countries of origin.

But in Britain, they sharply define one section of society and deliberately exclude the rest.

And what were once masks imposed by men are increasingly adopted by some **women** as a silent gesture toward the host nation.

Jack Straw is castigated for asking Muslim women to show their faces so they can have a proper conversation.

Those who say you can't see the face of someone on the telephone are missing the point. Neither can they. You are on equal terms.

And even then we sometimes misinterpret a remark because we can't see the expression that goes with it. Wearing a veil is like talking from behind a one-way mirror. It is covert and slightly sinister.

I don't even like talking to someone wearing dark sunglasses, especially those with reflective lenses. It seems rude and intimidating. It places me at a disadvantage.

As Mr Straw points out, there is a reason for saying: "I see what you mean."

All of this is self-evident. It is the furore, the explosion of anger caused by his remarks, which are truly worrying.

A growing number use the veil to provoke us

While everyone was squabbling about veils, a much more alarming revelation was broadcast the same evening on BBC Newsnight.

Hate

In a virtually unreported item, they showed filmed evidence of radicalised Muslims targeting idealistic young students on university campuses.

They sit down and preach to small groups, some of whom security forces fear will become suicide bombers as a result.

So far, says one of the students, only a minority have been influenced. That's all you need.

Meanwhile, young men are being recruited across the country at secret meetings addressed by charismatic preachers of hate.

Our jails serve as intensive breeding grounds for militancy among an ever expanding number of Muslim prisoners.

Ministers have been told hundreds of terrorists are being groomed, with thousands more ready to offer support.

This is not the start. We are well down the road towards a divided nation where some predict Palestine-style conflict between one section and another.

Too gloomy?

A world statesman alarmed by *Hezbollah*'s sophisticated missile attacks on Israel from Lebanon thinks not.

"In ten years, we may see rockets like these being fired from the suburbs of Paris," he told me.

And London?

In this context, the growing tendency to adopt the veil ceases to be a fuss about nothing. Islamic extremism thrives on grievances.

For some <u>women</u> the veil is a genuine expression of faith. For most, it is imposed by men who treat <u>women</u> as second-rate citizens.

For an increasing minority it is a form of passive aggression. It is provocative.

So, when someone stupidly -but predictably -reacts by ripping off a woman's veil, a useful grievance is up and running.

Warning

By the time anyone tries to restore order, that grievance is halfway round the Muslim world, with plenty more where it came from.

It feeds the case for those preaching jihad.

Meanwhile, we risk losing the slender chance of winning the hearts and minds of half the Muslim population -the **women** who don't want to see husbands, sons or brothers turned into human bombs.

Jack Straw is not, as one angry veiled woman said, a "powerful white man telling women how to dress".

He is warning sensible Muslims not to fuel tensions which may one day see parts of Britain at war with one another.

Load-Date: December 16, 2009



Bashar al-Assad can take a flying leap; Unlike Syria, Israel tries not to harm civilians

Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia)

August 8, 2006, Tuesday

Copyright 2006 Charleston Newspapers

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. P4A

Length: 557 words

Byline: Hoppy Kercheval

Body

THE fighting between Israel and *Hezbollah* has caused civilian casualties, and that has prompted worldwide outcry.

The greatest came last week after an Israeli attack killed women and children in Qana.

The death toll was originally stated to be around 50. Human Rights Watch has since revised it downward to 28.

That doesn't make Qana less of a tragedy for the families of the 28 victims, but it does provide useful context.

Qana prompted leaders of dozens of countries - including Arab nations - to condemn Israel for attacks that kill innocents.

Reuters reported that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad raised the readiness of his military because "The barbaric war of annihilation the Israeli aggression is waging on our people in Leb-anon and Palestine is increasing in ferocity."

What's seldom mentioned is that the greatest atrocities against Arab peoples in the modern era have been carried out by other Arabs.

Syria is a prime example.

In 1982, then-Syrian President Hafez al-Assad (Bashar al-Assad's father) felt his rule threatened by Islamic radicals.

The Muslim Brotherhood waged terrorist attacks against Assad's government and urged Islamists and sympathizers to rise up in revolt.

Assad responded by moving soldiers, artillery and tanks to the outskirts of the Syrian city of Hama, where the Muslim Brotherhood was based.

The rebels were told to give up. They did not.

On Feb. 2, the Syrian air force began dropping bombs on the city of 350,000. That was followed by a barrage of artillery fire.

Bashar al-Assad can take a flying leap Unlike Syria, Israel tries not to harm civilians

Following several days of shelling, the tanks and foot soldiers moved in. They shot and killed everyone left alive in the city - men, **women**, children, Muslim and Christian.

Soldiers stole jewelry and other valuables from the corpses and looted homes. Then, deadly cyanide gas was pumped into the city to finish off any stragglers. Finally, bulldozers flattened the city.

The Syrian Human Rights Committee report on Hama said: "It is rather impossible for a writer to paint a picture of the massacres committed against <u>women</u> and newborn children or to describe the methods used to murder members of the same family, one after another right before the eyes of the ones to follow the same fate."

Rather impossible indeed.

It's hard to say exactly how many people died. The lowest estimate is 10,000. Some say as many as 40,000 men, **women** and children were murdered.

Assad didn't try to cover up the atrocities. In fact, he made sure all of Syria knew about Hama. It was his way of saying "oppose me and this is what will happen to you."

Israel does not target civilians. Like the United States, it bends over backward to try to minimize civilian deaths during military action. But during a war, especially a war where a cowardly enemy uses civilians as shields, tragedies like Qana are going to happen.

Israel did not and would not deliberately kill non-combatants.

The Syrian dictatorship has annihilated innocent people by the thousands in the past, and there's no evidence that it wouldn't do the same today if it felt the need.

Bashar al-Assad can go take a flying leap. Given the barbarism that passes for government policy in the Syrian dictatorship, he has no room to criticize anybody.

Kercheval is host of TalkLine, broadcast by the MetroNews Statewide Radio Network from 10 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. The show can be heard locally on WCHS 580 AM.

Load-Date: August 9, 2006



Bogus TV interview supports minister

The Australian (Australia)
August 1, 2006 Tuesday
All-round Metro Edition

Copyright 2006 Nationwide News Pty Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: LOCAL; Pg. 3

Length: 647 words

Byline: Caroline Overington

Body

MATP

A SENIOR federal government bureaucrat has admitted posing as a "youth worker" when he appeared on ABC's Lateline program to back controversial claims by Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough that pedophile rings were operating in the Northern Territory.

Greg Andrews, whose ruse was perpetrated with Lateline's permission, appeared on the program in a June 21 broadcast with his face obscured and his voice altered.

Mr Andrews was described as a "former youth worker", although he has never held that title. He works in the Office of Indigenous Policy Co-ordination, which is part of the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Mr Brough, who Mr Andrews said did not seek or prompt the appearance, was interviewed on the program the following night.

In a statement released yesterday, Mr Andrews, who is an Aborigine, said he "feared for his safety" and that of his newborn child if he revealed his identity.

Lateline's executive producer, Peter Charley, said the program had approached Mr Andrews for the interview and agreed to conceal his true identity.

"He requested anonymity because he was genuinely fearful," Charley said. "We cast about for a suitable way to describe him without revealing his identity."

The program settled on "former youth worker" because he had helped set up a youth refuge.

The appearance came several weeks after Lateline host Tony Jones interviewed Alice Springs Crown prosecutor Nanette Rogers, who made a series of claims of sexual abuse and violence in Aboriginal communities.

Mr Brough, appearing on the program the day after the interview with Ms Rogers, said there was evidence of pedophile rings operating in some communities. The claim drew calls from Northern Territory Chief Minister Clare Martin for him to provide evidence to police.

Bogus TV interview supports minister

Five weeks later, Mr Andrews appeared on Lateline as the unidentified "former youth worker" who backed the claims.

On Lateline last night, Jones said the program had "used the generic term former youth worker" to hide Mr Andrews's identity because he feared physical attacks. But Jones admitted that Mr Andrews, while active in the community of Mutitjulu, near Uluru in the Territory, had not worked as a youth worker.

Mr Andrews said that when he was approached by Lateline "I weighed my moral duty to speak out about serious human rights abuses against possible consequences for my family and my current employment".

"After much agonising, I decided to speak to Lateline about the neglect and abuse of children and violence against **women** in central Australia because of my deep concern for the victims," he said.

"My appearance was not sought or prompted by the minister responsible for my department. I decided that I would only appear anonymously and I informed Lateline and my employer of this condition. Lateline accepted this condition and my employer agreed."

The scandal unfolded on an tough day for the ABC, which was also forced to concede it had presented anti-Israel information to school children. In an episode of the children's program Behind the News, <u>Hezbollah</u> terrorists were described as "soldiers" and as "refugees" whose land had been "taken over by Israel".

Executive Council of Australian Jewry president Grahame Leonard complained to Communications Minister Helen Coonan that the ABC was "poisoning young minds". The ABC conceded the program "failed to meet the requirements of balance and impartiality".

In defending the Lateline story, Charley said Mr Andrews had worked in Mutitjulu, had observed the horrors he talked about and helped establish a youth refuge, "so we thought youth worker might adequately describe him without giving away his identity". He said the Lateline team was "mindful" of the issue that viewers were being misled, but was comfortable "because his identity didn't detract from the atrocities he had seen".

Load-Date: August 1, 2006



Experts discuss Middle East in U. Iowa area

University Wire

September 12, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 The Daily Iowan via U-Wire

Length: 619 words

Byline: By Matt Nelson, The Daily Iowan; SOURCE: U. Iowa

Dateline: IOWA CITY, Iowa

Body

The camera captures a woman with long, dark hair. She holds a yellow folder, has large sunglasses and faded jeans. Behind her are young <u>women</u>, some wearing traditional head scarves, and young men. Cypress and palm trees stand over them. A magazine focused on explaining the changing face of modern Arab media shows her at Amman University. She could be any young woman in any American city. But she's from Jordan, more than 8,000 miles away.

The distance between Middle Eastern and American cultures may seem vast, yet two speakers made it their goal to shorten the gap in Iowa City, Iowa on Sept. 11.

Marwan Kraidy, an assistant professor at the American University in Washington, D.C., and Steve Clemons, director of the American Strategy Program at the New American Foundation, spoke at the lowa City Public Library. The Stanley Foundation -- an Iowa-based, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization focused on discussions of peace and security issues -- in conjunction with the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, brought the lecturers to town.

Kraidy spoke first, discussing Arab satellite TV, the primary way most Arab-speaking people get their news and, more importantly, their entertainment.

"More people watch entertainment than news," he said. "Reality TV has the most popular shows on Arab television." He described the most popular program "Star Academy" as a sort of "American Idol" with singing competitions. The Arab version is complicated -- contestants live together in a house with 60 cameras, broadcasting live, 24 hours a day.

And because Arab reality shows often involve a lot of singing, broadcast companies use clips as additional, cheap programming, with each music video voted upon by viewers.

Kraidy demonstrated the effect of Arab pop culture and its influence on politics in the form of a picture, taken after the assassination of Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. Lebanese youths held a sign that read "call 1559," a reference to the United Nations resolution calling for Syria to withdraw from Lebanon, filtered through an Arab pop culture expression: the text-message vote. In the political arena, Clemons spoke about discussions with U.S. foreign-policy officials and the direction he sees American diplomacy moving.

"The primacy of the U.S. in [the Middle East] region is fragile," he said. "The mystique of American power has been shattered by Iraq."

Experts discuss Middle East in U. Iowa area

Clemons, speaking to the mostly middle-aged audience, expressed frustration at the day-to-day approach the Bush administration was taking with handling Middle East crises.

"I'm worried about discontinuity -- what we did yesterday is not very useful for what we have to handle tomorrow," he said. He went on to describe his view of the Iran situation and how American policymakers need to embrace the former president of Iran, Mohammad Khatami, instead of vilifying him, as Clemons saw the U.S. media do.

Clemons' solution to Middle East turmoil emphasized what he called the "George Soros" approach -- stabilizing countries through cash assistance in an effort to pave the way for the eventual Americanization to follow, as the U.S. businessman Soros did in Eastern Europe. He also said the United States deals too broadly with Middle East problems.

"We're talking about nuances of culture," he said. "What's going on with Hamas, and Palestine, and <u>Hezbollah</u>, and Lebanon, and Iraq, and Iran, the so-called global war on terror lumps all of these together."

Yet he remains optimistic about the possibilities for change and democracy in the Middle East.

"As people get engaged and vote, in the long run, it will have stabilizing results," he said. "Because at the end of the day, people want a better life for themselves."

(C) 2006 The Daily Iowan via U-WIRE

Load-Date: September 12, 2006



Bogus TV interview supports minister

The Australian (Australia)
August 1, 2006 Tuesday
All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2006 Nationwide News Pty Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: LOCAL; Pg. 3

Length: 624 words

Byline: Caroline Overington

Body

MATP

A SENIOR federal government bureaucrat has admitted posing as a "youth worker" when he appeared on ABC's Lateline program to back controversial claims by Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough that pedophile rings were operating in the Northern Territory.

Greg Andrews, whose ruse was perpetrated with Lateline's permission, appeared on the program in a June 21 broadcast with his face obscured and his voice altered.

Mr Andrews was described as a "former youth worker", although he has never held that title.

He works in the Office of Indigenous Policy Co-ordination, which is part of the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Mr Brough, who Mr Andrews said did not seek or prompt the appearance, was interviewed on the program the following night.

In a statement released yesterday, Mr Andrews -- who is an Aborigine -- said he "feared for his safety" and that of his newborn child if he revealed his identity.

Lateline's executive producer, Peter Charley, said the program had approached Mr Andrews for the interview and agreed to conceal his true identity.

"He requested anonymity because he was genuinely fearful," Mr Charley said. "We cast about for a suitable way to describe him without revealing his identity."

It settled on "former youth worker" because he had helped set up a youth refuge.

The appearance came several weeks after Lateline host Tony Jones interviewed Alice Springs Crown prosecutor Nanette Rogers, who made a series of claims of sexual abuse and violence in Aboriginal communities.

Mr Brough, appearing on the program the day after the interview with Ms Rogers, claimed there was evidence of pedophile rings operating in some communities. The claim drew calls from Northern Territory Chief Minister Clare Martin for him to provide evidence to police.

Bogus TV interview supports minister

Five weeks later, Mr Andrews appeared on Lateline as the unidentified "youth worker" to back the claims.

Mr Andrews said when he was approached by Lateline to appear on the program, "I weighed my moral duty to speak out about serious human rights abuses against possible consequences for my family and my current employment".

"After much agonising, I decided to speak to Lateline about the neglect and abuse of children and violence against **women** in central Australia because of my deep concern for the victims," he said.

"My appearance was not sought or prompted by the minister responsible for my department. I decided that I would only appear anonymously and I informed Lateline and my employer of this condition. Lateline accepted this condition and my employer agreed."

The scandal unfolded on an embarrassing day for the ABC, which was also forced to concede yesterday that it had presented anti-Israel information to school children. In an episode of the children's program Behind the News, *Hezbollah* terrorists were described as "soldiers" and as "refugees" whose land had been "taken over by Israel".

Grahame Leonard, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, complained in a letter to Communications Minister Helen Coonan that the ABC was "poisoning young minds".

The ABC conceded the program "failed to meet the requirements of balance and impartiality. The story has been removed from the ABC website".

In defending the Lateline story, Mr Charley said Mr Andrews had worked in the Mutitjulu community near Uluru, had observed the horrendous things he talked about, and helped establish a youth refuge, "so we thought youth worker might adequately describe him without giving away his identity".

He said the Lateline team was "mindful" of the issue that viewers were being misled, but said "we were comfortable with proceeding because his identity didn't detract from the atrocities he had seen".

Load-Date: July 31, 2006



Olmert offers to meet 2 Arab leaders

The International Herald Tribune
October 17, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 International Herald Tribune All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 613 words **Byline:** Greg Myre

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told Israel's Parliament on Monday that he was willing to meet with the leaders of Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority in an attempt to ease regional tensions, although no such meetings appeared imminent.

The first day of Parliament's winter session was marked by the absence of Israel's president, Moshe Katsav, who would normally address legislators.

The Israeli police recommended Sunday that Katsav face charges of rape and sexual assault, which he is alleged to have committed against <u>women</u> who worked for him. With Israel's attorney general now reviewing the case to determine whether to file formal charges, Katsav canceled plans to attend the session at the Knesset, or Parliament.

Israeli prime ministers often use the opening of Parliament's winter session to set out a diplomatic agenda for the coming months, and Olmert raised the possibility of talks with Lebanon's prime minister, Fouad Siniora, and the Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas.

For Israel, the past several months have been dominated by the fighting with <u>Hezbollah</u> guerrillas in Lebanon, and renewed Israeli military operations inside the Gaza Strip following the seizure of an Israeli soldier.

"I want to take this opportunity to call on Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora to meet with me face-to-face," Olmert said, adding that he hoped for "direct talks to bring peace to our people."

Olmert has broached the possibility on several occasions, and Siniora has shot it down each time. He did so again on Monday. In Beirut, Siniora's office issued a statement saying that he had "announced more than once that Lebanon will be the last Arab country to sign peace with Israel."

Olmert has been talking for months about a possible meeting with Abbas. But their only encounter was a brief meeting in June on the sidelines of an international conference in Jordan.

"I pledge to work tirelessly to take advantage of any opportunity, any crack, any possibility of holding negotiations that will lead to real dialogue with responsible representatives of the Palestinian people," Olmert said.

Olmert offers to meet 2 Arab leaders

But Olmert reiterated that no real progress was possible until an Israeli soldier, Corporal Gilad Shalit, is released. He was seized by Palestinian militants on June 25 and taken into the Gaza Strip. The Palestinians, meanwhile, are seeking freedom for a large number of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel in exchange for Shalit.

The Israelis and the Palestinians have not had full-fledged peace talks since January 2001.

On other issues, Olmert said he believed moderate Arab countries were building closer ties to guard against what he described as threats from Iran and Islamic militants.

"I am pleased a moderate axis of countries in the Arab world has been created that wants to take part in blocking Iran's influence on the region," Olmert said. "The Iranian threat is aimed not only against Israel and the free world, but also against Arab countries around us."

Olmert did not name any countries, but appeared to be referring to Jordan, Egypt and a number of Gulf states.

Olmert also reiterated his call for the international community to act against Iran's nuclear program. Israel contends that Iran is aggressively seeking nuclear weapons, which Iran denies.

"This is a historic crossroads for the entire international community and it has a duty to prevent Iran from achieving a nuclear capability," he said.

Olmert is scheduled to travel to Russia on Tuesday and is expected to raise the issue. While relations between Israel and Russia are generally positive, they have disagreed on Iran. Russia has helped Iran develop its nuclear program and has opposed sanctions.

Load-Date: October 19, 2006



A hiss at the myths, but bigotry sure isn't one

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

August 8, 2006 Tuesday

First Edition

Copyright 2006 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Entertainment; Pg. 19

Length: 602 words

Byline: DOUG ANDERSON

Body

PENN & TELLER: BS 11pm, Nine: There's no shortage of mythbusting on television at present. The medium, which is itself sustained by a dubious amalgam of spray-on mystique and arrant BS (that's "bullshit" for those with demure sensibilities), enjoys delving into matters of myth and assumption. But is it one to be trusted in ventilating matters of intelligence? Nine's What's Good For You (7.30pm Mondays), has Sigrid Thornbirds debunking misconceptions and old wives' tales - your face won't stay like that if you're caught gurning when the wind shifts, and binge-drinking gin in a very hot bath isn't useful in procuring an abortion ... you know the stuff. Renowned for their exposes of conjuring tricks and their reckless involvement in dangerous illusions, Penn and Teller have been ripping into matters such as the efficacy of penile enlargement products and breast enhancement treatments. Tonight they involve themselves in the infamous Georgia School Board debate - the latest round of desperation logic from creation science advocates who pray the doctrine of intelligent design will gain enough traction to demand inclusion in official school curriculums.

CUTTING EDGE 8.30pm, SBS: Anti-Semitism in the 21st century. What's new? The means of delivery if nothing else. Spam, websites and hateful webcasts can afford the gutless untold opportunities to anonymously broadcast their bile worldwide. The gravestone vandals, graffiti sprayers, Holocaust deniers and neo-Nazis still vent their insecurity in conventional ways, of course, and the venous rubbish that slurred from Mel Gibson's mouth recently was typically old hat. All the more pathetic given the headlines it received compared with coverage of concurrent events in Seattle where a demented individual shot six <u>women</u> in a Jewish Social Organisation, killing one. Anti-Semitism is, like any ideology based on loathing and fear, a waste of time and energy. It does no one any good yet practitioners blaze away, accusing Jews of various conspiracies while labelling hardline regimes in North Korea and Iran as counterproductive pygmies or plain evil. Whether it's "sieg heil" salutes at a football game, a sneering expectoration or a rocket lobbed over the fence, any expression of xenophobia is a step backwards for civilised society. Does understanding the history of bigotry help diminish its incidence or is common decency and humanity the only antidote?

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT 9.20pm, ABC: No shortage of genocidal imagery from southern Lebanon as Israel's impossible war against *Hezbollah* proceeds like a runaway hearse. Marc Corcoran visits the Christian sectors of Beirut, which have remained, thus far, relatively unscathed from the blitz. Instrumental in precipitating the Syrian withdrawal last year, Christian Lebanese are appalled at seeing their country, their cities, their fragile political and social balance being smashed to flitters by a powerful neighbour - ever-so-subtly endorsed by Washington. In Russia, Emma Griffiths catches up with the Cossack revival. Once infamous for their pursuit of anti-Jewish

A hiss at the myths, but bigotry sure isn't one

pogroms, the Cossacks were later regarded as enemies of the state (like everyone else) under Stalin's regime. Now, with Vlad the Putin in command, they are back in favour, victimising ethnic Turkish Muslims.

HOT DOCS 10pm, SBS: Back we go, 40 years, to the early days of dude-ism to examine the history of the Black Bear Commune, established in the heady days of hippie counterculture. Peace, free love and beads. Are we capable of retro-tribalism in the 21st century, man? Perfect with a bowl of Neil's famous Young Ones lentils.

Graphic

DRAWING: By Rocco Fazzari

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



<u>Comment & Debate: We can't let God-blinded killers set our foreign policy:</u> <u>Muslims are right that Blair has fomented extremism, but wrong not to</u> <u>challenge the myth of a crusade against them</u>

The Guardian - Final Edition
August 15, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 Guardian Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: GUARDIAN COMMENT AND DEBATE PAGES; Pg. 27

Length: 1098 words **Byline:** Polly Toynbee

Body

The grand assemblage of Muslim MPs, peers and leaders of 38 key groups who signed an open letter to the prime minister last weekend are almost certainly right. British foreign policy has helped foment murderous extremism among British Muslims.

The London bombings a year ago might not have happened had Labour taken the French stand. If Tony Blair and his cabinet had never hitched Britain to George Bush's war chariot, it is unlikely that al-Qaida-inspired terror cells would plan mass murder from British airports. Before, Islamist terror was focused on faraway countries - Indonesia, the Philippines, Algeria, Somalia, Russia - and the twin towers. If we had only kept our heads down, terror's hot breath might have passed over us.

Every minister hotly denying this obvious truth sounds absurd - but makes the wrong point altogether. The point is that a democratically elected government's foreign policy can't be moulded by threats from murdering religious maniacs. There are 1,001 good reasons why we should never have supported, let alone joined, the war in Iraq. But the one truly bad reason would have been fear of terrorism.

Those signing the letter steer perilously close to suggesting the government had it coming. The Muslim leaders wrote: "The debacle of Iraq and now the failure to do more to secure an immediate end to the attacks on civilians in the Middle East not only increases the risk to ordinary people in that region, it is also ammunition to extremists who threaten us all." They urge the prime minister to "change our foreign policy to show the world that we value the lives of civilians wherever they live and whatever their religion. Such a move would make us safer." Maybe it would, but there can't be many, pro- or anti-war, who think sparing us from threats by God-blinded killers should be the number-one priority in foreign policy.

As it is, Blair will leave office earlier than he would have done, for ever branded by his great Bush/Iraq error; Labour may lose power, blighted and paralysed by it. That is what happens in democracies - vengeance the democratic way.

Intellectually, these Muslim leaders are subtly accepting a notion that Muslim anger is different to other citizens' anger. Why? Because globally Muslims feel there is a western crusade against them. True, Bush's "war on terror" language encourages that paranoid delusion, but these moderate leaders should be doing their best to challenge the myth.

Comment & Debate: We can't let God-blinded killers set our foreign policy: Muslims are right that Blair has fomented extremism, but wrong not to challenge the m....

It goes with the selective amnesia that forgets about the Kosovo Muslims Blair and Clinton saved from genocide. It goes with a distorted memory of the Taliban as anything other than ruthless despots to their people (especially their <u>women</u>) and unprovoked originators of terror against the rest of the world. As for Iraq, invasion was dangerously misguided, but selective Islamic memory forgets that Saddam murdered Muslims.

In the great disaster of Blair's foreign policy, the irony is that most Britons would agree with the Muslim leaders' critique, both on Iraq and Lebanon. But that does not lead to any "understanding", let alone appeasement, of terrorists. What is their cause? It's not a viable Palestinian state (though that would help). It's not better rights in Britain to jobs and respect (that would help). It's not to bring democracy to corrupt Middle Eastern governments propped up by the west (democracy is a western abomination). Their cause is to impose a fantasy caliphate across some mystically united Muslim world - even as conflict between rival Islamic sects in Iraq kills thousands more Muslims than infidel invaders.

However, standing by and watching the killing of so many civilians in Lebanon and the destruction of the one nascent pro-western democracy in the region has been more than many in the Labour party can stand. The sentiment behind the call for a return of parliament is backed by more MPs and ministers than the 100 or so who signed up to this empty gesture. As sidekick without influence on US policy, Britain has no useful role to play, but self-respect demanded the cabinet at least follow Kim Howells' protest at Israel's disproportionate response to *Hizbullah*. It shamed us to say nothing.

Mistrust of government now reaches the point where the first response to the news of the terror arrests from many quarters was disbelief. The internet hummed with theories that this was all a plot to deflect attention from Lebanon. Remember the ricin plot that wasn't and the WMD that weren't? Security services are inept, as Forest Gate and the death of Jean Charles de Menezes prove.

It's impossible to know yet how close to success a plan to destroy nine airliners may have been, or to assess Reid's claim of other plots foiled and more to come. But the notion of the state ever eager to stifle our rights for its own sinister ends is running deep across the political spectrum. That's an anarchic paranoia to be refuted by the centreleft, for whom the state is a force for collective good. Faced with sudden threats, of course the state makes mistakes: who hasn't imagined the life-or-death moment when the police had to decide whether to pull the trigger on a potential tube bomber?

Yesterday Ruth Kelly set out to talk to the Muslim community - again. It's hard to know what that means. There are no "talks" available with religious fanatics seeking paradise in an impossible cause.

But some preventive measures were obvious many years ago, as report after report said communities forced in on themselves needed help to open up. Trevor Phillips of the Commission for Racial Equality was first to say, bravely, that multiculturalism is a bad idea if it means separate development; now is the time to open up cultural-isolation zones.

A new Commission on Integration and Cohesion, launching this month, will be worthless unless its first recommendation is to end religious and ethnic segregation in schools. That means no Church of England or Catholic schools, no Muslim or Jewish schools. There must be no toleration either for lazy local school allocations that allow 90% of children to be Muslims in one state school while other schools nearby are mainly white. The bussing of children has to go with huge investment so that genuinely mixed schools in these areas get the most teachers and best resources and become extended schools offering enticing community facilities. Housing must follow suit, offering better to both white and ethnic-minority families, luring them into new, mixed communities that are too good to refuse. All that takes a long time - but it should begin today.

polly.toynbee@guardian.co.uk

Load-Date: August 15, 2006

Comment & Debate: We can't let God-blinded killers set our foreign policy: Muslims are right that Blair has fomented extremism, but wrong not to challenge the m....



World Report

Windsor Star (Ontario)
February 15, 2007 Thursday
Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Windsor Star, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. B2; World Report

Length: 1339 words

Byline: Compiled from Star News Services

Body

MIDEAST

BUSH DOWNPLAYS CLAIMS IRAN INVOLVED IN IRAQ

WASHINGTON - President George W. Bush on Wednesday backed away from U.S. military claims that senior Iranian political leaders authorized the smuggling of deadly weapons into Iraq for use in attacks against Americans, fuelling new controversy over the quality of U.S. intelligence about Tehran's activities.

Just days after American commanders alleged Iran's leadership ordered the smuggling of mortars, roadside bombs and rocket-propelled grenades into Iraq, Bush said the U.S. did not know if President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad or other top leaders in Tehran were responsible.

Bush, however, said the U.S. knows with "certainty" that the cache of weaponry was supplied to Shiite militias by the Quds Force, an elite unit of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

"I can say with certainty that the Quds Force, a part of the Iranian government, has provided these sophisticated IEDs (improvised explosive devices) that have harmed our troops," the president said at a White House news conference, his first of the new year.

"I do not know whether or not the Quds Force was ordered from the top echelons of government. ... Whether Ahmadinejad ordered the Quds Force to do this, I don't think we know."

BOMBS KILL 11 OF IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS

TEHRAN, Iran - A car loaded with explosives blew up Wednesday in southeastern Iran near a bus carrying members of the elite Revolutionary Guards, killing 11 of them and wounding 31.

The semi-official news agency Fars reported that the Sunni militant group Jundallah, or God's Brigade, issued a statement saying it carried out the blast.

Iranian officials did not confirm the claim, blaming what it called "insurgents and drug-traffickers."

The bombing was the worst attack in years in the lawless corner of Iran near the Pakistan border, where drug gangs and insurgents have carried out past attacks.

ASIA

NO APOLOGY FROM AUTHOR FOR BOOK ON PRINCESS

TOKYO - An Australian author said Wednesday he would refuse Japan's demand that he apologize for his book about the suffering of Crown Princess Masako, and asked the palace to say sorry to the princess instead.

Japan's embassy in Canberra delivered a letter to journalist Ben Hills and his publisher seeking an apology and corrections for the book entitled Princess Masako: Prisoner of the Chrysanthemum Throne, officials said.

In the book -- published by Random House Australia, a unit of German media giant Bertelsmann AG -- Hills accuses royal minders of trying to turn Masako, a former career diplomat educated at Harvard and Oxford, into a submissive wife.

"I completely reject their attempt to intimidate me and I completely reject that there is anything inaccurate or any lies in the book," Hills told Agence France-Presse by telephone from Sydney.

"The only person who deserves an apology is Princess Masako" from the Imperial Household Agency, he said.

MAN WITH TWO WIVES TOLD TO SUPPORT HINDU EX-WIFE

KUALA LUMPUR - A Malaysian court has ruled that a man who converted to Islam and then took two Muslim wives must financially support the Hindu ex-wife he left behind, reports said Wednesday.

Abdul Ghani Abdullah and then-wife A. Letchimidevi split in 1996 after he converted to Islam.

He stopped monthly alimony payments of 1,000 ringgit (US\$285) when she refused also to convert, the New Straits Times said.

But Court of Appeal judges ruled Tuesday that Abdul Ghani, a mutton seller, would have to resume payments and rejected his request for them to be reduced to 300 ringgit.

Abdul Ghani's lawyer had argued his client could not afford 1,000 ringgit because he had to support two other Muslim **women** he married in 1997 and 2000, the state Bernama news agency reported.

EUROPE

NO PROOF AGAINST EGYPTIAN IN TRAIN BOMBINGS: LAWYER

MADRID - There is no material evidence against Egyptian Rabei Ousmane Sayed Ahmed, who goes on trial today accused of being one of the masterminds behind the deadly train bombings in Madrid on March 11, 2004, his lawyer told Agence France-Presse.

"There is no evidence against him ... There are only two recordings from Milan where he talks about Madrid," said Italian Luca D'Auria, one of two lawyers representing Ahmed, nicknamed Mohammed the Egyptian.

The conversations caught on tape by Italian intelligence services in no way constituted "claiming responsibility right after the attack," D'Auria said, pointing out that Ahmed had told someone else in the room: "look, that thing there, I was the one who did it."

Ahmed, 35, is suspected of having helped organize the bombings of four commuter trains, which killed 191 people and injured 1,824. If found guilty he faces 38,656 years in jail, although under Spanish law, he could only serve a maximum 40 years.

DRIVER STUNNED BY SWITCH TO RIGHT-HAND TRAFFIC

World Report

STOCKHOLM - A 79-year-old motorist in Sweden who hadn't driven to town in more than 40 years told a court he was stunned to discover that the country had switched from left to right-hand traffic -- in 1967.

The man, whose name was not disclosed, was in court in the southern Swedish town of Karlskrona on a charge of reckless driving after he backed into traffic coming in the opposite direction, forcing motorists in both directions to slam on the brakes, the local daily Sydoestran reported.

He then crashed into a traffic light, sending it toppling and causing damage to the rear of his car, before continuing driving.

A police car with sirens and flashing lights wasn't enough to get the man to pull over, so police had to use their patrol car to cut him off in the middle of the road.

The man, from the small town of Holmsjoe north of Karlskrona, told the court he had not driven in Karlskrona for more than 40 years and was unaware that Sweden had switched to driving on the right side of the road in 1967.

He said he got lost while taking his car in for a routine inspection.

SOUTH AMERICA

TWO SISTERS, BOTH MODELS, DIE SIX MONTHS APART

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay - Two sisters, both models, have died of apparent heart attacks within months of each other in a family tragedy drawing attention as the fashion world debates how to protect the health of painfully thin runway models.

Eliana Ramos, 18, was found dead at her grandparent's home in the Uruguayan capital on Tuesday, authorities said.

Her sister Luisel, 22, died shortly after stepping down from a runway last Aug. 2 during a fashion show here.

While no medical report was immediately released after the latest death, Judge Roberto Timbal told the respected online news outlet Observa

that Eliana Ramos died of a heart attack. An autopsy on her sister Luisel found that she too died of a heart attack.

The judge told Observa that "nothing out of the ordinary" appeared to be involved in the death, but that an autopsy was conducted on his orders and that final test results would be made available in a month.

AFRICA

TOXIC DUMP VICTIMS UPSET OVER PAY DEAL

ABIDJAN - Victims of toxic waste dumped in Ivory Coast, where thousands were poisoned and 10 died, expressed alarm Wednesday after the Dutch shipper of the residue signed a pay-off deal with the government.

"This agreement was signed only with the Ivorian state, but it should also have been signed with victims' associations," Yao Pipira, a leader of a group of affected residents in the commercial capital Abidjan said.

The multinational Trafigura on Tuesday agreed to pay 152 million euros (US\$198 million) to Ivory Coast in an amicable out-of-court settlement during a deal with the government that exonerated the firm from legal proceedings.

Pipira, who represents people living in three districts of the port city where the waste was illicitly dumped late last August, said local people were not critical of the deal itself, "but we fear that it was done without us and that victims will not reap the benefit."

World Report

Trafigura agreed to pay the money in an amicable settlement "for damages sustained and the repayment of pollution cleaning costs," according to the text of the signed deal.

International environmental watchdog Greenpeace slammed the accord in a statement Wednesday.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Bela Szandelszky, Associated Press; Government supporters wave Lebanese flags as they attend a rally to mark the death of former prime minister Rafik Hariri Wednesday in downtown Beirut. Thousands of Lebanese gathered at the city centre grave of Hariri on the second anniversary of his assassination, a day after two bombs killed three people. <u>Hezbollah</u>-led opposition supporters looked on from behind razor wire. The demonstration, which ended in the afternoon without incident, lacked the fervour seen at past protests mounted by both sides of Lebanon's political spectrum. The <u>Hezbollah</u>-led opposition has been camping out in downtown Beirut since Dec. 1 in an effort to force Prime Minister Fuad Saniora to resign.;

Colour Photo: Mahmoud Ahmadinejad;

Colour Photo: Crown Princess Masako;

Colour Photo: Eliana Ramos;

Load-Date: February 15, 2007



<u>MEET THE PEOPLE</u>

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)
October 1, 2006 Sunday

Copyright 2006 Times Publishing Company All Rights Reserved

Section: CITRUS TIMES; Pg. 4

Length: 1488 words

Series: HOMETOWN CITRUS

Body

Their backgrounds are as varied as themanner in which they found Citrus County. But their love of Israel and dedication to Hadassah brought the three friends together.

The recent war between Israel and <u>Hezbollah</u> inspired Shirley Kessleman, 81, Miriam Fagan, 70 and Leslie Dinerstein, 61 to sponsor a fundraiser for Magen David Adom (MDA), Israel's first-aid and disaster relief organization. MDA is the equivalent, and a partner of, the American Red Cross.

The "Prayer for Peace" event featured a light Israeli lunch and Eli Glazer as the guest speaker. They raised \$2,171.

The ladies are quick to thank Lucille Pock for her help.

Miriam was born and raised in Israel. She met her husband, Walter, an engineer born in Chicago, through a student at the Technion, where he was teaching. He returned home and sent Miriam a telegram.

"It said, 'Will you marry me,' " she recalled. The couple will celebrate 47 years together in December.

Leslie was born in New York City to parents who were Connecticut natives. She grew up there and "all my family is still there."

Leslie's love of Israel grew through visits to the country. The first time she arrived was in honor of her eldest daughter's Bat Mitzvah. They spent seven weeks in a "family work experience program" in Nahariya - one of the first cities shelled by *Hezbollah* this year.

"You always see people (in movies) show emotions when arriving somewhere. They kneel and kiss the ground," she said. "I understand. I felt as if I was home."

Shirley was born in Boston, the sixth of eight children. She had an intense interest in Israel from the first grade. As a child she attended Hebrew school, which stood her in good stead on her trip to Israel during the American Bicentennial in 1976.

"I got to Israel ... I could understand the signs, the kosher market ... the stores," explained Shirley. "It felt so good. Nobody was going to yell at me ... nobody called me a "dirty Jew."

She met a cousin of her mother who took her outside and pointed to a nearby hill.

MEET THE PEOPLE

"That's where the Lebanese are," Shirley recalls her saying. "They don't bother us and we don't bother them."

Miriam and Walter arrived in Citrus County after finding it to their liking during a visit to their son, local dentist Dennis Fagan. Shirley and her husband, Sumner, attended a presentation by a Citrus County developer and were flown south for the weekend and chose to build a house here. Leslie followed her husband to Florida, but came to Citrus County as a widow in December 2000.

"I was looking for a small congenial community that had a viable Jewish congregation," she explained. "Beverly Hills had (that). There were not many congregations with a permanent Rabbi (in Florida). I was never active in Hadassah until I moved to Beverly Hills.

Miriam and Shirley are co-presidents of Hadassah of Beverly Hills Florida. Leslie is an active participant and a "great caterer" according to the other two ladies, who often cooks for Hadassah events.

Founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold, Hadassah is the largest volunteer organization and the largest <u>women</u>'s organization in America.

Originally formed to bring healthcare to the children of the area, Hadassah's health programs have evolved to provide medical care for all and they are cutting edge of medical research, including stem cell research.

Miriam points to actor Christopher Reeve, who "took advantage of their research" after the accident which left him a quadriplegic.

"Hadassah has grown into an organization with many arms and branches worldwide," explained Miriam. "They have a tremendous youth program," deal with senior problems and promote travel to Israel.

While Hadassah is basically a Jewish organization, "we are non-denominational," Shirley pointed out. "There have always been non-Jewish *women* in the organization."

Hadassah of Beverly Hills, Florida, meets at noon the second Monday of each month at the Kellner Auditorium on Civic Circle. For information, call Fagan at 746-0005.

TAKE A LOOK

On Sept. 16, sixteen residents of Citrus County gathered early in the morning to car pool for the drive to the Veteran's Memorial Park in Gainesville, where they joined approximately 70 other people for a Walk-A-Thon to raise awareness about legislation that is in Congress to establish a Cabinet-level Department of Peace, H.R. 3760 and S. 1756.

Residents who donned their walking shoes were: Lynn Boyle Jim Boyle Lois Cole, Rodney Cole, Jim Davis, Nadia Davis, Pat Fischer, Mary Gaber, Rebecca Jones, Susi LaForsch, Susie Lord, Alan McDonald, Julie McDonald, Bettina Mulle, Lester Mulle, and Carll Peterson.

The Peace Alliance is a nonprofit, a citizen action organization spearheading the national campaign for a U.S. Department of Peace. There were more than 80 cities and towns nationwide who participated in a similar walk.

The Department of Peace Legislation would research, articulate and facilitate nonviolent solutions to domestic and international conflicts. If this bill becomes a law it would, among other things:

- * Provide much-needed assistance to efforts by city, county and state governments in coordinating existing programs, as well as develop new programs based on best practices nationally.
- * Support our military with complementary approaches to peace-building.
- * Teach violence prevention and mediation to Americas' schoolchildren.
- * Effectively treat and dismantle gang psychology and rehabilitate the prison population.

MEET THE PEOPLE

- * Build peace-making efforts among conflicting cultures both here and abroad.
- * Create and administer a U.S. Peace Academy, acting as a sister organization to the U,S. Military Academy.

Domestically, it would provide a coordinated, proactive approach to develop policies to reducing the levels of domestic and gang violence, child abuse and various other forms of societal discord.

For information on this legislation and the campaign, visit the Peace Alliance Web site at www.thepeacealliance.org.

Times photo - MARY ANN KOSLASKY

GOOD FRIENDS MET THROUGH HADASSAH: Miriam Fagan and Shirley Kesselman, seated, and Leslie Dinerstein, standing, are good friends. Though each was born and raised in other areas, they settled in Citrus County and met through their membership in Hadassah.

Photo courtesy of REBECCA JONES

RAISING AWARENESS FOR A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF PEACE: Sixteen Citrus County residents recently traveled to Gainesville where they joined about 70 people for a Walk-A-Thon to raise awareness about legislation in Congress to establish a Cabinet-level Department of Peace. Kneeling are Rebecca Jones, Susie Lord and Susi LaForsch. Standing are Mary Gaber, Alan McDonald, Lois Cole, Nadia Davis, Rodney Cole, Bettina Mulle, Lester Mulle, Jim Davis, Carll Peterson and Julie McDonald. On hand, but not shown, were Pat Fischer, Lynn Boyle and Jim Boyle.

Photo courtesy of TOM DAVIS

GOOD START FOR CAREER IN AVIATION: Jenna McGovern, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis McGovern of Crystal River, recently received the Kirk Aviation Scholarship award from Gudi Davis, chief flight instructor of Crystal Aero Group, the sponsor of the award. This is the 15th year the scholarship has been awarded to a Citrus County high school student pursuing an aviation career.

Photo courtesy of JUDITH TEAR

DOCTOR HONORED FOR WORK IN 'WE CARE' PROGRAM: Dr. Jill Adera, left, recently was presented a plaque signed by Florida Secretary of Health Dr. M. Rony Francois for her service and recruitment efforts for the 'We Care' program and the Citrus County Health Department. Making the presentation are Marybeth Nayfield, center, Health Department administrator and Sandra Fuchs, 'We Care' coordinator.

Photo courtesy of TERRY STOLL

CRUISERS DONATE TO THEIR SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT WTI: The Citrus County Cruisers donated \$1,580 to their scholarship fund at the Withlacoochee Technical Institute. From left are Brenda Miley-Kelley, WTI student counselor, and Cruisers Judy Stoll and Nancy McGaheran. The money came from the Cruisers 22nd Manatee Car & Truck Show. Automotive Service Technology or Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing classes will benefit from the donation.

Photo courtesy of CURT EBITZ

CITRUS 20/20 HONORED FOR SUPPORT OF SCHOLARSHIP AT CFCC: Citrus 20/20 was presented a plaque by the CFCC Foundation in recognition of its establishment of an endowed scholarship to support local students enrolled at CFCC. The presentation was at the 11th annual Save Our Waters Week dinner show that about 200 people attended. John Kolley, vice chairman of Citrus 20/20 and chairman of the Citrus 20/20 Endowed Scholarship program, and Avis Craig, director of the CFCC Foundation, show off the plaque.

Photo courtesy of AL SCHROEDEL

MEET THE PEOPLE

NATIONAL AWARD FOR CRYSTAL RIVER POWER SQUADRON: Janet Lane, District 22 commander, United States Power Squadron, presents the third-place National Roger Upton Award for Excellence in Public Announcements in Video Presentations to Bill Foster, Crystal River Power Squadron past commander and 2005 public relations officer.

Graphic

PHOTO, MARY ANN KOSLASKY; PHOTO, REBECCA JONES; PHOTO, TOM DAVIS; PHOTO, JUDITH TEAR; PHOTO, TERRY STOLL; PHOTO, CURT EBITZ; PHOTO, AL SCHROEDEL

Load-Date: October 1, 2006



Israeli Shelling Kills 18 Gazans; Anger Boils Up - Correction Appended

The New York Times

November 9, 2006 Thursday

Late Edition - Final

Correction Appended

Copyright 2006 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1

Length: 1402 words

Byline: By IAN FISHER and STEVEN ERLANGER; lan Fisher reported from Beit Hanun, and Steven Erlanger from

Jerusalem. Taghreed El-Khodary contributed reporting from Gaza.

Dateline: BEIT HANUN, Gaza Strip, Nov. 8

Body

Israeli tank shells killed 18 Palestinians, including 8 children and 6 **women**, at a cluster of houses here on Wednesday, one of the largest single losses of life in Gaza in years.

Some Hamas leaders called for a suicide-bombing retaliation inside Israel and, unusually, for the United States to be taught "hard lessons" as well.

"Nothing happened," mumbled Isra Athamnah, 5 years old, who was pocked with shrapnel and in shock. The news that her widowed mother, Sanaa, 35, was dead and that she was now an orphan did not sink in.

Others described how a tank shell had hit a home here in northern Gaza, sending members of the extended Athamnah family outside before dawn. The next volleys struck them as they crowded in a narrow alley between the houses. The dead ranged from less than a year old to 70 years old, witnesses said.

Israeli leaders expressed regret. They have been on the defensive over their performance in the war against *Hezbollah* in Lebanon and the more than 300 Palestinians killed in operations in Gaza since the summer.

Defense Minister Amir Peretz ordered a halt to artillery attacks in the densely populated Gaza Strip, which are intended to prevent Palestinians from launching rockets into nearby Israeli cities, and an immediate investigation. Initial findings suggested a misfire, the commander of the south, Gen. Yoav Galant, told Israel's Channel 2 television.

After largely observing a unilateral truce that it declared a year and a half ago, Hamas called for renewed suicide bombings. Khaled Meshal, the leader of Hamas's political bureau exiled in Syria, said Hamas would answer the deaths with "deeds, not words."

Hamas's military wing also said in a statement that the United States should be taught "hard lessons" for supporting Israel. The threat, though vague, was an unusual escalation for Hamas, an Islamic-based militant group

that has pointedly portrayed its fight as being against Israel alone. It was immediately disavowed by Ghazi Hamad, the spokesman for the Hamas-led Palestinian government in Gaza.

The Israelis had just pulled out of Beit Hanun on Tuesday morning after a six-day operation in which they effectively occupied the town and fought battles with militants, many of them from Hamas. At least 52 Palestinians were killed, some 22 of them believed to be civilians, and one Israeli soldier was killed in the operation, which was aimed at stopping Palestinian rocket fire into Israel.

Nonetheless on Wednesday, according to the army, 13 rockets were fired into Israel.

The Israeli military said it had launched a preventive artillery barrage in response to about 10 rockets fired in the previous 24 hours.

This is not the first time Israeli shelling has gone awry, hitting houses in Beit Hanun and nearby Beit Lahiya. And it is not the first time that errant rounds have led to a halt or delay in efforts to find new paths of dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians, and among the Palestinian factions themselves.

The Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, and Prime Minister Ismail Haniya, both of whom gave blood for the victims and visited them in hospitals, have been engaged in two days of supposedly climactic talks on a government to replace the one run by Hamas, which is isolated internationally.

The intention is to have a government of "national unity," made up of experts and technocrats approved by the various parties, in the hope that Western aid and Palestinian tax money will again begin to flow. The Palestinian Authority has been unable to pay full salaries for nine months.

The idea was also to have the new government release an Israeli soldier captured on June 25, which would prompt Israel to free hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and to arrange a long-delayed meeting between Mr. Abbas and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

But this latest shelling, on top of the Beit Hanun operation, which Mr. Abbas and Mr. Haniya had already called a "massacre," caused Mr. Haniya to request a pause in the talks for three days of mourning.

In June, a similar cycle followed another apparently errant Israeli shell that killed Palestinian civilians, including seven members of a single family, the Ghaliyas, who were enjoying a day at the beach. The Israelis said they were shelling areas where rocket teams had fired into Israel, and denied that the shell that killed the Ghaliyas was theirs.

But no Palestinian believed the Israeli denial, there was never any conclusive alternative explanation and the military wing of Hamas announced that it was ending the cease-fire against Israel. The Hamas government belatedly went along, and Hamas started firing rockets again toward Israel, instead of simply supplying them to others.

More important, the Hamas military wing took part in the capture of the Israeli soldier, Cpl. Gilad Shalit, later in June, setting off the political crisis that surrounded -- and has outlasted -- Israel's summertime war against *Hezbollah* in Lebanon.

Only days before the June shelling, Mr. Abbas and Mr. Olmert met together informally in Petra, Jordan, and promised to have a formal meeting within two weeks, actually setting a date for June 28, to begin their relationship afresh. Mr. Olmert promised Mr. Abbas to release 600 prisoners then. But with the capture of Corporal Shalit, the Hamas government found itself unable to repudiate the actions of its own military wing, apparently directed from Syria by Mr. Meshal.

Hamas later said it would reinstate the truce with Israel, but it might now break it again, and more decisively, because its experiment in government appeared to be foundering.

"I don't believe in the rockets, but their reactions cannot be justified," Mr. Abbas said of the Israelis. "We totally condemn the international silence and any acts that can be used as justification for the Israeli massacres."

Israeli Shelling Kills 18 Gazans; Anger Boils Up

Leaders at the United Nations and the European Union, and in Russia, Britain and Italy, did condemn the incident. "It is hard to see what this action was meant to achieve and how it can be justified," said the British foreign secretary, Margaret Beckett.

Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, called for restraint by all parties, adding: "We deeply regret the injuries and loss of life in Gaza today. We have seen the Israeli government's apology and hope their investigation will be completed quickly."

A similar statement was issued in President Bush's name.

Witnesses said the shelling began about 5:30 a.m. Ali Athamnah, 29, a doctor, said he heard the crash of a shell, then glass from a window spattered on his face. He looked down from his second-story balcony and saw one relative, Ahmad, wounded and scores of other family members running outside.

Then the other shells hit, and he did not see the crowd standing anymore. "They just left -- they withdrew," he said, walking over puddles filled with blood, spattered human remains and sandals, many belonging to children.

"Children! <u>Women!</u> Parents!" said Abu Ahman, 42, a rescue worker who lives on the street and arrived right after the rockets hit. "I can't find the words that describe this action -- legs of children, head of a small girl."

At the Kamal Adwan Hospital, Maali Athamnah, 27, the aunt of the newly orphaned Isra and two other siblings who survived, Islam, 14, and Muhammad, 3, who broke both his legs, broke into tears reading a list of the dead, nearly all of them relatives. Another 80 people were wounded.

Ms. Athamnah said she did not support the militants' firing rockets into Israel. But she said: "Just think who is firing them: those who lost family members to Israel. And think about these kids now. They will be the rocket firers in the future. No mother, no father. No house. They will be the next ones to fire the rockets."

On Wednesday night, Israeli rockets killed Ahmed Awad and another Hamas member in Gaza City. Mr. Awad was said to be a rocket maker and the son-in-law of the Hamas foreign minister, Mahmoud Zahar.

In the West Bank on Wednesday, Israeli soldiers killed four gunmen and a civilian during a raid near Jenin, Palestinian security officials said.

Israeli forces also killed a Hamas gunman and a 17-year-old civilian near the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza, hospital officials said. The Israeli Army said soldiers had shot three gunmen after being attacked with an antitank missile.

http://www.nytimes.com

Correction

A front-page article last Thursday about an Israeli military attack in the Gaza town of Beit Hanun that killed 18 Palestinians misstated the type of munitions used. They were artillery shells, not tank shells.

Correction-Date: November 16, 2006

Graphic

Israeli Shelling Kills 18 Gazans; Anger Boils Up

Photo: Palestinians in Beit Hanun carried a boy yesterday from the site of an Israeli attack that killed 18, including eight children, in a residential area. (Photo by Ibraheem Abu Mustafa/Reuters)(pg. A24)Map of Gaza Strip highlighting Beit Hanun: Soon after troops left Beit Hanun, rockets were fired into Israel. (pg. A24)

Load-Date: November 9, 2006



Money not only talks, it shouts; LETTERS

Daily Mail (London)

November 16, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 Associated Newspapers Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Section: ED IRE; Pg. 69

Length: 1404 words

Body

AS THE old saying goes: 'Owe the bank a tenner and suffer sleepless nights. Owe the bank a million, and the bank manager suffers sleepless nights.' Likewise, it seems, with the taxman, who has no difficulty prosecuting the small-time defaulter for the odd thousand euro here and there. But if, like the infamous Bailey brothers, you owe a mere E22million, it suddenly becomes far too bothersome to prosecute.

One has to ask: is it anything to do with the fact that the Baileys owe their vast fortune to having friends in high political places?

And that those friends are still working, either actively or passively, on their behalf?

Or is it merely that they have money, no matter how ill-gotten?

For it seems that in modern Ireland, mere wealth is enough to confer status and privilege, no matter how gross the rich buffoon.

The worst of it is that the Revenue's decision not to pack the Baileys off to Mountjoy drew only a half-hearted whimper from Joan Burton. Compare that with the orgy of craw-thumping that would greet the announcement that someone had fiddled a couple of hundred euros on the dole.

BRIAN CROWLEY, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

When charitypays off

TAGGING the word 'charity' onto the name of a show is beginning to look like an easy - and cynical - way for RT to boost ratings and make money at the expense of its viewers. The revelation that telecoms companies, fat-cat presenters and judges received as much from Charity You're A Star as the actual charities (Mail) is shocking and not what one expects from a public-service broadcaster.

People phoned in their votes at premium rates in good faith, believing the money was destined for good causes. Likewise, genuine stars, such as John Aldridge, and busy politicians and entrepreneurs, such as Dan Boyle and Louis Copeland, gave their time freely for a good cause, while relative nobodies such as Derek Mooney and Brendan O'Connor had the nerve to trouser E20,000 and E10,000 respectively.

If Messrs Mooney and O'Connor and Linda Martin have any decency or shame, they should now donate at least half of their earnings from the show to those charities that benefited the least.

Money not only talks, it shouts LETTERS

I'm sure the Variety Club of Ireland and the Irish Hospice Foundation would welcome an extra E5,000 each with open arms - and put it to much better use, too.

SANDRA DEACON, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

Taxing our patience

A QUICK visit to Wicklow Recycling Centre would show how easy, simple, cheap and efficient it can be to recycle almost anything.

There is absolutely no need for extra taxes - this is just another moneymaking scheme from those intent on having the whole population living on the streets, because they will no longer be able to afford to live in a house.

P. BARBER, Address supplied.

Myles to go yet, I'm afraid

I RECENTLY spent a lovely holiday around Dungarven where I was trying to trace my ancestry. I'm a Myles but could find little about my direct ancestor, John Myles from Ballyduff. The librarians from Tallow, Dungarven and Lismore were marvellous and I thank them all.

A Michael Myles had apparently been the head gardener at Lismore Castle, but because of a fire in which records were destroyed, nobody really knows what happened to him. My grandad's father was a gamekeeper but was shot dead.

After that my grandfather sailed to England.

Thanks also to the Tobin brothers of Ballyduff - I'll remember that tiny pub of theirs for ever. And apologies to those barmen and **women** who were horrified when I put two teaspoons of lemonade in my Guinness. It's just my way.

By the way, where did all the Ogham stones go to? I couldn't find any?

JOHN MYLES, Calgary, Canada.

Pipedream

MOST smokers would love to kick the habit, but find it very difficult to do so. So does the Government honestly believe increasing the price of 20 cigarettes to E8.50 will deter smokers? It will not. Instead it will put further strain on families who can least afford it, especially children who are innocent victims of a smoking household. It's just another excuse to replace the lost revenue of those who have quit smoking.

MARIE AHEARNE. Dublin.

Global poverty, stupid

AS A UN conference on climate change takes place in Nairobi, I hear another expert on RT telling us that global warming is the gravest problem facing humanity.

What utter rubbish! Anyone who takes off their First World blinkers can see that the greatest scandal of the 21st century is poverty and inequality. And it is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future as the gap between rich and poor countries continues to widen.

True, there is a strong connection between poverty and climate change in some parts of the world and, overall, the elimination of poverty must go hand in hand with respect for the environment.

Meanwhile millions of children every year die from the effects of malnutrition and disease. They, and the millions who will follow them unless we change our priorities, won't be around to suffer the effect of global warming.

PETER MELVIN, via email.

Iraq trial not about murder

SADDAM HUSSEIN was innocent of having WMDs and we're still going to hang him?

Oh, he killed some people? Show me a dictator in this world who hasn't.

I don't see much interest in pursuing and hanging Robert Mugabe and the like. And what about Blair and Bush who between them have 700,000 dead bodies to account for?

Are we going to put them on trial?

This self-righteous show trial was all about Bush's election and Blair's cover-up for his lies, and free oil for the U.S. of course. Perhaps I'm just an old cynic.

JOHN WARNER, Address supplied.

Articles on Lebanon

WHILE we found much of the Mail's coverage of the conflict in Lebanon fair, we were dismayed at some of Richard Littlejohn's articles.

Many humanitarian agencies disagree with his statement that <u>Hezbollah</u> militants 'use <u>women</u> and children as human shields'.

Newswires also reported that <u>Hezbollah</u> did not fire rockets during the Israeli ceasefire; the barrage started again because of further Israeli bombardment. A further point of contention was his claim that those with an Arabsounding accent are likely to lie and he described false displays of destruction designed to fool reporters - in fact, Lebanon suffered very real and widespread devastation.

Independent respected bodies have shown that Arab deaths and suffering were underreported.

That I can confirm from my own experience as a humanitarian aid worker in Lebanon and Yemen.

Peace means making concessions with people that you have previously learned to hate, so that mistaken perceptions can be changed.

JUDITH BROWN, Arab Media Watch, London.

Celtic Tiger kids

SEEING the throngs of gormless teenage girls turning up to catch a glimpse of that Paris Hilton in Grafton Street last weekend really does speak volumes about 'Celtic Tiger Kids'.

What are they like? A bunch of spoilt, selfish, shallow, promiscuous lily livers that's what.

They want for nothing materially but are morally bankrupt. They worship wealth and have no concept of the value of culture, manners, and decency.

They expect everything to be handed to them on a silver platter and whinge at the smallest discomfort.

They judge one another in terms of 'hotness' and can't see through the modern day PR smokescreen that is a stupid blonde rich girl.

When I was young we had to work hard, make our own entertainment and were grateful for the smallest material comfort. I am sickened by the values of today's youth. If I'd have acted like that as a teenager, my parents would have given me a good kick up the rear end and told me to 'cop on to myself'.

JOSEPHINE O'DWYER Ballyfermot, Dublin 10.

Straight to the Point

NEVER mind mass-prescribing statins (Mail). This is a matter of public health. Just add them to the water, like fluoride. Or better still, add them to rashers and steak.

MAEVE MURPHY, Garryowen, Limerick.

IT GOES to show. Take the most distinctive features from 20 top comedians, put them together and what do you get? The face of an interior decorator.

JIMMY GRACE, Larchfield, Kilkenny.

CIARAN O BRAONAIN called Sinead O'Connor's music 'selfindulgent sh*t'.

That's Ciaran O Braonain of Clannad, right? The words pot, kettle and black spring to mind.

DES McCANN, Cavan town.

THE media is right to make a fuss about Daniel Craig's new role. He's the first non Irish-born Bond in at least a decade!

J DONOVAN, Limerick city.

WHATEVER about the TV ads, why would anyone want another mobile phone for Christmas? It's just an extra bill.

P O'BRIEN, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

Graphic

DOUBLE STANDARDS? THE REVENUE HASN'T PURSUED THE BAILEYS FOR E22M, BUT REGULARLY CHASES SMALL DEFAULTERS

Load-Date: November 16, 2006



On course for the scrapheap of civilisations past

South China Morning Post August 3, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 South China Morning Post Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Letters; Pg. 14

Length: 1449 words

Body

In Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed, Pulitzer-Prize winning author Jared Diamond described in fascinating detail how the leaders of declining societies behaved. Easter Island chiefs erected ever larger statues. Anasazi elites treated themselves to necklaces of 2,000 turquoise beads. Mayan kings sought to outdo each other with impressive temples. All these societies collapsed.

Hong Kong faces tough challenges. We have lost our low-cost manufacturing capabilities. Our labour is expensive. Our land is scarce and expensive. Our creative industries are struggling. Our education system is not producing the kind of students needed to compete in the global economy. Our health-care system is stretched to the limit. Our environment is suffering. Yet we are planning to erect ever grander monuments with the Tamar complex.

I hope that future Jared Diamonds will not lump 21st-century Hong Kong with Easter Island, the Anasazi and the Maya as societies that used their resources on conspicuous consumption rather than in dealing with serious challenges.

STEPHEN CHAN, Hunghom

Too much, too soon

I am writing in response to Albert Cheng King-hon's article on the student march against "hasty internationalisation" at the University of Hong Kong ("The curse of narrow vision", July 29). Admittedly, many students seem reluctant to accept internationalisation, but one should not criticise them without asking why.

I personally do not think we have anything to lose in following the global trend towards internationalisation. It can go hand in hand with the preservation of residential-hall culture. What is worrying is the idea of international students overwhelming our residential halls, which require a certain number of local students to maintain their culture. We are not protesting against internationalisation, but at the speed and way it is being promoted.

Furthermore, our hall culture is not "so-called", as Mr Cheng writes. Outsiders like to claim we are indoctrinated, but we know we are not.

HENRY LEUNG PAK-HO, Tuen Mun

Wage gap obscene

On course for the scrapheap of civilisations past

In "Towards fairer taxes" (July 27), letter writer Albert Cherk uses Australia as a reference point in arguing for the need for an equitable tax system. While high-income earners in Australia make about three times as much as the lowest paid, he writes, the income disparity in Hong Kong is as much as 10 times.

While I fully endorse his sentiments, if only such a disparity were half true there would probably be a lot less poverty in Hong Kong.

However, a look at the front page of the South China Morning Post on the same day quickly makes it clear it is not. It features Donald Tsang Yam-kuen's pay proposals for yet another group of friends - instigated mainly for the purpose of beefing up his failing popular support ("\$62HKm package to pay for Tsang's political aides"). Reference to the same day's editorial "Ministerial proposals raise serious concerns" lends some credence to this view.

However, what interests me is the pay scales. At the top of the pile are bureau directors earning \$268HK,304 a month. At the bottom of the heap, even a humble assistant to the bureau director can expect a monthly pay packet of up to \$149HK,340 a month.

Such salaries are well beyond the dreams and aspirations of most Hongkongers, with at least 60 per cent of the working population earning less than \$8HK,000 a month. Using the pay proposals as a reference, average earners make 33 times less than the highest paid and about 18.7 times less than those at the bottom of the scale. This is why I say Mr Cherk's estimate is wrong and the actual figures are obscene. I don't think Mr Tsang has ever had thoughts of democracy on his mind. His inclination is more towards oligarchy.

PAUL GIFFORD, Yuen Long

Green tax misguided

Environmental chief Sarah Liao Sau-tung's plan to introduce a green tax on plastic bags is misguided ("Plastic bags first to get green tax", July 21). Rather than trying to reduce the number of plastic bags used, the key focus should be on reducing waste and encouraging recycling.

Most of us reuse plastic bags to throw our rubbish away. If we didn't get them free at the supermarket, we would buy them to line our rubbish bins. Unlike construction waste, they are light and thin and take up a small amount of space.

What we should be focusing on is separating household waste for recycling. We should charge vendors of electrical appliances a recycling fee, and a fee to dispose of furniture. We should also charge more for the disposal of construction waste.

H. WONG, Ho Man Tin

Bill the labellers

Paul Surtees' letter "Public scrapers make heavy work of lamp post labels" (July 29) should also have asked why - after high-profile clean-up campaigns such as Clean Hong Kong and Team Clean - just as many handbills are being stuck on lamp posts, railings and walls all over the city.

Every one of these has a telephone number on it. Could the chief officer responsible please advise us when we can expect the registered telephone-account holders to be charged a fixed amount per unit to pay for repairs to every vandalised piece of public property their bills are affixed to?

It is about time the taxpayer was relieved of the burden of subsidising the commercial activities of money lenders, estate agents and sundry service providers.

Instead of introducing new taxes, the administration should be actively pursuing ways to reduce public expenditure.

CANDY TAM, Wan Chai

Complicit in the killings

I am writing further to your article "Figures for political killings vastly inflated, police say" (July 29), in which I was quoted as a member of a Hong Kong Fact-Finding Mission for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines.

Unfortunately, the article failed to adequately represent the situation in the Philippines, concentrating instead on parroting the official line of Task Force "Usig" (investigate), ostensibly set up to investigate allegations of politically motivated killings.

It must be underlined that extrajudicial killings are the worst possible human rights violations, and that these are endemic in the Philippines. There are clear indications that the government and military are involved in widespread political killings, signalling a deep crisis for human rights and democracy. Other concerns relate to the absence of an effective witness protection system, forced disappearances, trumped-up legal charges against prominent opposition leaders and the failure of the judiciary.

Usig officials claim 127 party-list members and journalists have been killed since 2001, but numerous independent sources estimate that the number of "leftist" people killed for political reasons - including lawyers, activists and clergy - tops 700.

The Asian Human Rights Commission continues to receive frequent reports of attacks which give credence to the latter figure, including three shootings on Monday.

There are serious concerns related to the independence of Usig. Despite its mandate to investigate political killings, the head of the taskforce has repeatedly denied that the authorities are responsible, instead blaming the killings on personal vendettas or the actions of armed opposition forces. This is despite the fact that only one person has been sentenced and 80 of the Usig cases have been only cursorily investigated.

This leads one to conclude that Usig has been set up to cover up the authorities' role in the killings rather than to bring perpetrators to justice. It is my hope that the South China Morning Post does not wish to associate itself with this process by giving a one-sided account.

MICHAEL ANTHONY, Asian Human Rights Commission

Grounds for war

Which of the following propositions are not accepted by the authors of the letters "Hatred perpetuated" and "Carte blanche to kill" (August 1)?

That *Hezbollah* is publicly committed to the permanent destruction of Israel;

That Iran and Syria finance <u>Hezbollah</u> and harbour, aid and encourage terrorism directed towards Israel and internationally;

That a sovereign state has the right to survival; or

That Israel was established by the UN in accordance with prevailing international law.

While all sensible people regret the tragic loss of civilian life, such losses always occur in times of war. Are your correspondents suggesting that the UN observers and the <u>women</u> and children killed in southern Lebanon were deliberately targeted? For what purpose, exactly?

The only "moral high ground" that interests Israel is the one which permits it to take military action to ensure its survival. If your correspondents cannot live with that, further discussion is pointless.

KEITH J. ODERBERG, Central

Load-Date: August 3, 2006



America, the World Is Watching You

New York Sun (Archive) April 12, 2007 Thursday

Copyright 2007 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 7

Length: 684 words

Byline: YOUSSEF IBRAHIM

Body

Americans peek overseas in snippets, paying attention when something spectacular happens but forgetting that most of the time, the world is watching America.

Few are mindful of the impact our country's press, culture, and movies have around the globe until they live abroad for any length of time. America is the only gorilla dominating the global airwaves, framing not only the news but also entertainment, press delivery, soap operas, reality shows, and, above all, global political discourse.

With that travels America's influence and prestige - or lack thereof.

So when a celebrity like Rosie O'Donnell argues on American TV that the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, were an American government conspiracy and the British set up the abduction of their own sailors in the Persian Gulf last month, the world duly takes note.

Similarly, when an American radio personality like Don Imus insults Jews on a regular basis and refers to a group of young, bright, black <u>female</u> Rutgers University basketball players - with whom much of the multicolored world is likely to identify - as a bunch of whores with kinky hair, America's enemies are glad to hear it and use it.

Black hip-hop stars who export music with lyrics that demean their <u>women</u> and their race feed the monster out there that really hates America.

These things appear on screens around the globe. Foreigners watch and listen to them and have no idea who is behind them but are told by Al-Jazeera, for example, that this is America. Al Qaeda, the genocidal Muslim Brotherhood, <u>Hezbollah</u>, and other groups process such material to recruit new members and inveigh against America, the West, and modernity. They borrow the hateful messages to negate the higher ideals of Western democracy or free enterprise.

More damage is being done in cafes in Cairo, Dubai, London, Bangkok, and the Arab neighborhoods of Amsterdam and Brussels, where the TV screens are invariably stuck on CNN, Fox News, or Al-Jazeera - which is obsessed with pointing out what's wrong with America.

Ms. O'Donnell may not be widely viewed in America as a serious commentator, and Mr. Imus is hardly known outside his coterie of self-obsessed politicians and press hacks. Still in TV-speak overseas, these two pass as representatives of America.

America, the World Is Watching You

In a different venue altogether - but still in the same vein - this country's functional parameters are not as messy as the bumbling speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, suggested with her visit to Syria and her offer of an alternative foreign policy to that of the American government.

When she donned a headscarf to shake the hand of President Al-Assad, widely viewed by the world community as the Arab world's foremost killer, the only thing Ms. Pelosi projected to the world was her own flawed moral parameters.

Clearly, one of America's biggest attractions is its unmatched freedom of speech and action. Restricting that is neither desirable nor possible.

Yet the mayhem caused by such irresponsible actions and speech seems to reflect a bigoted and delusional majority in America that is simply not there. Most Americans are reasonable, decent people.

If anything, these young black athletes - honor students who came from behind as a team in a basketball tournament in precisely the kind of "Rocky" story that makes this country so great - are an asset to be projected with tremendous pride around the world.

In the end, this too shall pass, as will the politicians and repulsive radio talk show hosts because, for all the talk, this country remains an irresistible magnet of hope.

Take a look at immigration statistics around the world: People are not lining up to go to Syria. By far the destination of choice is America.

U.S. Census Bureau figures show that between January 2000 and March 2002, 3.3 million immigrants arrived in America. In less than 50 years, the bureau projects that immigration will cause America's population to increase to more than 400 million.

There are no reliable statistics on how many people are seeking to immigrate to Russia, China, or Mexico. But it would be safe to bet that there are not millions of them.

Load-Date: April 12, 2007



'I Will Not Express Thanks'

New York Sun (Archive) March 30, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: EDITORIALS; Pg. 8

Length: 646 words

Byline: New York Sun Editorial

Body

Every once in a while there comes a diplomatic moment to remember, and New Yorkers who want to share one can go up on youtube.com and watch the representative in Geneva of UN Watch, Hillel Neuer, in a March 23 speech before the 4th session of the Human Rights Council. In the adjacent columns, we print the full text of his remarks, lamenting the loss of the dream of Eleanor Roosevelt and other architects of the human rights movement within the United Nations system. Mr. Neuer offers the substance. But it's worth watching the full clip (it's only a few minutes long) to catch the scandalous behavior of the president of the council, as he - for what may be the only time in its history - refuses to thank a speaker for his intervention and declares he will ban Mr. Neuer, or any other critic of the commission, if he says anything similar again.

To provide the full context, UN Watch has put together a compendium of clippings (at youtube.com/watch?v=BMEw0lZ3k_Y) called "Admissible and Inadmissable at the U.N. Human Rights Council." It shows actual film clips of the president of the Human Rights Council, Luis Alfonso de Alba of Mexico, thanking various diplomats for their testimony. He thanks a speaker for Zimbabwe talking about the ignorance of a delegate who has criticized human rights under President Mugabe. He thanks the delegate from Cuba for insulting a human rights expert who exposed abuses of the communist regime. When the permanent observer of Palestine asserts that the one that has a "monopoly on human rights violations" is Israel, which, he adds, is the darling of not only the ambassadors of America and Canada but also of the human rights commissioner, Louise Arbour, the observer is thanked by Mr. de Alba. On the clip one can see Mr. de Alba thanking the delegation of Sudan for a statement saying that reports of violence against <u>women</u> in Darfur has been "exaggerated."

Then one can watch and hear an envoy from Nigeria assert that "stoning under Sharia law for unnatural sexual acts ... should not be equated with extrajudicial killings ..." Or watch an envoy of Iran defend the Holocaust denial conference. Or watch a defense of the <u>Hezbollah</u> terrorist organization. Or speaker after speaker liken Israel to the Nazis, only to get thanked by Mr. de Alba or whoever is presiding. Then one can watch Mr. de Alba lean back demonstrably in his chair and fold his arms across his face and adopt a disapproving visage as Mr. Neuer of UN Watch begins his recent testimony. He notes that 60 years ago, Eleanor Roosevelt, Rene Cassin, and others gathered on the banks of Lake Geneva to reaffirm the principle of human dignity and created the Commission on Human Rights. He asks what has become of "this noble dream" and offers a devastating answer with a reprise of all the human rights abuses on which the council has been silent.

"Why has this council chosen silence?" Mr. Neuer asks. "Because Israel could not be blamed." He ticks off the actions against Israel, the only one the council takes. When Mr. Neuer is done, Mr. de Alba says, "for the first time in this session, I will not express thanks for that statement. ... I will not tolerate any similar statements in the

'I Will Not Express Thanks'

council." And he threatens to strike any similar statements from UN Watch from the record of the proceedings. We had to tip our hat to Mr. Neuer, who has, on occasion, written for these pages. Newspapermen have to have strong stomachs, but it's nothing compared to what he needs to sit through these sessions. He presents with memorable force and dignity. The compendium of clips runs only seven minutes or so and is winging its way around the World Wide Web. It's worth watching, a reminder of the wisdom of the decision of America's former ambassador to the United Nations, John Bolton, and his colleagues in the Bush administration to stand down from participating in this charade.

Load-Date: March 30, 2007



<u>Muslims divided over Mufti's fate; Howard backs chorus calling for sheikh to</u> leave

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

April 11, 2007 Wednesday

First Edition

Copyright 2007 The Age Company Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 633 words

Byline: Russell Skelton, Sydney and Helen Westerman, With AAP

Body

THE Australian Federation of Islamic Councils - the main Muslim organisation - is split over the fate of outspoken cleric Sheikh Taj al-Din al-Hilali.

A breakaway group led by Haset Sali, a former legal adviser to the AFIC council, is petitioning for a special congress to decide the sheikh's future.

Prime Minister John Howard has backed calls for controversial Sheikh Hilali to consider leaving Australia, saying he is an embarrassment to most Australian Muslims.

Speaking on the Nine Network last night, Mr Howard backed statements by Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews yesterday that the sheikh should think about leaving Australia.

"(Sheikh Hilali) should make up his mind whether he wants to be an active, articulate, free-speaking member of the Australian community or, if he doesn't, he ought to go somewhere else," Mr Howard said.

Resentment is spreading in Sydney's Muslim community over comments the sheikh is reported to have made in Iran calling on all Muslims to back the Shiite revolution in Tehran and its struggle against the West over Iraq and nuclear weapons.

The congress, which can be called with just 15 per cent of the membership, is being called to strip Sheikh Hilali of his much-used title, Mufti of Australia.

Mr Sali said: "The management committee of AFIC have allowed a very confusing situation to continue for far too long. A lot is at stake if we don't act decisively. The Federal Government could cut off funding to our schools."

He hopes the congress can be convened within weeks.

Mr Sali said the sheikh's position, created 18 years ago, had been an anomaly because there was no provision in the AFIC's constitution for the position of Mufti of Australia and Sheikh Hilali had not received a salary for more than nine months.

Muslims divided over Mufti's fate Howard backs chorus calling for sheikh to leave

He said it was untenable for Sheikh Hilali to continue as Mufti of Australia while the council decided whether to sack him. He said the Board of Imams had made an equally indecisive decision by not dealing directly with the sheikh's position when it met recently.

It is believed the Board of Imams, an organisation unrelated to AFIC, has decided to dump the sheikh, but members remain divided over the position of Mufti of Australia.

Some clerics apparently believe the position should be scrapped and the council have authority to make statements on matters of public interest.

Mr Sali is vice-president of the Regional Islamic Council of South-East Asia and the Pacific. AFIC yesterday released a statement saying he had no authority to speak for the council.

Sheikh Hilali's comments have infuriated sections of Sydney's predominantly Sunni Muslim community, many of whom believe Iran is using the war to further Shiite power and influence in the Middle East. "People are also upset because these comments are likely to alienate the Saudis who have funded schools and community projects in Australia," a community source told The Age.

There also is disquiet among Lebanese-born Sunnis over the sheikh's reported backing for <u>Hezbollah</u> leader Hasan Nasrallah, a Shiite cleric backed by Iran in the war against Israel.

Keysar Trad, president of the Islamic Friendship Association of Australia and a friend of Sheikh Hilali's, claimed the cleric was trying to improve relations between Australia and Iran.

In a similar justification used to excuse Sheikh Hilali's controversial comparison of scantily clad <u>women</u> with uncovered meat, Mr Trad said the cleric's comments exhorting Muslims to join Iran in the trenches had been misunderstood.

"The word that he used literally does translate as a trench. However, you have to look at the way it is understood in the Arabic setting," he said.

"You are basically talking about the fate of the people. You are saying we all share the same fate. We don't want wars. We want an end to the conflict (in Iraq)." -- With AAP

Graphic

PHOTO: Sheikh Hilali: Misunderstood?

Load-Date: July 3, 2007



An Unexpected Event Changes an Experiment

The Chronicle of Philanthropy
December 7, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 The Chronicle of Philanthropy All Rights Reserved

Section: OPINION; Pg. 50; Vol. 19; No. 05

Length: 663 words

Body

To the Editor:

Inspired in part by a study on matching gifts reported in The Chronicle ("Bigger Matching Gifts Don't Produce More Donors," June 15), a charity focusing on <u>women</u>'s social issues conducted a test this summer in its annual appeal. The charity had received a matching grant from a major donor to try to encourage others to make large donations. The terms of the grant were that the donor would match contributions of \$500 or more.

The charity decided to test the match in its general appeal, but its experience offers a cautionary tale in how to think about results. Since most gifts in response to the annual appeal are typically well below the match threshold of \$500, it would indeed be interesting if the match had a positive impact, especially among donors with no chance of qualifying for the match. It would suggest that donors respond to matching grants for reasons other than to magnify the size of their donations.

The charity conducting the test took great care to randomly divide its list in two. Analysis showed that the two groups were statistically the same in all observable characteristics, such as past giving, geographic location, and gender. It sent an appeal describing the match offer to one group and a similar letter that did not mention the match to the other. They then compared the response rates and overall revenue generated for the two versions.

Surprisingly, the results showed that the match letter significantly underperformed the control letter. The test letter generated 42 percent less revenue per solicitation than the control. Could it be that the high match threshold of \$500 actually discouraged people from giving?

Or, was the true explanation for the difference explained by the timing?

The charity took great care to ensure that the test group and control group were statistically the same by randomly assigning people on their list to one of the two groups. The organization handles its direct mail in-house, and this was its first experimentation with randomized testing. Because of limited capacity and lack of experience, the charity mailed the two versions of the letter eight days apart.

The Israeli-<u>Hezbollah</u> war happened to escalate between the times that the two letters were received. The control letter was mailed on July 11. The next day, the war began.

On July 19 the match letter was mailed. On July 25, about the time the match letter was beginning to arrive in the mail, the United Nations made an urgent appeal for humanitarian assistance to Lebanon.

An Unexpected Event Changes an Experiment

An alternate explanation for why the matching grant letter did so poorly relative to the control letter is that the conflict in the Middle East changed donor behavior after the control letter was received but before most donors received the match letter.

The lesson from this case is that in addition to randomly assigning recipients to either the test group or the control group, all letters should be mailed at the same time. In this example, the explanation was relatively clear, but in other cases it may be less so.

Whether the explanation is known or not, mailing on different dates introduces a second variable, and you may never be able to distinguish between the variation in dates and the variation you intended to test.

The beauty of a well-executed randomized test is that even an event powerful enough to alter donor behavior would not affect the results.

If control and test groups are statistically the same (i.e., randomly assigned) and the direct-marketing piece is sent to both groups at the same time, then external events will affect both groups the same, and any difference will be due to the variation in the two versions that you are trying to test.

In this case, if both versions had been sent at the same time, the charity would now know whether it was the match that made the difference or not.

Doug Parkerson
Fund-Raising Research Director
Innovations for Poverty Action
New Haven, Conn.

Mr. Parkerson also directs the charity's efforts in Bolivia.

Load-Date: January 2, 2007



Helping hand for endangered sea turtles who seemed not to mind the war; EYEWITNESS

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

August 26, 2006 Saturday

First Edition

Copyright 2006 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 21

Length: 588 words

Byline: ED O'LOUGHLIN

Body

MANSOURI, Lebanon: Sea turtles are born on beaches but take straight to the waves. Throughout their long, wandering lives only the *females* come ashore again, to keep the cycle going.

Two of the last nesting sites left in the Mediterranean for endangered green and loggerhead turtles are on the Lebanese coast. The one in the north, at Palm Island, has been fouled by thousands of tonnes of oil released into the sea after Israeli aircraft destroyed civilian fuel depots.

The nesting site in the south is a 1.4-kilometre stretch of sand at Mansouri, halfway between Tyre and the Israeli border.

For a month, this was the setting for a high-explosive duel between Israeli jets and artillery and long-range *Hezbollah* rockets fired from coastal banana groves.

The beach was bombed from the air and shelled from the sea. Yet oddly enough, says a local turtle guardian, Habiba Sayed, the turtles did not seem to mind.

In fact, 2006 has been a bumper nesting season at Mansouri, with 73 nests found so far and six weeks still to go. The previous seasonal average was about 50.

"Because of the war the turtles were nesting every day because there was no one on the beach to bother them," said Sayed, 47, an Australian citizen and former resident of Sydney.

"If you get activity on the beach at night it can scare them from coming ashore. Also there's been hardly any fishing going on because of the shelling, and nets usually kill a lot of turtles."

But the bombardment also had its downside, said Sayed's partner, Mona Khalil, 56. "When the shelling started we noticed fox tracks everywhere. I think they came down from the hills because of the fighting and were looking for food.

"They must have had a feast with the hatchlings in the night."

Helping hand for endangered sea turtles who seemed not to mind the war EYEWITNESS

For several years Sayed and Khalil have been keeping a voluntary eye on Mansouri's turtles. Every dawn in nesting season they walk to the beach and look for the tracks of nesting turtles.

When they find a nest they dig down a few centimetres and place a metal grill over it - big enough for the hatchlings to escape through, too heavy for foxes or birds to penetrate.

The eggs hatch at night about 40 days later and the next morning the **women** are there again to make records and help any hatchlings still stuck in the sand when the deadly sun comes up.

On a hot bright morning last week the two dug out 20 hatchlings from three nests, stragglers from the previous night's exodus. It was their first morning back at work after fleeing the war.

Freed of the nest, tiny turtles about eight centimetres long lay still for a few moments, then took off towards the roaring waves.

It will be 30 years before any return. By then, they could be more than a metre across and weigh more than 100 kilograms.

Their benefactors prepared a path for them, smoothing away deep depressions in the sand and tossing flotsam aside.

"They have to go to the sea by themselves," Sayed said. "It's important for them to imprint ... because when it's their turn to nest the *female* turtles come back to the place where they were born."

The base for the Mansouri turtle watch is the Orange House, an "eco-friendly" guest house founded by Khalil seven years ago in what was once her family's holiday home and banana plantation.

Sayed joined her in 2001, both women choosing to settle here after years travelling the world.

It was not until almost three weeks into the bombardment, when an Israeli bomb pancaked the next house along the beach, that they fled to Beirut. When they returned last week their house was damaged but mostly intact.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



Should Dublin Airport be attacked? Hit the target, hit it very hard; Muslim preacher of hate's chilling order to young extremists here

Daily Mail (London)

October 5, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 Associated Newspapers Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Section: ED IRE; Pg. 8

Length: 650 words

Byline: ENDA FEENEY

Body

HATE preacher Omar Bakri Mohammed has ordered Muslim extremists to make Ireland a target for terrorism and to 'hit Dublin Airport hard'.

The chilling order was sent out to secret Jihadist cells in England and across Europe and the Middle East in a covert internet webcast.

Kicked out by British authorities for his vile preaching to young Muslims, the fundamentalist cleric now living in Lebanon is using a clandestine chatroom on a popular website to spread his evil ideology.

He says Jihadists should regard the Republic as a legitimate target because U.S. troops use Shannon as a staging post on flights to Iraq.

Bakri made the call in the chatroom that he calls a 'Multimedia Mosque', located on a web voicechat site normally used by teenagers to talk to friends.

He constantly changes the name and passwords for the site in order to keep one step ahead of the police and website controllers.

Recognising the barriers created by heightened security in Britain, he used his 'Multimedia Mosque' to urge followers to attack 'soft targets' in the Republic.

And he named Dublin Airport which handled 18.4m passengers last year as the prime target for a terrorist strike in Ireland.

Despite Ireland's nonparticipation in the coalition that overthrew Saddam Hussein in Iraq, the Governmentprovided U.S. forces with refuelling facilities at Shannon on their way to the Middle East.

The call to attack Ireland came in one of Bakri's nightly sermons when he was directly asked by a disciple if Ireland should be made a prime target because of the stopovers made by 'kaffir [Arabic for infidel] forces' on Irish soil.

Asked whether Dublin Airport should be listed as part of the Jihad against the West, Bakri replied: 'Hit the target, hit it very hard.' And Bakri went on to warn his fanatical followers to avoid flying on U.S. and British airlines since they, too, were prime targets.

Should Dublin Airport be attacked? Hit the target, hit it very hard Muslim preacher of hate's chilling order to young extremists here

Replying to a question about whether Muslims should not travel on these carriers, he continued in his broken English, 'Yeah It is good advice.

'It is not prohibited for them to use them but you can say to the Muslims, avoid the high buildings, avoid to be near the embassies.

The governments of Europe are wanting people in certain areas not to be there except for necessity but they can't say that because that would cause chaos.' Bakri has turned to technology to continue to reach disaffected young Muslims in the UK after Britain's then Home Secretary, Charles Clarke, barred him from the country. In the recent conflict between Israel and *Hezbollah* forces, the bearded imam tried to escape the Lebanon by jumping on a navy ship evacuating British citizens-Almost exclusively male, the ultra-Islamic chatroom has strict rules, threatening to expel anyone who talks to *female* members online. In August this year, fears grew that Ireland could become a launch pad for terror attacks on Britain after an Algerian man was arrested with a 44-year-old woman he met at Holyhead port.

The man, aged 47, and the woman were travelling to north Wales from Dublin.

The arrests were made a matter of hours before the British government announced it had uncovered a massive plot to blow up ten transatlantic airliners.

The couple were reported to be in possession of several items that were seized by police. It has been alleged a laptop computer containing bomb-making instructions was among the items discovered.

The arrests came less than a week after the Irish Muslim community denied claims made by a senior Islamic cleric here, warning of an 'ocean of extremism' spreading through the country.

Sheikh Dr Shaheed Satardien, the leader of the Supreme Muslim Council of Ireland, stood by his claims that extremism was on the increase and said the faith's leaders 'must take their head out of the sand and address the real issue.

'What I have warned about has now come true, and all I was doing was echoing concerns,' Sr Satardien said.

Comment Page 14

Graphic

OMAR BAKRI, ABOVE, TOLD SUPPORTERS THAT DUBLIN AIRPORT, LEFT, WAS A VALID TERROR TARGET

Load-Date: October 5, 2006



Sadly, bigotry is ever with us

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

August 19, 2006 Saturday

3 Edition

Copyright 2006 Times Publishing Company All Rights Reserved

Distribution: METRO & STATE; TAMPA & STATE

Section: METRO & STATE; Pg. 4B

Length: 571 words

Byline: SANDRA THOMPSON

Series: CITY LIFE

Body

Last weekend, after the bomb plot in England had crippled the airlines and before the cease fire between Israel and <u>Hezbollah</u>, my daughter was outside a New York City mosque where she is taking a class in Islam. She was still wearing a head scarf, as she had inside the mosque.

A man came up to her, and began talking rapidly in Arabic.

"English, please," she said, and he immediately switched to English. He apologized for his assumption. All he wanted was to ask where to find the entrance to the mosque.

When I heard this anecdote, I was filled with relief. Next summer she will be in Cairo with her husband, who is Egyptian and Muslim, while he finishes his medical studies. With the anti-American feeling in that part of the world, I had been reassuring myself that, with her long, thick, dark hair and green eyes, she could be Egyptian.

What she is, is German-English Protestant (my side) and Scots-Russian Jewish (her father's). In other words, an American. A friend who traveled to Egypt recently told me Egyptians love Americans; they just don't like American foreign policy. I've read the same thing many times about other countries in the Middle East and elsewhere. In that respect, I have to say they're more open minded than some of us.

I'm talking about people like the guys in Tampa who shouted "Drop the bomb!" at a Muslim woman as they drove by in a pickup truck. Or the guy who walked up to a Muslim man who was with his family in a St. Petersburg Wal-Mart, stared him in the face and called him "Osama."

These incidents clearly involved total jerks, but more subtle discrimination has been going on since 9/11.

The morning after 9/11, as I was going into a <u>women</u>'s-only fitness club in St. Petersburg, right behind me was a young woman wearing a scarf. I don't know if she had said something or just looked a little scared, but the woman behind the desk said, softly but firmly, "If anyone gives you any trouble, just come to us."

Sadly, bigotry is ever with us

The woman proceeded into the locker room, took off her scarf and changed into her workout clothes. She was about my daughter's age, and I felt protective of her, but five years ago I would never have anticipated I might have similar concerns for my own daughter.

Prejudice is a trendy thing. Some years, one group is in; others, it's out. When I was a little kid, even though my father had been an officer in the U. S. Navy during World War II and my grandparents were all born here, when I was asked where my family came from, I said, "England." It was one-quarter true; the other three-quarters are from Germany but, even then I knew that to some people, all Germans were Nazis.

In New York when a good friend and I were in our 20s, a guy spat at her on the street and hissed a four-letter slur usually aimed at Puerto Ricans. Maybe it was because of her curly, dark hair and hoop earrings, but, in fact, she is Irish, born in Georgia.

And when I was a freshman at a small Ohio college, I asked my parents if I could bring home the boy I was dating for Thanksgiving. It was too far to travel to his family, I explained, in Iran. My mother said, of course, bring him.

My father, who I am sorry to say was prejudiced against all the groups chosen to be hated at that time, was so fond of my new boyfriend he took us all for dinner and dancing at a posh hotel in Chicago.

Today I assume Charlie, whose given name was Farouk, was probably Muslim. At the time, though, the subject never came up.

Load-Date: August 19, 2006



Israel's allies should listen to critics

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

September 1, 2006 Friday

Final Edition

Copyright 2006 The Star Phoenix, a division of Canwest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: FORUM; Pg. A10

Length: 676 words

Byline: Robert A. Carlson, Special to The StarPhoenix

Body

Following is the personal viewpoint of the writer, a resident of Saskatoon.

Does the Balfour Declaration and its various endorsements through the years legitimize Israel? For some, and this includes Monte Keene Pishny-Floyd (Critics of Israel distort realities, SP, Aug. 25), the answer is a resounding "yes." But the question is not so simple a matter.

True, Britain did issue the Balfour Declaration in 1917, pledging support for "the establishment in Palestine of a National Homeland for the Jewish people." At about the same time, however, Britain was making similar promises to the Arabs to support an Arab state in the same area.

There were the unoffi cial commitments of Lawrence of Arabia, of course, but there was also the more offi cial Hussein-McMahon correspondence agreeing to establish an Arab state in the Levant, an area including Palestine.

Although the Arabs were the overwhelming majority of the population of the area, large numbers of them were ruled by the Ottoman Empire, a First World War ally of Germany.

The promise to the Arabs was to pay for their fi ghting against their Ottoman rulers. The Balfour Declaration was the price Britain paid for important Jewish fi nancial support at a critical juncture in the First World War.

Each group expected Britain to honour the commitment made to it, but the commitments appear to have been mutually exclusive.

In Europe and North America the Balfour Declaration provided the green light for Jewish homeland activists, the Zionists, to promote their cause with increased vigour. Partly because they had a major presence in Europe and North America and proponents of the Arab position did not, politics eventually went the Zionists' way and they got what they wanted -- Israel.

But the cause has suffered in recent years, as Israel has engaged in actions that belie Pishny-Floyd's description of it as the pure and righteous Israel. How righteous are such policies as: * Confronting stone-throwing Arab children with troops and tanks? * Allowing routine institutional discrimination, especially preferential residency on the land, to the extent that extremist Jewish settlers have been able to move in and take over Arab homes and Arab land? * Entering Palestinian Arab refugee camps without appropriate authority in order to seize or kill alleged offenders? *

Israel 's allies should listen to critics

Destroying homes of entire families because of the actions of one family member? Punishing the innocent for the actions of others, however, reached new levels with the recent Israeli incursions into Lebanon.

Justifying the pulverizing of that nation and the killing of defenceless men, <u>women</u> and children as "self-defence" against <u>Hezbollah</u> seems eerily reminiscent of German retaliation against the innocent for terrorist acts of the French Maquis and other resistance movements during the Second World War.

The Third Reich is no more, partly because of the way Germany responded to the resistance.

It showed a face of Germany less attractive than the one portrayed by what initially was an extensive network of sympathizers throughout the world.

Even more significant, such German policies intended to crush the resistance resulted in an exponential growth in the resistance.

Will Israeli policies have similar unintended outcomes? Only if the policies go unexamined, uncriticized and unchanged.

This is why Israeli supporters are wrong to hammer critics like David Orchard, Len Findlay, Liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj, New Democrat MP Peggy Nash, Bloc MP Maria Moureni, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and increasing millions of concerned people around the world.

It would be helpful if The SP enabled us to hear more of these voices, including many critics from within Israel itself and from such challengers as the organization, Jews Against Zionism. Instead of encouraging Israel's resort to the iron fi st and trying to justify this with the Balfour Declaration and its later endorsements, all refl ecting 20th century European imperialism, it would be wise for friends of Israel to listen to the critics, to refl ect, and to re-evaluate.

Load-Date: September 1, 2006



Counting Population Is Not a Competition

The Forward

December 29, 2006

Copyright 2006 The Forward Association, Incorporated All Rights Reserved

Section: Letters; Pg. A8

Length: 682 words

Body

Estimating the number of American Jews is not a competition (New Studies Put U.S. Jewry Over 6 Million Mark, December 22). It matters relatively little if my numbers are bigger than yours.

Imagine, if you will, an analogous situation: that the Central Bureau of Statistics in Israel announced tomorrow that it has underestimated the Jewish population of Israel by about 1 million.

Would that change the pressing nature of a single one of the critical issues currently before the Israeli public Iran's nukes, Hamas in the south and <u>Hezbollah</u> in the north, the widening social gap, the confusion in the military's General Staff, incompetence in the police force or the murky ethical status of the country's president? These current problems would simply be all the more pressing and worrying, given that nearly 6.5 million Jews would be affected, rather than merely 5.4 million.

Something similar applies to American Jewry. Concern over what ails the Jewish community in the United States is not a matter of the numbers, and it considerably predates the current numerical argument. It goes back at least to the 1980s and is related to substantive issues: education, intermarriage, community life, group relations with other minorities and political influence.

Whether there are 5 million or 6 million American Jews, none of those concerns drops out of the picture. They simply apply to more Jews, some of whom may have escaped earlier enumeration.

Or not, as the case may be. Either way, a specialist's expertise is not necessarily required to add two and two: that is, to figure out that marriages postponed to later in the life cycle, attended by lower than replacementlevel birthrates and combined with rising rates of intermarriage, are not likely to produce rampant growth for a minority population. And no one is suggesting that the new figures alter these critical features of contemporary Jewish life in America.

If it is important to America's Jewish pundits that the community should feel bigger and, perhaps, more self-confident, it should be just as important to declare that more Jews out there does not necessarily mean progress. Does more Jews mean that there are more affiliated and involved men, <u>women</u> and children, or that the minority of the affiliated and the active are now even a smaller percentage of the whole than we thought?

Are those extra million Jews filling the pews, the community centers, the political action committees, the adult study groups and the subscription lists of Jewish publications? Or are they second- or third-generation products of mixed marriages with only marginal filial attachments to their Jewish families and who may have, until now, slipped through the data-gathering process? Do the added thousands and thousands of Jewish children show up in day school or summer camp or Hebrew school registrations?

Counting Population Is Not a Competition

One wants to applaud the Jews, wherever they live, for their commitment to maintaining as high a standard as possible in every field of endeavor. It is only natural that we want to think that they are getting it right, that they are making a reality of their ideals. If there really are 6 million Jews in the United States rather than just 5 million, that only means that they will have to try that much harder to fulfill their own expectations.

Eli Lederhendler

Professor of American Jewish

History and Institutions Avraham Harman Institute of

Contemporary Jewry Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Jerusalem, Israel

The American Jewish Committee's study almost certainly has a significant number of people who were counted twice or even three times.

People who have a home in Boca Raton, Fla., for the winter, the Berkshires for the summer and Manhattan for the fall and spring might be counted three times, despite the AJCommittee's best efforts. Multiply that by all the Midwest Jews who winter in Arizona, Nevada or California, and you can see where the difference between the AJCommittee's study and previous ones comes in.

Larr y Glinzman

Ormond Beach, Fla.

Load-Date: December 28, 2006



Conspiracy Theories Bloom In Arab and Iranian Press

New York Sun (Archive)

December 27, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 5

Length: 724 words

Byline: STEVEN STALINSKY

Body

A program on <u>Hezbollah</u>'s Al-Manar television network last week announced that Israel "murdered" a Lebanese parliament member, Pierre Gemayel, " with the help of "four American experts" who work at Beirut's airport. The announcement was quickly reported on by other Middle East press outlets, including Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting.

Conspiracy theories in the Arab and Iranian press regarding America, Israel, Jews, Christians, and Zionists have been extensively documented in this column. This year, the theories most cited focused on the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Holocaust, and the forces supposedly behind the strife in Iraq, Darfur, Lebanon, and elsewhere in the region.

With the advent of the Internet and satellite TV, conspiracy theories originating in the Middle East are now easily spread throughout the Muslim world - from Turkey to Malaysia.

In Iran, leading government and religious figures, who have absolute control of the press, have been behind some particularly nasty and outrageous conspiracy theories. The day before the fifth anniversary of September 11, the Iranian press was full of them.

The head of the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C., Muhammad Al-'Asi, was on Iranian TV saying that the "American administration" was behind the attack, while Lebanese Shiite leader Muhammad Hussein Fadhlallah blamed the Jews and some American powers.

Many other Iranian conspiracies are extremely anti-Semitic. An adviser to President Ahmadinejad, Mohammad Ali Ramin, was quoted in a daily newspaper saying Jewish treachery was behind such ills as the plague, typhoid, AIDS, SARS, and bird flu.

Conspiracies about "the Zionist regime" are also rampant in the Iranian press. IRIB reported that more than 10,000 Russian <u>women</u> are kidnapped each year and taken to Israel through Egypt by Zionists, and that each woman is sold for between \$4,000 and \$10,000.

The Iranian news channel IRINN asserted that Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean "is a "Zionist conspiracy" by the company to exert cultural influence. Similarly, IRINN ran a special about "Zionist companies" such as Coca-Cola, McDonald's, and Pepsi, which it claimed stands for "Pay Each Penny Save Israel."

Conspiracy Theories Bloom In Arab and Iranian Press

The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Larijani, was quoted by the Islamic Republic News Agency regarding reports on the "formation of terrorist squads in Brussels by Israel and certain European states for assassination" of Iranian dignitaries.

Official Friday sermons are used by religious leaders in Iran to smear Jews, Christians, America, and Israel. On May 19, the Ayatollah Kashani was quoted by the Tehran Times blaming "the CIA" and "Zionists" for terrorist attacks within Iran, and in particular targets connected to its economy, universities, and science.

The Iranians also try to influence the Muslim world to oppose American activity in Iraq, and they frequently make up things to tarnish America's image. For example, IRIB reported on April 5 that "U.S. troops are distributing boobytrapped dolls among Iraqi children."

An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hamid Reza, was quoted by the Iranian Student News Agency on September 6 stating that terrorist attacks throughout the Middle East "are being guided by the White House."

IRNA reported on November 27 that the "apparent discord among Shiites and Sunnis in Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan is the fruit of a conspiracy by America and the Zionist regime."

The Iranian daily Keyhan claimed on November 15 that Saddam Hussein was sentenced to death because he knows many secrets about American activity in the Middle East and that "the neoconservatives have to silence him once and for all."

Conspiracies about alleged Israeli activity in Iraq are also common, such as an article titled "Mossad Assassins Targeting Iraqi Scientists" in the Tehran Times, which reported that "more than 2,500 Iraqi scientists over the past 3 years were killed by the Mossad."

Another report from IRIB said, "Zionists will be burying nuclear waste in Iraq," which "is a threat to ... the people living in Iraq, Syria, and Jordan." The report claimed American forces in August burned poisonous substances in Fallujah.

Next week's column will be devoted to the most disturbing conspiracies from the Arab and Turkish press.

Mr. Stalinsky is the executive director of the Middle East Media Research Institute.

Load-Date: December 27, 2006



Watching today's news is depressing

University Wire
August 21, 2006 Monday

Copyright 2006 The BG News via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 635 words

Byline: By Jon Bosscher, The BG News; SOURCE: Bowling Green State U.

Dateline: BOWLING GREEN, Ohio

Body

It has certainly been rough for us news junkies recently.

My addiction to the latest tidbits approved for mass consumption by the septic system known as mainstream journalism has finally become a hazard to my mental health.

I have no way of knowing what the news will be when this opinion column goes to print in the BG News, but I am going to go out on a limb and guess that Iraq is still the unmitigated disaster it was when I wrote this.

In other news, people are still massacring each other in Darfur, Lebanon and Afghanistan, terrorists want to blow us up on planes -- apparently because "they hate our freedom," and certainly not because American soldiers are being charged with raping and murdering Iraqi <u>women</u> and children -- the price of gas is up (again) -- and our beloved President awkwardly tried to massage the German chancellor at the G-8 Summit.

Of course, while the news may seem particularly frightening as of late, I don't really remember a time when it has been particularly good either.

While our parents love to hearken back to some mythical golden age, I wonder when or if it ever existed.

Was it when we still had slavery or just legal discrimination, the Black Plague or just typhoid pandemics? World War I or World War II?

Whatever the case, the times they are a changin,' and at a pace fast enough to bewilder even the most adaptable among us.

What's more, the advent of instant global communications means that we can learn the death toll from the latest Israeli air strike, *Hezbollah* rocket launch or Iraqi IED in a matter of minutes.

How are we to cope? How are we to process and, on a daily basis, fit into our world view so much bad news?

And as Jack Johnson asked us, "Why don't the news people cry when they talk about people who died?"

Apparently, many of us have simply opted out of wrestling with such questions.

Watching today's news is depressing

According to the latest Zogby poll, commissioned for the pop culture game Gold Rush, three-quarters of Americans can correctly identify at least two of Snow White's Seven Dwarves while only one quarter can name two of the nine current Supreme Court Justices.

On the other hand, I might accept Dopey and Sleepy as acceptable answers for either question.

Fifty-seven percent could identify J.K. Rowling's fictional boy wizard, Harry Potter, and only half could name the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

However, most were aware that Potter's magic powers were more rooted in reality than Blair's claims of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. Respondents were also far more familiar with the Three Stooges than they were with the three branches of the federal government -- executive, legislative and judicial. This one is clearly good news: anyone who enjoys the antics of Larry, Curly and Moe will absolutely love speeches by Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld. I predict a big boost in the ratings for C-Span.

Don't get me wrong. Wrapping one's self in the warm, fuzzy blanket of ignorant bliss can be just so tempting at times like these. Unfortunately, while burying our heads in the sand might seem like a way to save us all from a great deal of unnecessary worry, these are the moments that challenge us to be as attuned to world events as we can possibly be. Today, water bottles are banned on board airplanes, tomorrow people are. While I hate to sound like an alarmist, events are unfolding as we speak that will profoundly affect our lives and the world we live in for years to come, and our elected representatives are making decisions that, while they may not bother you, have apparently upset the greater part of the world, a portion of which seem to have a knack for building bombs and flying planes into buildings.

To the freshmen: In between bonging beers, grab a newspaper or check out its Web site, and don't trust Bill O'Reilly? And vote!

(C) 2006 The BG News via U-WIRE

Load-Date: August 21, 2006



<u>Lebanon bus bombs kill three: Growing instability recalls 1975 war that</u> began with killings on bus

Ottawa Citizen

February 14, 2007 Wednesday
Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Ottawa Citizen, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A15

Length: 646 words

Byline: Raed El Rafei and Megan K. Stack, The Associated Press

Dateline: EIN ALAQ, Lebanon

Body

EIN ALAQ, Lebanon - The bombs went off as the pair of commuter buses rumbled through a rainy rush hour in this tiny Christian village yesterday, the blasts echoing like thunder and killing three people in the latest stroke of violence to rip through a rapidly destabilizing Lebanon.

Word of the attacks rattled this country just as people were bracing for today's commemoration of the two-year anniversary of former prime minister Rafik Hariri's death. Many here still believe Syria was behind the massive car bomb that killed Mr. Hariri and are pushing hard for an international tribunal to try the assassins.

At a time when the country stands politically paralysed and bitterly divided over who should run it, some fear today's observance could spark more street clashes.

The buses were packed with students, blue-collar workers, Sri Lankan housemaids and <u>women</u> making their way to Christian theology lessons. The dead included an Egyptian man, a 40-year-old woman and an 18-year-old man, the interior ministry said. At least 18 people were wounded, some of them badly maimed.

"I hate all the politicians. I wish they were all in that bus," said Antoine Nader, 30, a pharmacist who dashed from his nearby shop after the first blast to find a bloody scene. "It's a pity that those who paid the price this time were mostly poor."

By last night, supporters of the besieged, U.S.-backed government had accused Syria of planning the attacks.

This tiny, pine-shaded mountain village lies just outside of Bikfaya, the ancestral homeland and political stronghold of the powerful Gemayel family, a prominent and controversial Christian dynasty. Last week, former president Amin Gemayel visited President George W. Bush in the White House, sparking rumours that he may have ambitions to resume the presidency. His son, Industry Minister Pierre Gemayel, was gunned down by assassins only a few months ago.

The bus bombings tapped deeply into a traumatized national psyche, dredging up harrowing memories of the 15-year civil war, which began in earnest in 1975 with a massacre of 27 Palestinian civilians aboard a bus. Ironically, it was the Gemayel family's Phalangist militia men who carried out those killings.

Lebanon bus bombs kill three: Growing instability recalls 1975 war that began with killings on bus

Memories of the civil war and growing fears that fighting will erupt once more have been stirred by a political crisis that has sharpened sectarian tensions. The Shia Muslim group <u>Hezbollah</u> and its allies, including popular Christian leader Gen. Michel Aoun, have launched a fierce and popular campaign against the U.S.-backed government.

The opposition dismisses Lebanon's leaders as illegitimate puppets of the United States, and have taken to the streets to demand a greater share of power. But the government, bolstered by support from the U.S. and France, has dug in and refused to resign. Scattered street clashes have repeatedly erupted, among rival Christians and between Sunni and Shia Muslims.

At the same time, an excruciating campaign of assassinations has dragged on. Lebanese don't know for sure who is behind the attacks. Many blame Syria, which stationed troops and exercised a degree of control in Lebanon until forced by the international community to withdraw after Mr. Hariri's death. Damascus has denied any involvement.

Against that backdrop, yesterday morning seemed to mark an escalation. Until now, bombing attacks have been of two types: assassinations of prominent politicians and journalists critical of Syria, or mostly symbolic strikes against unoccupied, usually Christian areas.

When the first explosion rang over the hills, Tania Hayek Khoury was having coffee with her mother. Rain had been pouring down all morning; at first, the <u>women</u> thought it was thunder. But then they heard the screams.

"I saw death with my own eyes," she said. "I recognized some of the **women** on the back of the bus. What are we dying for in this country? Why?" Ms. Khoury asked.

Graphic

Photo: Bela Szandelszky, The Associated Press; Lebanese soldiers examine a damaged bus following two bomb blasts in the village of Ein Alaq, just south of the town of Bikfaya, yesterday.;

Load-Date: February 14, 2007



DELUDED .. **TERMINALLY**

Sunday Mirror
August 6, 2006 Sunday
3 Star Edition

Copyright 2006 MGN Ltd. All Rights Reserved



Section: FEATURES; Pg. 14

Length: 636 words

Byline: RICHARD STOTT

Body

TONY Blair was in Terminator country so he had to sound big and butch. He talked of his complete inner self-belief, his determination to push through reforms in a resisting world and, above all, his ability to lead.

Hollywood is indeed fortunate that California's governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has yet to sign the contract for Terminator Four.

At moments like this it is a pretty fair bet that what Tony Blair says, and what he actually believes, are two different things. Two days later he made another speech where he showed his inner self-confidence had taken one hell of a battering, his planned reforms for the Middle East weren't working and his ability to lead was taking us in the wrong direction. He even admitted we had to rethink the war on terror because we aren't winning it.

The Prime Minister enjoys presenting himself as the courageous leader battling the forces of darkness at home and abroad with the courage of a man who has seen the light and has the evangelical zeal to thrust the rest of us into it. But, apart from waging war, he has actually been too cautious in his reforms.

He has certainly pumped cash into the NHS and there have been improvements, but after nine years of having 24 hours to save it, the health service remains on the critical list. The same is true of education, and his expedition to reform the mountainous welfare state remains stubbornly in the foothills. Part of his lack of achievement has been the frustrations caused by his acrimonious relationship with Gordon Brown. But here too he has lacked the guts to remove him, letting Brown continue his destructive sniping from the sidelines.

But Blair will be judged harshest for the inner self-belief, many would claim blind self-belief, he did show... over the invasion of Iraq. Leadership requires many different qualities and one of them is to examine all the facts and consequences of your actions, including those you don't like. He simply did not take on board either that Saddam was an irrelevance in the War On Terror or that Iraqis would not want the kind of liberation on offer. Why should they? When democracy means the right to be murdered, have no sewerage, jobs, electricity or running water and

DELUDED .. TERMINALLY

police as corrupt as they ever were, it isn't much of a deal. And where is the democracy we are eulogising in Lebanon if it has to be enforced by killing innocent **women** and children?

What price the born-again Christian humanity of George Bush, Mr US Democracy himself, a man prepared to throw away the lives of those innocents in order to stall an Israeli ceasefire in the vain hope it will somehow silence <u>Hezbollah</u>? You can't kill ideas by murder.

Blair talked too as if this was a battle between the forces of good and evil, a war of "global values", the difference between peace-loving democrats and violent sectarian fundamentalists, religious bigots and secular dictators. "It's time we joined up the dots," he said. All very well, but we've been responsible for rubbing out a hell of a lot of the dots.

The West - and George Bush particularly - sees extreme Islam as barbaric. Many devout Muslims see the extreme West as decadent, immoral and corrupt. There is truth in both analyses.

Whatever his doubts, it is a tragedy both national and personal that Tony Blair won't admit the blindingly obvious. That our invasion of Iraq has made the Middle East stand-off infinitely worse, the terrorist is once again a freedom fighter, and we have lit the fuse of further sectarian massacre.

Blair still believes it was right to invade Iraq, that old self-confidence thing again. It's perilously close to self-delusion.

Just before the last election he took me to task about my attitude over the invasion. We'll meet in a year, he said, and I will be able to show you why I was right.

That was last May. I'm still waiting.

Graphic

Talking tough... Blair with Arnie last week

Load-Date: August 6, 2006



ADVANTAGE: TEHRAN

Weekend Australian
April 7, 2007 Saturday
All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2007 Nationwide News Pty Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: FEATURES; Leader; Pg. 14

Length: 644 words

Body

MATP

Ahmadinejad turns an act of war into a PR coup

IRAN wins again. That is the all too depressing conclusion to be drawn from the release -- by dint of a presidential "pardon" -- of 15 British hostages kidnapped by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's regime and held captive since March 23. For while we celebrate the fact that these sailors are now safe, we are filled with regret at how this crisis has played out. There is little doubt, given both GPS data and eyewitness accounts, that the sailors were not in Iranian territorial waters when they were seized. Nor is there any doubt that Iran's conduct, in forcing them to make false confessions and parading the captives, flew in the face of the Geneva Conventions. Yet in the face of this provocation, the West showed itself to be largely impotent. Even the ill-fitting polyester "Ahmadinejad suits" given to the sailors were a subtle thumb in the eye, as they lacked neckties, which are informally banned in Iran as a symbol of the Christian West. No matter what diplomacy may have led to this purported Easter gift, the fact is that Iran has once again successfully probed the military and ideological defences of the West and found them wanting.

The danger is that in continually testing the West's resolve, Iran is preparing for ever-greater outrages that might still be stopped but for lack of will. Iran makes no bones about its extraterritorial ambitions, and Mr Ahmadinejad's grin hides the rising influence of the Revolutionary Guards who provoked the crisis. *Hezbollah*, a creation of Tehran, is responsible not just for the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers in Lebanon that provoked Israel to go to war last year, but myriad other atrocities besides. Iran is also implicated in much of the violence plaguing Iraq, and British Prime Minister Tony Blair suggested a Tehran link to a bomb blast in Basra late last week that killed four British soldiers including two *women*. A similar probing strategy was implemented by Osama bin Laden during the 1990s. Attack after terrorist attack was met by inadequate responses in the form of ineffectual cruise missile strikes or, in the case of Somalia, abject retreat. No wonder bin Laden saw the US as a "paper tiger". It is hard to think of another nation that could have pulled such a stunt and got away with it. Not even Syria would have dared, despite US house Speaker Nancy Pelosi's poorly judged freelance mission to make nice with that appalling regime.

While military hegemony must be won on the battlefield, moral superiority is a trickier thing. This must be taken from, or ceded by, those who held it previously, in this case those cultures and institutions that have so lost their moral compass and sense of history that they are willing to give the benefit of the doubt to a religious fanatic who brutally represses secular and democratic dissent and is not shy about his ambitions to use nuclear weapons. Here the usual suspects have been rushing to apply mushy moral equivalencies to a situation that could not be more black and white. The Sydney Morning Herald's Richard Ackland on Friday was quick to suggest Iran was, like a child in a dysfunctional family, simply modelling the inappropriate behaviour of the US. Britain's Independent, in a

ADVANTAGE: TEHRAN

report credulously repeated by the ABC, recycled a three-month-old story of a US raid on Iranians operating in Iraq to suggest that Washington provoked the whole thing. Elsewhere, things are not much better. The UN issued flaccid demands while the EU -- a project predicated on the replacement of old nationalisms with a new European identity - failed to stand up in any meaningful way for a member state. Instead, at the height of the crisis European foreign ministers refused to freeze the EU's E14 billion (\$23billion) export trade with Iran. The eventual cost of this sort of appeasement could one day be far higher.

Load-Date: April 6, 2007



In Brief

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

August 2, 2006 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2006 The Vancouver Sun, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: SPORTS; Pg. E5; In Brief

Length: 650 words

Byline: Vancouver Sun; News Services

Body

TOCCHET WAITS FOR WORD ON CHARGES

NEW YORK -- An announcement on whether officials in New Jersey will indict Phoenix Coyotes associate coach Rick Tocchet could come as early as this week, The Arizona Republic reports. Tocchet was linked in February to an alleged gambling ring based in New Jersey following a law-enforcement investigation dubbed "Operation Slap Shot." The former NHL player is currently on leave.

n In other NHL news, the Buffalo Sabres signed forward Maxim Afinogenov to a multi-year contract, avoiding salary arbitration with their leading scorer from last season, while the Columbus Blue Jackets hired Clint Malarchuk as their goaltending coach. Malarchuk, 45, almost bled to death when his jugular vein was sliced by an opposing player's skate during a 1989 NHL game.

CANADIAN WOMEN STORM BACK TO BEAT CUBA

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Canada came from behind to beat Cuba 10-8 and remain undefeated at the <u>women</u>'s baseball World Cup on Tuesday. Third baseman Ashley Stephenson was 5-for-5 with four RBI and two runs scored. Canada, 2-0, has today off before facing rival Japan on Thursday, host Taiwan on Friday, Australia on Saturday and Hong Kong on Sunday.

kelowna's inaba on top with best round

RIVERVIEW, N.B. -- Kyla Inaba of Kelowna took the opening-round lead Tuesday at the 94th Royale Cup National <u>women</u>'s amateur golf championship. Inaba, who had never shot under 74 until Tuesday, fired a 1-under-par 70 for a two-stroke lead on Lindsay Knowlton of Toronto and Christina Spence of Cobble Hill. "It was a really casual round with a lot of things going my way," said Inaba, 19. "It was kind of incredible how it came together.

iraq soccer federation refuses salman

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Iraq's soccer federation has refused to accept the resignation of its national team coach, Akram Ahmed Salman, who asked to step down last week after receiving death threats. Iraqi soccer official Hussein Saaed called Salman's job "a national duty."

juventus appeals demotion

In Brief

LONDON -- Juventus has lodged an appeal with the Italian Olympic Committee against demotion to the country's second-tier soccer league as punishment for its part in a match-fixing scandal. The Turin-based club also asked the committee, which oversees the soccer federation, to restore the 2005 and 2006 league titles of which it was stripped as part of the sanction.

israel appeals uefa's match decision

JERUSALEM -- The Israeli Football Association is protesting UEFA's decision to move its European soccer matches out of the country. UEFA decided Monday to move the home games out of Israel because of the fighting between Israel and *Hezbollah* in Lebanon.

KUBICA SLOTTED IN FOR VILLENEUVE

MUNICH, Germany -- Robert Kubica will replace Canadian Jacques Villeneuve at the wheel of a BMW-Sauber car at the Hungarian Grand Prix, becoming the first Polish driver to contest a Formula One race. Kubica, 21, has been test driving for BMW-Sauber team this year.

HIGH SCHOOL PLAYER DIES OF HEAT STROKE

ATLANTA -- A 15-year-old high school football player died Tuesday from heat stroke after collapsing a day earlier following an off-season workout. Tyler Davis lifted weights for an hour indoors with teammates on Monday before taking part in running and passing drills for an hour and 45 minutes. Georgia has been sweltering under blistering heat.

CHRISTMAS WITH SHAQ AND KOBE

NEW YORK -- Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant will spend another Christmas together. The former teammates will meet on Dec. 25 for the third straight season, as the Miami Heat host the Los Angeles Lakers in the lone game on the holiday, according to the 2006-07 schedule released Tuesday. The Heat host Chicago to kick off the season on Oct. 31. That same night, MVP Steve Nash and the Phoenix Suns play the Lakers in Los Angeles. The Toronto Raptors will also see a familiar face when they open their season on the road Nov. 1 against Vince Carter and the New Jersey Nets.

Load-Date: August 2, 2006



Israeli phone calls mean attack is on the way

The Philadelphia Inquirer August 3, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

Length: 633 words

Byline: Ashraf Khalil, Los Angeles Times

Body

A man with an Israeli accent called Omar Mamluke on his cell phone just before midnight and asked for him by name.

"You have just a few minutes to get out of the house," the man said. An Israeli missile was about to hit.

"I asked if he was joking, and he told me: 'The Israeli Defense Forces don't joke,' " Mamluke recalled.

Mamluke, a police officer, wasted no time; he had heard what happened to others in Gaza who had received such calls. He gathered up his two wives and 15 children, and they ran out of the house in their nightclothes, yelling for their neighbors to do the same.

The missile struck within half an hour, lifting Mamluke's house in the air, sending the foundation columns across the street. But no one was hurt, which the Israeli army says is the point of the phone calls.

The Israeli military, which launched campaigns in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon after soldiers were captured last month in border incursions, says it does its best to warn civilians of impending military action.

Its warnings to civilians to leave southern Lebanon are at the center of controversy over the air strike early Sunday in the village of Qana that killed almost 60 people, many of them **women** and children.

Although many have fled the region, some say they are afraid to travel roads that have been bombed by Israeli planes. The sick or injured, the very young and the elderly sometimes cannot travel, Lebanese say.

Israeli officials have suggested that, after several warnings, those who remain behind are responsible for their own fate.

"Those who stay have apparently decided to take the risk, or are being held by <u>Hezbollah</u>, which has accepted the risk on their behalf," Brig. Gen. Alon Friedman, deputy head of the army's northern command headquarters, said last week. "We have no intention of hitting innocent civilians and will do all possible to avoid harming them, but the fighting has a price."

Israeli phone calls mean attack is on the way

In Gaza, where the military began issuing specific warnings in recent weeks, the practice has not won many over. Few Palestinians accept the idea that Israel really is trying to limit civilian deaths.

At best, the warnings are decried as cynical attempts to portray the military campaigns in a better light. Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh calls it psychological warfare.

"They just want to sow fear and confusion among the people," Haniyeh said.

Although Palestinians report that dozens of warnings have been received in the last two weeks, only a handful of buildings have been hit.

Israeli army officials are tight-lipped about the practice, but the official daily updates of army attacks on suspected Gaza weapons factories and warehouses invariably mention steps taken to warn residents and limit civilian casualties.

"It is a method that's being used to prevent the harming of innocent civilians," said one army spokeswoman, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Calls have also targeted official buildings such as the main Gaza City courthouse and the ambulance dispatch center at Khan Younis Hospital, said Iyad Nasr, spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross. Neither has been hit.

"It's still collective punishment," he said. "Dozens of families have been informed and have evacuated their homes."

The first known case of a pre-strike warning call came July 23, targeting the Gaza City home of Mohammed al-Sheik Dib. In that case, neighbors generally acknowledged that Sheik Dib was a ranking member of Islamic Jihad and that rockets probably were being stored in the house.

Other, less personal forms of warnings have also been used. Leaflets have been dropped onto Gaza towns. Last week, Khan Younis residents answered the phone and heard a recorded warning message. The Israeli army also has broken in on the frequency of the Hamas radio station to broadcast warnings.

Load-Date: August 3, 2006



Out & About

New York Sun (Archive) August 18, 2006 Friday

Copyright 2006 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: OUT & ABOUT; Pg. 12

Length: 658 words

Byline: A.L. GORDON

Body

The nation of Israel calls to its supporters abroad - instead of beach barbeques or morning hikes, they check in with their friends and family who live there, keep their ears tuned to the news at work and at the gym. They worry and hope and pray. And they gather, in public and in private, to show their support for the Jewish state and its right to defend itself.

On Sunday in East Hampton at the Jewish Center in the Hamptons, a group of 18 Jewish <u>women</u> organized an "Art for Israel" family fund-raising event to benefit Magen David Adom. On Wednesday, the Birthright Israel program, which sends young people on trips to Israel with their peers, organized an event for more than 300 alumni at the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan. There was standing room only in the theater for remarks by the humanitarian and author Elie Wiesel and a journalist from Reuters who had reported in Israel, Ari Rabinovitch.

"Since <u>Hezbollah</u> kidnapped the solders, one word has been missing from all the discourse: peace," Mr. Wiesel said to the crowd of newly minted college graduates, law and medical students, and young professionals.

"We believe in hope. So what are we to do?" Mr. Wiesel asked them. "We must be together. This is what we must do. Israel should never be left alone. Only when Israel is alone will the enemy triumph."

People nodded. This is why they had come to the event: to affirm their commitment to Israel. Mr. Wiesel articulated it perfectly. "I don't live in Israel, but I couldn't live without it. And I don't live in Jerusalem, but Jerusalem lives within me," he said. One woman sketched his face while he spoke. On her pad were various renditions capturing expressions of despair and hope.

The journalist, Mr. Rabinovitch, told of his journey in recent weeks from the Checkpost intersection in Haifa to the Lebanese border. The descriptions of Checkpost brought back memories for members of the audience. "I remember Checkpost - this one restaurant, run by three brothers, had the best shwarma," a law student, Larry Rosenthal, who went on a Birthright Israel trip in 2001, said at the reception following the talk.

Mr. Rabinovitch's last anecdote was the most powerful: Half an hour after the ceasefire, he saw a 12-year-old boy riding his bicycle. He stopped the boy and asked, "What's going on?" The boy, Johnny, told him this was the first time he'd ridden his bike in a month. "He said, 'I feel safe now, but I'm not sure it's going to last.'" After the presentations, the young crowd decompressed and reflected at the reception. Jonathan Wallach had gone on a Birthright trip for medical students. "We went to the medical training center for the army," he said. "The mindset is totally different there. For us, we sustained one terrorist attack. For them it's all the time," he said.

Out & About

Mr. Wallach was talking with Violetta Pinkhasov, who works at Con Edison and attends Fordham's business school. She felt inspired by Mr. Wiesel's words. "We are the messengers. I personally feel if there's no Israel, there are no Jews," she said. Supporting Israel is a passion and a calling for Ellie Burrows, who graduated from Northwestern University in June. "I'm a bit of a lunatic about Israel. I'm definitely making aliyah eventually. Right now I'm thinking about helping out with the rebuilding," Ms. Burrows said.

Jackie Rosenthal and Jason Demby, a couple who met at another Birthright alumni event, said they like the events because they get to meet people who share their strong commitment to Israel. "This organization is different. These are people who are proactive and passionate," Ms. Rosenthal said.

The gathering in itself was a way of showing support and expressing hope. "It's all about Jewish unity," a law student who is enrolling at University of Tel Aviv in the fall, Jessica Rosenraich, said. "We are coming together at a time of strife. And the fact that we can do so and celebrate life together is really in the Jewish spirit."

Load-Date: August 10, 2007



As Iraq worsens, democracy's lure ebbs in Syria; Even the country's activists have conceded that the feeble rights movement has grown moribund.

The Philadelphia Inquirer
October 27, 2006 Friday

Copyright 2006 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

Length: 624 words

Byline: Ellen Knickmeyer, Washington Post

Body

Horror at the bloodshed accompanying the U.S. effort to bring democracy to Iraq has accomplished what human-rights activists, analysts and others say Syrian President Bashar al-Assad had been unable to do by himself: Silence public demands for democratic reforms here.

The idea of the government as a bulwark of stability and security has long been the watchword of Syrian bureaucrats and village elders. But since Iraq's descent into sectarian and ethnic war - and after Israel's war with <u>Hezbollah</u> in Lebanon, on the other side of Syria - even Syrian activists concede that the country's feeble rights movement is moribund.

Advocates of democracy are equated now with supporters of America, even "traitors," said Maan Abdul Salam, 36, a Damascus publisher who has coordinated conferences on **women**'s rights and similar topics.

"Now, talking about democracy and freedom has become very difficult and sensitive," Salam said. "The people are not believing these thoughts anymore. When the U.S. came to Iraq, it came in the name of democracy and freedom. But all we see are bodies, bodies, bodies."

Ordinary people in Syria are hunkering down, and probably rightly so, said Omar Amiralay, a well-known Syrian filmmaker whose documentaries are quietly critical of Assad's one-family rule.

"If democracy brings such chaos in the region, and especially the destruction of society, as it did in Iraq and in Lebanon, it's absolutely normal, and I think it's absolutely a wise position from the people to be afraid to imagine how it would be in Syria," Amiralay said.

"I think that people at the end said: 'Well, it is better to keep this government. We know them, and we don't want to go to this civil war, and to live this apocalyptic image of change.'

As Iraq worsens, democracy's lure ebbs in Syria Even the country's activists have conceded that the feeble rights movement has grown moribund.

In 2003, a few people in Damascus were bold enough to raise their glasses in cafes to toast the American tanks then rolling into Baghdad to overthrow Saddam Hussein. They were dreaming of changes that might happen next here, in the only remaining government led by the Baath Party, a prominent writer in the capital said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of being jailed a second time.

"The Americans came to Iraq to make it an example to the other countries to ask for change," the writer said. "But what happened was the opposite. Now everyone is saying we do not want to be like Iraq."

Yet while Assad's government has fulfilled its pledge of stability, it has put off acting on any of its promises on democratic reform. In fact, as the U.S. effort in Iraq goes increasingly awry, Syria has cracked down even harder, activists said.

In May, the government jailed at least 12 people for signing a petition calling for better relations with Lebanon, according to Human Rights Watch. In July, Syrian courts sentenced three bloggers to up to four years in prison for writing too freely. The jail terms led Reporters Without Borders to declare Syria "the Middle East's biggest jail for cyber-dissidents."

Also in July, security and intelligence services imposed a foreign travel ban on scores of Syrian artists, rights workers and others. Activists learned of the ban one by one, when they showed up at the border or the airport with passport and suitcase, only to be refused permission to leave the country.

Amiralay, 62, was stopped at the Syrian border in September as he headed to Jordan for a workshop on filmmaking. Middle East satellite-television networks had recently broadcast his latest documentary.

Syrian officials handcuffed him and brought him back to Damascus. Security officers screened his latest work frame by frame, demanding his explanation of any shot that suggested untoward symbolism, he said. Reports of his detention on Arabic-language television helped win his quick release.

Load-Date: October 27, 2006



More midwives can save lives

The Evening Standard (London)

August 23, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 Associated Newspapers Ltd. All Rights Reserved



Section: A MERGE; Pg. 12

Length: 693 words

Body

CHILDBIRTH, once a mortal danger, is now safe for almost all mothers; in Britain, just one woman in 8,775 dies having a baby. So the past performance of the maternity unit at Northwick Park hospital in north west London is shocking. In April last year, the Healthcare Commission was called in to investigate maternity services there after 10 **women** died during pregnancy and labour between 2002 and 2005.

In a damning report published today, the Commission, a health watchdog, reiterates that poor quality of care, weak leadership and inadequate risk management were to blame in nine of the ten cases. It also says that there have been significant improvements in the services it provides, especially following the recruitment of three new consultants and 20 midwives.

What is regrettable is that it should have taken so long, and so many <u>women</u>'s deaths, to have brought this progress. It is clear from the Commission's report that there was an entire working culture at the hospital which contributed to the deaths. There was over-reliance on agency staff, without proper senior support. Difficult decisions were left to junior staff, and the hospital had inadequate resources to cope when a mother's condition changed suddenly. Worst of all, when mistakes were made, the hospital failed to learn from them, and they were repeated.

These unnecessary deaths show that hospitals must urgently address the well-documented shortage of midwives - Northwick Park's improvement is directly linked to the recruitment of more of them. Especially when maternity units are crowded, hospitals need to monitor <u>women</u> closely for any signs of complications. Only proper numbers of midwives can do that: as this tragic case shows, the risks of standards slipping can still too easily prove fatal.

Iran's ambitions

IRAN WAS, famously, part of what President Bush identified as the "axis of evil", along with Iraq and North Korea. Of the three, it has done by far the best since then in projecting its interests.

A new report from Chatham House, the institute for international affairs, has pointed out that Iran has profited from the United States' Middle Eastern policy by virtue of the overthrow of its greatest enemy, Saddam Hussein, and the

More midwives can save lives

removal of its regional rival, the Taliban, in Afghanistan. The inconclusive end to the conflict in Lebanon has left *Hezbollah*, a protege of Iran, claiming a victory which reflects to the credit of its sponsor.

Now Iran has rejected demands from the Security Council that it suspend its nuclear programme in return for a package of economic incentives while leaving open the possibility of further negotiations about its uranium-enrichment programme.

The US is threatening economic sanctions against Iran and has left open the possibility of military strikes. But as Iran well knows, this course of action has very little chance of support from two other members of the Security Council, China and Russia, which have close economic links with Iran as a major oil producer.

Should we be worried? Unfortunately, yes. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's particular brand of Shi'ite fanaticism is gaining influence throughout the region. He has famously called for Israel to be wiped off the map. The best hope if Iran does indeed develop nuclear weapons may be for a Cold-War style stand-off with Israel rather than nuclear confrontation.

But the answer is not an immediate, muscular response from the US. As the Chatham House report suggests, the Americans may have the preponderance of hard, military power in the region, but Iran has been far better at winning the battle for hearts and minds. The US must learn to do the same.

No soft touch

CAMBRIDGEUniversity has told its applicants that they need not bother applying if their A-levels are in soft subjects like media studies rather than intellectually demanding ones like maths and history.

Other major universities are likely to follow. This is excellent news. If the Government cannot halt students' drift away from subjects like physics in favour of those that are easy to pass, the prospect that such a choice will actually handicap their chances of a university place might bring about change.

Load-Date: August 23, 2006



2006 THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

The Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)

December 26, 2006 Tuesday

Main Edition

Copyright 2006 Nationwide News Pty Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: Pg. 35

Length: 690 words

Body

JANUARY

4 Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a massive stroke

15/22 Michelle Bachelet was elected as the first *female* president of Chile, while in Bolivia Evo Morales was sworn in as the first indigenous head of state

25 Hamas, the militant Islamist party, won a landslide victory in the Palestinian election

FEBRUARY

- 3 Violence spread in Islamic countries in response to publication in a Danish newspaper of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammad
- 10 The Winter Olympics began in Torino, Italy. Germany headed the final medal table

MARCH

- 10 NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter entered orbit around the red planet to look for evidence of water and identify landing sites for future missions
- 11 Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic was found dead in his cell at the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague
- 22 The Basque separatist group ETA declared an end to its 30-year armed campaign for independence from Spain
- 28 Kadima, the party founded by Ariel Sharon but now led by Ehud Olmert, won Israel s election

APRIL

- 5 Amnesty International claimed it had further evidence that secret CIA flights carried terror suspects for interrogation in black site prisons in eastern Europe
- 9 Centre-left economist Romano Prodi won power in Italy by a razor-thin margin
- 21 Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her 80th birthday

2006 THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

MAY

- 17 The Da Vinci Code, the movie of the blockbuster novel which has sold over 43 million copies worldwide, premiered at the Cannes Film Festival
- 20 Construction of the Three Gorges Dam in China, the world's largest hydro-electric project, was completed nine months ahead of schedule
- 21 Montenegro voted in a referendum to terminate its union with Serbia

JUNE

- 7 Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al-Qaeda leader in Iraq, was killed in a US airstrike on an isolated safe house near Baquba
- 9 The FIFA World Cup in Germany got underway, with Italy emerging as the eventual winner
- 9 King Bhumibol of Thailand, the world s longest-serving head of state, marked the 60th anniversary of his accession

JULY

- 3 The first train from Beijing to Tibet arrived in Lhasa after a 48-hour journey across the world s highest railway
- 11 Seven coordinated bombings on packed rush-hour commuter trains in India s financial capital, Mumbai, killed 209 people
- 12 Israel bombarded Lebanon from land, sea and air after <u>Hezbollah</u> forces killed eight soldiers and captured two more. The war lasted a month, with significant casualties on both sides

AUGUST

- 1 Cuban dictator Fidel Castro underwent intestinal surgery, having temporarily transferred power to his brother Raul
- 9 Airline passengers were banned from carrying all but essential hand luggage after anti-terrorist officers uncovered a plot to blow up planes flying from Britain to the US
- 28 Tennis greats Andre Agassi and Martina Navratilova took their final bows at the US Open in New York

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Ebullient Australian naturalist Steve Irwin was killed by a stingray barb to the heart during a diving expedition on the Great Barrier Reef
- 19 Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted in a bloodless military coup
- 22 Europe scored a stunning victory over the US at the 36th Ryder Cup, held for the first time in Ireland

OCTOBER

- 5 NATO assumed responsibility for security across all of Afghanistan, where conflict deaths rose four-fold over the year
- 9 South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon was chosen to be the next UN Secretary-General
- 9 North Korea conducted an underground nuclear test, attracting widespread international condemnation

NOVEMBER

2006 THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

- 5 Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was sentenced to death over the 1982 Dujail killings. He remained on trial for the genocide of thousands of Kurds
- 7 President Bush suffered a thumping defeat in the crucial US mid-term elections, with Democrats winning control of both Houses of Congress
- 21 Pierre Gemayel, a leading anti-Syrian Lebanese cabinet minister, was assassinated in Beirut
- 23 Former KGB spy Alexander Litvinenko died in London from radiation poisoning by polonium-210

DECEMBER

- 1 Typhoon Durian killed over 1000 people in the Philippines and up to 100 in Vietnam
- 5 A military coup was declared in Fiji
- 10 Chile's former military dictator General Augusto Pinochet died at 91

Load-Date: December 26, 2006



Comment & Debate: Why stop the Great Satan? Hes driving himself to hell: Tehran can sit back and watch its tormentors sweat. But the US and Britain must start from diplomatic ground zero

The Guardian - Final Edition

November 15, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 Guardian Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: GUARDIAN COMMENT AND DEBATE PAGES; Pg. 35

Length: 1088 words **Byline:** Simon Jenkins

Body

For axis of evil, read axis of hope. The frantic scrabbling for an exit strategy from Iraq now consuming Washington and London has passed all bounds of irony. Help from Syria and Iran? Surely these were the monsters that George Bush and Tony Blair were going to crush, back in 2003?

Surely the purpose of the Iraq adventure was to topple these terrorism-sponsoring, <u>women</u>-suppressing, militia-funding fundamentalists in favour of stability, prosperity and western democracy? Can the exit from Iraq really be through Tehran and Damascus? Was that in the plan?

I remember asking a western intelligence officer in Baghdad, six months after the American invasion, what he would advise the Iranians to do. iWait,i he said with a smile. Iran has done just that. If I were Tehran I would still wait. I would sit back, fold my arms and watch my tormentors sweat. I would watch the panic in Washington and London as body bags pile up, generals mutter mutiny, alliances fall apart and electors cut and run.

As Blair's emissary, Sir Nigel Sheinwald, comes to me cap in hand, I would pour him tea and roar with laughter. I would ask him to repeat to my face the insults and bile his American task-masters hurl at me daily. I would say with Shylock: iHath a dog money? Is it possible a cur can lend three thousand ducats? Fair Sir, you spat on me Wednesday last; you spurned me such a day; you called me dog; and for these courtesies I'll lend you thus much moneys?"

As we approach the beginning of the end in Iraq there will be much throat-clearing and breast-beating before reality replaces denial. For the moment, denial still rules. In America last week I was shocked at how unaware even antiwar Americans are (like many Britons) of the depth of the predicament in Iraq.

They compare it with Vietnam or the Balkans o but it is not the same. It is total anarchy. All sentences beginning, iWhat we should now do in Iraq . . ." are devoid of meaning. We are in no position to do anything. We have no potency; that is the definition of anarchy.

From all available reports, Iraq south of the Kurdistan border is beyond central authority, a patchwork of ganglands, sheikhdoms and lawlessness. Anbar province and most of the Sunni triangle is controlled by independent Sunni militias. The only safe movement for outsiders is by helicopter at night. Baghdad is like Beirut in 1983, with nightly massacres, roadblocks everywhere and mixed neighbourhoods emptying into safe ones. As yesterday's awful

Comment & Debate: Why stop the Great Satan? Hes driving himself to hell: Tehran can sit back and watch its tormentors sweat. But the US and Britain must start f....

kidnapping shows, even a uniform is a death certificate. As for the cities of the south, control depends on which Shia militia has been able to seize the local police station.

The Iraqi army, such as it is, cannot be deployed outside its local area and is therefore useless for counter-insurgency. There is no central police force. There is no public administration. The Maliki government barely rules the Green Zone in which it is entombed.

American troops guard it as they might an outpost of the French Legion in the Sahara. There is no point in patrolling a landscape one cannot control. It merely alienates the population and turns soldiers into targets.

To talk of a collapse into civil war if iwe leave" Iraq is to completely misread the chaos into which that country has descended under our rule. It implies a model of order wholly absent on the ground. Foreign soldiers can stay in their bases, but they will no more iprevent civil war" than they can iimport democracy". They are relevant only as target practice for insurgents and recruiting sergeants for al-Qaida. The occupation of Iraq has passed from brutality to mere idiocy.

It is possible that a shrewd proconsul, such as America's Zelmay Khalilzad, might induce the warring factions to agree a provisional boundary between their spheres of influence and assign militias to protect it. But my impression is that Iraq has passed beyond even the power of the centre to impose partition.

If civil war means armies invading territory, there is no need for that in Iraq. If it means ethnic massacres and refugees fleeing into enclaves, it is there already and in abundance.

The form of the western retreat from Iraq is already taking shape. If all politics is local, none is more local than the politics of anarchy. Britain is already withdrawing from towns such as Amara and bases in Basra, leaving local militias to fight over the territory left behind and regional leaders to try to discipline them. This cannot begin until the troops leave. American withdrawal will take the same form in the north and west. The chief cause of British and American casualties at present is incoming commanders going on unnecessary patrols to show they can ikick ass".

Next month's Baker/Hamilton inquiryo surely the strangest way an army has ever negotiated its own retreat o will call for a hastening of such iredeployment" away from centres of population to giant bases in the desert. They can stay there to save face as Iraq's factions and provinces reorder themselves messily in the towns and cities. Units can then slip quietly away to Qatar by the month.

It would clearly help Bush and Blair were such a redeployment to be covered by some international conference. But the idea that Ba'athist, Sunni Damascus and clerical, Shia Tehran would jointly guarantee the safety of a power-sharing regime in Baghdad is beyond credence. They might gain regional kudos by attending such a conference, and even by pretending to rein in their co-religionist militias. But any idea that they will stop sponsoring *Hizbullah* or stop enriching uranium as part of some deal is bizarre. As for Bush promising to ido something" about Israel and Palestine, he promised that in 2003 to no effect. Yes, these leaders would like good relations with the west, but they can survive without them. The axis of evil has done them no harm. Bush and Blair are men in a hurry, and such men lose wars. If there is a game plan in Tehran it will be to play Iraq long. Why stop the Great Satan when he is driving himself to hell in a handcart? If London and Washington really want help in this part of the world they must start from diplomatic ground zero. They will have to stop the holier-than-thou name-calling and the pretence that they hold any cards. They will have to realise that this war has lost them all leverage in the region. They can insult and sanction and threaten. But there is nothing left for them to ido" but leave. They are no longer the subject of that mighty verb, only its painful object.

simon.jenkins@guardian.co.uk

Load-Date: November 15, 2006

Comment & Debate: Why stop the Great Satan? Hes driving himself to hell: Tehran can sit back and watch its tormentors sweat. But the US and Britain must start f....



Guardian Weekly: Comment & Analysis: Bush's total catastrophe: In every vital area, from Afghanistan to Egypt, his policies have made the situation worse

Guardian Weekly

December 22, 2006 Friday

Copyright 2006 Guardian Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

*The*GuardianWeekly

Section: Pg. 5

Length: 1234 words

Byline: Timothy Garton Ash

Body

What an amazing bloody catastrophe. The Bush administration's policy towards the Middle East over the five years since 9/11 is culminating in a multiple train crash. Never in the field of human conflict was so little achieved by so great a country at such vast expense. In every vital area of the wider Middle East, US policy over the past five years has taken a bad situation and made it worse.

If the consequences were not so serious, one would have to laugh at a failure of such heroic proportions - rather in the spirit of Zorba the Greek who, contemplating the splintered ruins of his great project, memorably exclaimed: "Did you ever see a more splendiferous crash?" But the reckless incompetence of Zorba the Bush has resulted in the death, maiming, uprooting or impoverishment of hundreds of thousands of men, *women* and children - mainly Muslim Arabs but also Christian Lebanese, Israelis and American and British soldiers. By contributing to a broader alienation of Muslims it has also helped to make a world in which, as we walk the streets of London, Madrid, Jerusalem, New York or Sydney, we are all, each and every one of us, less safe. Laugh if you dare.

In the beginning there were the 9/11 attacks. It's important to stress that no one can fairly blame George Bush for them. The invasion of Afghanistan was a justified response to those attacks, which were initiated by al-Qaida from its bases in a rogue state under the tyranny of the Taliban. But if Afghanistan had to be done, it had to be done properly. It wasn't. Creating a half-way civilised order in one of the most rugged, inhospitable and tribally recalcitrant places on the planet was always going to be a huge challenge. If the available resources of the world's democracies, including those of a new, enlarged Nato, had been dedi cated to that task over the past five years, we might at least have one partial success to report today.

Instead Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld drove us on to Iraq, aided and abetted by Tony Blair, leaving the job in Afghanistan less than half-done. Today Osama bin Laden and his henchmen are probably still holed up in the mountains of Waziristan, just across the Afghan frontier in northern Pakistan, while the Taliban is back in force and the whole country is a bloody mess. Instead of one partial success, following a legitimate intervention, we have two burgeoning disasters, in Afghanistan and in Iraq.

Guardian Weekly: Comment & Analysis: Bush's total catastrophe: In every vital area, from Afghanistan to Egypt , his policies have made the situation worse

The United States and Britain invaded Iraq under false pretences, without proper legal authority or international legitimacy. If Saddam Hussein, a dangerous tyrant and certified international aggressor, had in fact possessed secret stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, the intervention might have been justified; as he didn't, it wasn't. Then, through the breathtaking incompetence of the armchair warriors in the Pentagon and the White House, we transformed a totalitarian state into a state of anarchy. Claiming to move Iraq forward towards Lockean liberty, we hurled it back to a Hobbesian state of nature. Iraqis - those who have not been killed - increasingly say things are worse than they were before. Who are we to tell them they are wrong?

Now we are preparing to get out. After working through Basra in Operation Sinbad, a reduced number of British troops will draw back to their base at Basra airfield. We will sit in a desert and call it peace. If the White House follows the Baker-Hamilton commission's advice, US troops will do something similar, leaving embedded advisers with Iraqi forces. Three decades ago, American retreat was cloaked by "Vietnamisation"; now it will be cloaked by Iraqisation. Meanwhile Iraqis can go on killing each other all around, until perhaps, in the end, they cut some rough-and-ready political deals between themselves - or not, as the case may be.

The theocratic dictatorship of Iran is the great winner. Five years ago the Islamic republic had a reformist president, a substantial democratic opposition, and straitened finances because of low oil prices. The mullahs were running scared. Now the prospects of democratisation are dwindling, the regime is riding high on oil at more than \$60 a barrel, and it has huge influence through its Shia brethren in Iraq and Lebanon. The likelihood of it developing nuclear weapons is correspondingly greater. We toppled the Iraqi dictator, who did not have weapons of mass destruction, and thereby increased the chances of Iran's dictators acquiring weapons of mass destruction. And last week Iran's President Ahmadinejad once again called for the destruction of the state of Israel. Those American neocons who set out to make the Middle East safe for Israel have ended up making it more dangerous for Israel.

We did not need an Iraq Study Group to tell us that resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict through a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine is crucial. In its last months the Clinton administration came close to clinching the deal. Under Bush things have gone backwards. Even the Bush-backed Ariel Sharon scenario of separation through faits accomplis has receded, with the summer war in Lebanon, Hamas ascendancy in Palestine (itself partly a byproduct of the Bush-led rush to elections), and a growing disillusionment of the Israeli public.

Having scored an apparent success with the "cedar revolution" in Lebanon and the withdrawal of Syrian troops, the Bush administration, by its tacit support of sustained yet ineffective Israeli military action this summer, undermined the very Lebanese government it was claiming to support. Now <u>Hizbullah</u> is challenging the country's western-backed velvet revolutionaries at their own game: after the cedar revolution, welcome to the cedar counter-revolution. In Egypt, supposedly a showcase for the United States' support for peaceful democratisation in the Bush second term, electoral success for Islamists (as in Palestine and Lebanon) seems to have frightened Washington away from its fresh-minted policy before the ink was even dry. On the credit side all we have to show is Libya's renunciation of weapons of mass destruction, and a few tentative reforms in some smaller Arab states.

So here's the scoresheet for Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon and Egypt: worse, w

Many a time, in these pages and elsewhere, I have warned against reflex Bush-bashing and kneejerk anti-Americanism. The United States is by no means the only culprit. Changing the Middle East for the better is one of the most difficult challenges in world politics. The people of the region bear much responsibility for their own plight. So do we Europeans, for past sins of commission and current sins of omission. But Bush must take the lion's share of the blame. There are few examples in recent history of such a comprehensive failure. Congratulations, Mr President; you have made one hell of a disaster.

Guardian Weekly: Comment & Analysis: Bush's total catastrophe: In every vital area, from Afghanistan to Egypt , his policies have made the situation worse

Load-Date: January 5, 2007



G2: Darfur is the world's worst humanitarian crisis, so why aren't more people expressing their outrage?

The Guardian - Final Edition September 25, 2006 Monday

Copyright 2006 Guardian Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: GUARDIAN FEATURES PAGES; Pg. 5

Length: 1036 words

Byline: MaureenLipman

Body

As I approach the last few columns of my year's stint as your Monday columnist, I am reminded of the old South African apartheid-era joke about Desmond Tutu and FW de Klerk having private talks together. They are in a small boat, in the centre of a lake, with the world's press camped around the shoreline, training telephoto lenses on them. Suddenly, a gust of wind blows De Klerk's hat into the water and, without a word, Tutu gets out of the boat, walks across the water, picks up the hat, walks back and returns it to De Klerk. The next day, the headline on every front page reads "Desmond Tutu Cannot Swim!"

Last week, the archbishop wrote an impassioned plea for the world to take heed of the appalling situation in Darfur. It began: "Here is an inconvenient fact about Africa: our genocides tend to happen away from television cameras."

He went on to chronicle the million who died in Rwanda in 1994, the two million people dead in Southern Sudan in the past two decades, the four million murdered in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 1993. Just the four million.

In Darfur, he told us, 300,000 people have been killed, and two million have been "ethnically cleansed", and <u>women</u> and children raped and tortured daily. There is cholera in the refugee camps and, in spite of the ceasefire, the Janjaweed militias have stepped up their brutal attacks on civilians and aid workers.

Why is it taking so long to send a United Nations force to Darfur? After 30 days of the Israel/<u>Hizbullah</u> war, the UN sent in peacekeepers. Yet Darfur is, in the words of the UN, the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Is it because it is a civil war, or because of the vast oil wealth in the Sudan, or because, as Archbishop Tutu implied, it is a long way away and no one in either the media or the public really gives a flying Frisbee?

I wonder if the shocked and disgusted letter, demanding immediate cessation of warmongering and the return of all refugees - the hopping-mad, round-robin rant sent to the newspapers from the great and the good - the Pinters, the Bergers, the Chomskys - has got lost in the post. Maybe it has fallen foul of the new bar-coding system on the internet. Maybe it is lying in a sorting office somewhere, victim of mail-bag robberies in Kensington, Mayfair and Central Park South. At any rate, let us not hold our collective breaths.

Writing the column over the past year has taken up a huge portion of my weeks, but it has meant that everything else I do has become column fodder. Strangers and friends often ask me how I fit in so much in a day, and my answer is that I do not do any housework, I hardly cook these days, and I do not exercise or shop for clothes except under threat of a public airing. Only this week, I took part in a superb compilation of 60 years of Woman's Hour for

G2: Darfur is the world's worst humanitarian crisis, so why aren't more people expressing their outrage?

an October broadcast. One of the items Jenni Murray had excerpted from a wartime programme was instructions on how to knit your own stair carpet. Anyway, here is a day in the life from last week, which sort of sums up what I do do:

I'm in old gabardine shorts and unfashionable trainers. My hair has not recovered from being slept on and reveals bits of scalp around upswept whirls. The dog is pulling me, which hurts my back. When I get to the top of the hill, I see a disabled man, middle-aged, black, in a woolly hat, in a wheelchair, attempting to manoeuvre himself, sideways, down the steep hill to the bus stop. "Er, can I help you?" I inquire. He replies by punching the air with a fist. I take that to be an affirmative. "Did you want to go to the bus stop?" He punches the air again. So I link the dog lead to the wheelchair and start pushing him forward. I have gone less than a yard when the dog chooses, slowly and deliberately, to evacuate her bowels. I need to look carefully at this because the night before she has eaten my pyjamas. I went to put them on and where there had been an inside leg there was air. It proves impossible not to wheel the chair through the mess. By now there is a small group of young men at the bus stop watching my struggle. "Nice one Maureen," yells one of them kindly. "Nice gesture, that . . ."

He is grinning but clearly has no intention of lending a hand. I deposit my passenger at the bus stop and, swivelling Diva, much against her will, head back up the hill to remove the offensive pile, which now has a track running through it. Ten minutes later, I am home; 15 minutes after that, I am showered; and 25 minutes after that, I am having a latte with Katherine Kent at the Wallace Collection cafe.

The duchess teaches music at an estate school in east Hull. East Hull was dead rough, even in my day, in the 1950s. She is passionate about her pupils. We fall into rhapsodic mode. We both love Hull and abhor its label of England's worst place to live. She runs a charity that picks out musically gifted kids from poor backgrounds and ensures they receive proper training. On the way back I muse: "Why don't pundits just leave Hull alone/ They're just mad 'cos we've got our own phone/ We don't need their pity in this ancient city/ We're twinned with Sierra Leone!"

I decide to try out my new freedom pass on a bus. I flash it at the driver, who hoots and says, "You're that woman off the adverts, aren't you?" I mutter that I suppose I am and sit down on the crowded bus to read the marriage diary of the erstwhile Mrs Mark Thatcher. I'm riveted. If ever there was an argument in favour of nature over nurture, then those Thatcher twins are it. Carol is such a geezer and Mark has turned out someone you would . . . well, turn out. At some point deep in, I hear a voice calling; "'Ology! 'Ology!" Grimly, I look up. The bus has stopped, and the driver is now shouting, "Your stop, Mrs 'Ology!" Not for the first time that day, as I leap off the bus, I am grateful for not just my freedom pass, but for freedom itself.

This week Maureen saw Frost/Nixon at the Donmar. "Michael Sheen proves there's almost nothing he can't make real." Maureen read The Island by Victoria Hislop. "She turns a fine eye on a very intriguing subject." Maureen heard The Reunion. "Sue MacGregor brought together the gang who started TV-am. Anyone who turned their back got a dagger in it."

Load-Date: September 25, 2006



Obituary: Mai Ghoussoub: Writer, artist and publisher who took her passion for life, controversy and feminism to the streets of Beirut and London

The Guardian - Final Edition February 23, 2007 Friday

Copyright 2007 Guardian Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: GUARDIAN OBITUARIES PAGES; Pg. 44

Length: 1256 words

Byline: Malu Halasa and Jo Glanville

Body

A tour de force in Arab literature and letters, Mai Ghoussoub, who has died at the age of 54, was a publisher, author a nd artist. The controversial titles she published for Saqi Books, the company she founded 28 years ago with her childhood friend Andre Gaspard, and her critical essays on aesthetics, sexism, censorship and war - as well as her striking art performances - embody a vibrancy often associated with her native Beirut, a city and intellectual scene now eclipsed by the increasing Islamisation of a fractured Middle East.

Ghoussoub was born into a Lebanon where, as she wrote, the doctor apologised to her Christian Arab father, a professional footballer, for delivering a girl to a family with no male heirs. She attended the secular French lycee in Beirut, with children of all religious persuasions. To please her parents she studied mathematics at the American University of Beirut, at the same time taking a degree in literature at the Lebanese University. She came of age during the anti-Vietnam war protests of the late 1960s - at a time when the Egyptian singer Umm Kulthum sang A'tini Bundaqiya (A rifle to liberate Arab land) and the writings of Germaine Greer and Simone de Beauvoir were widely available in Beirut bookstores.

Despite supporting the Palestinians in the early 1970s, Ghoussoub and a group of students were kidnapped in Beirut and brought before the PLO leader Yasser Arafat, then based in that city, for distributing a publication critical of his corruption. They were only released because one student had an important father. Rebellious and antiestablishment, Ghoussoub was a self-proclaimed feminist, who adored modern jazz and belly dancing.

During the 1975 Lebanese civil war, she and Gaspard helped to establish two medical dispensaries in quarters of Beirut from where the doctors had fled and where there were no pharmacies. They lived in a poor Muslim area on the west side of the notorious green line. Their humanitarian group negotiated the release of Christian hostages, but not all efforts were successful. When they demanded that George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine hand over a kidnapped Phalange Christian militiaman, his body was dumped at the door of their dispensary.

In 1977 Ghoussoub was driving a wounded Palestinian to hospital when she was shot. She lost an eye and went for further medical treatment in the UK. She moved to Paris briefly before returning to London and starting Al-Saqi Books, the first Arabic bookshop in London, with Gaspard in 1979, an ill-timed venture. They had little money and the road to the airport in Beirut - the city where they needed to buy books - was closed. Eventually, they stocked their store in Westbourne Grove, which became a hub for Middle Easterners in London and for UK universities. By

Obituary: Mai Ghoussoub: Writer, artist and publisher who took her passion for life, controversy and feminism to the streets of Beirut and London

1983, they were publishing their first titles, but by 1987 the book trade was faltering and they were forced to sell Saqi's literary imprint, Serpent's Tail, to Pete Ayrton.

Dynamic and compassionate, Ghoussoub was a courageous publisher. Her commitment to gender issues was reflected by Saqi's booklist - with a range of titles that few Arab publishers would dare to produce: for example, Brian Whitaker's examination of gay and lesbian Middle Eastern life, Unspeakable Love, and the novel Menstruation, about a fundamentalist who smelled **women**'s periods, by the Syrian Ammar Abdulhamid.

In her own writing, Ghoussoub explored "the <u>female</u> enigma" whether by featuring Janis Joplin in her play Divas, for Jamil/Jamila, performed in Beirut, Paris, London and Newcastle, or analysing social sexual dynamics in her essay on Viagra chewing gum, an alleged plot by the Israelis to threaten Egyptian birthrates. Her memoir Leaving Beirut, published in 1997, revisits chastity, nationalism and the futility of revenge taught by a Jewish teacher at Ghoussoub's lycee, which laid the groundwork for Saqi's humanitarian open door policy to anyone - no matter their religious persuasion - threatened by violence and war.

Saqi parties were legendary. An Israeli journalist could be seen hugabug with an Arab editor and close friend of Arafat's, according to Index on Censorship's Jo Glanville, who edited Qissat, a Saqi anthology of Palestinian **women**'s short stories. When Glanville reminded Ghoussoub that she came from a Jewish family and was perhaps not the best choice to edit a Palestinian collection, Ghoussoub disagreed - a rare stance in today's Arab world.

Ghoussoub, who studied sculpture at Morley College, London, and the Henry Moore studio in the 1980s, combined her loves of literature and art. Her sculptures and installations were exhibited internationally. In 2004, in a duo show with the Israeli artist, Anna Sherbany, part of the London Biennale at the Shoreditch gallery, she became one of the first Arab <u>women</u> artists to explore the veil in a public space by dressing up in an elaborate Islamic get-up and carrying a tennis racket around the art haunts of Shoreditch. To her delight, nobody took any notice, proving a pet theory that Britain is a tolerant country.

Last year's war between <u>Hizbullah</u> and Israel spurred her into action. The resulting books and readings in London, and the art exhibition, Lebanon - Image in All the People, curated by Ghoussob and Souheil Sleiman for the Liverpool Biennial, celebrated Beirut, the city she loved. As the Lebanese poet Abbas Beydoun writes, "Mai was very patriotic, but at the same time a woman of the world. She was the daughter of the moment, the first to present postmodernism in Arabic. She was herself without compromise, yet she always cared for everyone." Or as Ghoussoub metaphorically described herself only last month: "I live horizontally and I'm not ready to stand up."

She is survived by her husband, the journalist and writer Hazim Saghie, her parents Antoine and Maggie Ghoussoub and her sister Hoda.

Malu Halasa

Jo Glanville writes: Mai Ghoussoub was an original. A vivid personality with a charming, girlish quality and a raffish appearance, she had an immense influence on a wide group of people. The political conviction and courage she showed in her youth, during the bloody civil war in Lebanon, informed an independence of spirit and thought which cut through all the political rhetoric that plagues the Middle East.

She and Hazim were always the best people to talk to if you wanted to be brought back down to earth. Discussion of the latest Iraqi or Lebanese crisis would be punctuated with humour, jokes and irony - no matter how much despair there might also be. Nothing was too serious not to be deserving of mockery.

She was an intellectual and artist with a great sense of fun. She brought together an extraordinary array of people and many friendships were forged around her social hub. Although she was extremely well connected and greatly admired, I often felt that the Arab intellectual and artistic community she was at the heart of remained sadly neglected by the mainstream. Only when Saqi's warehouse in Beirut was bombed during the war last summer, did her company begin to get wider public acclaim.

Obituary: Mai Ghoussoub: Writer, artist and publisher who took her passion for life, controversy and feminism to the streets of Beirut and London

She was one of those rare people whose death leaves a hole not just in the lives of family and close friends, but in that of a wider community. Her influence will remain, but her input is still needed: at a time of conflict, polarisation and very few laughs, her culture and humanity were evidence of just how much brilliance the Middle East can produce.

Mai Ghoussoub, publisher, writer and artist, born November 2 1952; died February 17 2007

Load-Date: February 23, 2007



World Report

Windsor Star (Ontario)

January 26, 2007 Friday

Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Windsor Star, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. C2; World Report

Length: 1442 words

Byline: Compiled from Star News Services

Body

MIDEAST

TENSION GRIPS BEIRUT AFTER 3 KILLED IN RIOTS

BEIRUT - Tension gripped Beirut today after street fights between government and opposition supporters spread through the capital, killing three people and sparking fears of a plunge back into civil strife.

The rioting between rival Sunni and Shiite Muslims was at a level not seen since the end of the 1975-1990 civil war, and came 48 hours after the <u>Hezbollah</u>-led opposition called a general strike which was also marred by deadly clashes.

The chaos overshadowed an international aid meeting for Lebanon in Paris where donors pledged more than the equivalent of \$9C billion to bolster the Western-backed government and help the country recover from the Israeli invasion last year to smash *Hezbollah*.

ISRAELI PRESIDENT STEPS ASIDE AMID RAPE CHARGES

JERUSALEM - Israeli President Moshe Katsav temporarily relinquished his powers Thursday, but defied demands from officials to quit outright and spare the country more anguish over rape and sexual assault allegations levelled against him.

A parliamentary committee on Thursday narrowly approved Katsav's request for a leave of absence of up to three months. Dozens of legislators, meanwhile, pressed ahead with a move to oust him.

The difference between suspension and outright removal from office is that as long as Katsav is even technically president, he enjoys immunity from prosecution.

Katsav, who insists he is the innocent victim of a conspiracy, says he won't quit unless he is formally indicted. He will plead his case at a hearing before Attorney General Meni Mazuz, who has signalled his intent to put the 61-year-old president on trial.

Katsav stepped aside after parliament's House Committee voted 13-11 to grant his request. Parliamentary speaker Dalia Itzik stepped in as acting president, the first woman to hold the post.

EUROPE

NEWLY DISCLOSED FRANK LETTERS TO BE RELEASED

NEW YORK - Newly disclosed letters written by the father of Anne Frank illuminate his desperate attempts to get the family out of Nazi-occupied Netherlands.

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, a New York-based institution that focuses on the history and culture of Eastern European Jews, said Thursday it had discovered the file among 100,000 other Holocaust-related documents about a year and a half ago.

The institute did not immediately disclose the find because it had to explore copyright and other legal issues, she said.

"We have come across the file which belonged to Otto Frank, documenting his efforts to immigrate his family and get them out of Holland," said Cathy Callegari, a spokeswoman for YIVO.

On Feb. 14, she said, the institute will release Frank's letters and documents and records from various agencies that helped people immigrate from Europe.

AUSTRIA CONDEMNED FOR BANNING SATIRIC SEX ART

STRASBOURG - The European Court of Human Rights Thursday condemned Austria for infringing on free expression by banning the display of a painting showing famous people including Mother Teresa in sexual acts.

The case involved an exhibition at the Secession, an independent gallery in Vienna of contemporary art, in 1998 that featured the work Apocalypse by Austrian painter Otto Muehl, the court's statement said.

The painting was a collage of 34 public figures including Mother Teresa, the Austrian cardinal Hermann Groer and from the Austrian far right, leader Joerg Haider and then lawmaker Walter Meischberger -- all naked and involved in sexual acts.

Meischberger went to court to ban the painting which he claimed debased him and his political activities. A lower court turned him down but he won on appeal.

The association, Vereinigung Bildender Kuenstler Wiener Secession, turned to the ECHR, whose judges in a narrow four to three vote ruled that the artist's freedom of expression was violated.

NORTH AMERICA

ANTI-ABORTION EXTREMIST GUILTY OF FEDERAL CHARGE

BUFFALO, N.Y. - A man already serving time in a state prison for the sniper-shooting death of a doctor was convicted Thursday on a federal charge of targeting and killing the man because he provided abortions.

The jury deliberated about four hours over two days before deciding James Kopp violated the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act in the 1998 slaying of Dr. Barnett Slepian.

Kopp, who represented himself during the two-week trial, tried to convince jurors during his closing arguments that he didn't mean to kill Slepian when he fired from woods into the doctor's Amherst home. Kopp, 52, said he intended only to wound him to prevent him from performing abortions the next day.

"If it happened the way I wanted it to, he would have his arm in a sling," said Kopp, who is serving a 25-year-to-life state sentence.

He is also suspected in the non-fatal shootings of three Canadian doctors in the Hamilton, Winnipeg and Vancouver areas, as well as one in Rochester, N.Y..

World Report

SCHOOL BANS TALKING AT LUNCH FOLLOWING CHOKINGS

WARWICK, R.I. - Class, from now on there will be no talking at lunch.

A Roman Catholic elementary school adopted new lunchroom rules this week requiring students to remain silent while eating. The move comes after three recent choking incidents in the cafeteria.

No one was hurt, but the principal of St. Rose of Lima School explained in a letter to parents that if the lunchroom is loud, staff members cannot hear a child choking.

Christine Lamoureux, whose 12-year-old is a sixth-grader at the school, said she respects the safety issue but thinks the rule is a bad idea.

"They are silent all day," she said. "They have to get some type of release." She suggested quiet conversation be allowed during lunch.

BOY TAKES GUN TO SCHOOL TO GET IT OUT OF HOUSE

SHAWNEE, Kan. - A five-year-old boy took an unloaded semiautomatic handgun to school and showed it off to at least one classmate, police said.

School officials in this Kansas City suburb had not decided what disciplinary action would be taken against the kindergartner, but a federal law requires expulsion for students who bring a gun to school, said LeighAnne Neal, a spokeswoman for the Shawnee Mission School District.

Shawnee Police Capt. Ron Copeland said the boy's father had found the .22-calibre handgun while cleaning out a drawer at home. After he showed it to the child and relayed a message about the dangers of guns, the boy's mother said to get rid of it.

The child took the unloaded gun to Rhein Benninghoven Elementary School on Wednesday, where he showed it off to at least one classmate, Copeland said.

MAN WITH MANNEQUIN FETISH SENTENCED TO PRISON

PONTIAC, Mich. - A man with an acknowledged sexual fetish for <u>female</u>-shaped mannequins has been ordered to prison after repeatedly breaking into storefront windows.

Ronald Dotson, 39, of Detroit, was sentenced Thursday and will serve at least 18 months. But because he is classified as a habitual offender, he could be imprisoned as long as 30 years, depending on when parole officials decide to release him, said Mark Berkman, an assistant prosecutor in Oakland County.

He was arrested in October, shortly after being paroled for his sixth conviction in 13 years. Police spotted him near a smashed storefront window in Royal Oak containing a mannequin wearing a French maid outfit.

SOUTH AMERICA

ECUADOR'S FIRST *FEMALE* DEFENCE MINISTER KILLED

QUITO - A tearful President Rafael Correa Thursday promised an international investigation into the helicopter crash that killed Ecuador's first woman Defence Minister Guadalupe Larriva, 10 days after she was sworn into office.

The government said there was no sign of an attack in the accident which happened when two helicopters collided near the Portoviejo air base on the Pacific coast late Wednesday. Larriva was killed along with her daughter and five army officers.

INDONESIA

World Report

SHIP LOCATES BLACK BOXES FROM MISSING AIRLINER

JAKARTA - A U.S. Navy ocean survey ship has located the "black box" flight recorders from an Indonesian airliner which went missing on New Year's Day, the U.S. embassy said Thursday.

The USNS Mary Sears detected ultrasonic pinger signals from the ocean floor on the same frequency as the black boxes from the missing plane, the embassy said in a statement.

"In subsequent sweeping of the ocean floor around the pinger location, the Mary Sears detected heavy debris scattered over a wide area and is currently analyzing that debris to verify if it is from the missing aircraft," it said.

Flight data recorders, which are bright orange, are usually located in the tail of an aircraft to maximize their chances of surviving a crash.

The Adam Air Boeing 737-400 was carrying 96 passengers -- including an American and his two daughters -- and six crew when it went missing halfway through its flight.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Matthias Rietschel, Associated Press; MARRIAGE IS A SERIOUS BUSINESS: Wearing traditional dress for a symbolic wedding, kids in Panschwitz, eastern Germany, go through the motions. Two-year-old Nikos, centre, as the groom, kisses his bride Katja, right, while Benno, left, looks on. They are enacting a story called Bird's Marriage, from the Sorb minority in Germany, a Slavic group located near the Polish Border. In the story, they thank birds, that, according to the legend, give them sweets in return for being fed during winter.;

Colour Photo: Dalia Itzik;

Colour Photo: Mother Teresa

Load-Date: January 26, 2007



Guardian Weekly: Comment & Analysis: Letters: Briefly

Guardian Weekly
August 18, 2006 Friday

Copyright 2006 Guardian Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

*The*GuardianWeekly

Section: Pg. 4

Length: 60 words

Byline: R M Fransson

Body

Indra Adnan might add the "soft power" solidarity of <u>female</u> passive resistance, as in Aristophanes' Lysistrata - a sex-strike of headaches all round in order to bring the combatants to their knees (August 4). It may take such a disciplinary measure to dry up these pissing matches of Bush and Saddam, now Olmert and <u>Hizbullah</u>.

R M Fransson

Bethel, Connecticut, US

Load-Date: August 25, 2006



Israel-Lebanon War Sparks Gifts to Relief Groups

The Chronicle of Philanthropy August 3, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 The Chronicle of Philanthropy All Rights Reserved

Section: MANAGING; Pg. 24; Vol. 18; No. 20

Length: 1619 words

Byline: Caroline Preston

Body

Amid growing fears of a humanitarian catastrophe in the Middle East, aid organizations, religious groups, and other charities are raising money to help victims of the fighting in Lebanon, Israel, and Gaza.

While some nonprofit organizations have received strong financial support from Jewish donors and other people with personal ties to the region, many aid groups say they have yet to see much of a response, in part because the political dimensions of the crisis have overshadowed the humanitarian needs.

Mercy Corps, for example, has raised just \$70,000 for its work to provide food, blankets, and other supplies to the approximately 800,000 people in Lebanon who have fled their homes because of bombings and other violence; the organization is also providing aid in the Palestinian territories.

Matthew de Galan, chief development officer of the Portland, Ore., organization, says that the charitable response is sluggish in comparison with other crises like the earthquakes in Pakistan and Indonesia, which affected comparable numbers of people. (About 3.3 million individuals were left homeless by the 2005 Pakistan earthquake, while approximately 1.5 million people lost their homes in the 2006 temblor.)

"People respond to wars very differently, as donors, than they do to natural disasters," he says. "Initially, the media focuses on the story as a political-military story, and not as much as a humanitarian story. Therefore, the humanitarian needs really aren't as top of the mind."

\$12-Million for Israel Fund

Despite a slow initial response from some donors, several Jewish organizations have raised significant sums.

United Jewish Communities has already raised nearly \$12-million through its Israel Crisis Fund, including a \$5-million grant from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, in Baltimore.

"There's almost a reflexive desire to respond when Israel finds itself in need," says Doron Krakow, a senior vice president at the organization.

In the past two weeks, the charity has increased the new fund's fund-raising goal -- now \$18-million -- on four separate occasions because of the growing needs in the region.

At the moment, the organization is earmarking contributions to aid elderly people, new immigrants, and other vulnerable people who remain in the north of Israel, which has borne the brunt of attacks by the militant Lebanese

Israel - Lebanon War Sparks Gifts to Relief Groups

group <u>Hezbollah</u>. It is also working to help open camps for those who have fled to the south and to respond to other needs.

Other groups have raised far less. Save the Children, which is assisting people in Gaza, Israel, and Lebanon, has received just \$5,800 for relief efforts so far.

Eileen Burke, a spokeswoman for the charity, says that donors are often slow to contribute to humanitarian crises created by war because they want to ensure their gifts will help those in need. "We usually see fund-raising levels increase once people see it's easy to reach children and **women** with life-saving materials," she says.

Zahir Janmohamed, Amnesty International's advocacy director for the Middle East and North Africa, agrees that the potential for donations to fall into the wrong hands gives some donors pause.

"People are nervous about donating humanitarian aid to Lebanon because of a fear that the money could end up with a group like *Hezbollah*," he says. "There is a lot of trepidation and people aren't donating."

Donors may also worry that their gifts could send a political message, says Mr. Janmohamed. "People have a fear their donations might be construed as endorsing either a political agenda or side, or worse, might even be construed as endorsing a terrorist or disfavored group in the eyes of the U.S. government," he says.

'Too Early to Gauge'

Despite some hesitation among donors, several groups aiding Lebanon and Gaza are beginning to see stronger fund-raising results. American Near East Refugee Aid, which is distributing medicine and other supplies to the displaced in those regions, has raised \$150,000 in response to the fighting. The U.S. Fund for Unicef has raised more than \$42,000 for such efforts, \$14,000 of it in response to an online appeal sent last week.

Even as donations increase, many groups caution that it is too soon to measure donors' response to the crisis. Most charities have only begun to send out appeals or contact donors in recent days.

"It's still too early to gauge," says Mostafa Mahboob, a spokesman for Islamic Relief, which sent out an e-mail appeal a week ago to its approximately 30,000 donors. The group is trying to raise \$5-million for aid efforts in Lebanon and Gaza, and has allocated \$1-million thus far.

Some relief groups are also turning to Lebanese-Americans for support. Mercy Corps, for example, has started contacting Lebanese-American organizations to ask for donations.

While Mercy Corps officials say it is too early to tell if their appeals have been successful, many Lebanese-American groups say they are beginning to raise money to send to Lebanon. Elie Najm, chairman of the Council of Lebanese American Organizations, in Raleigh, N.C., says his group is encouraging members to give to the Lebanese Red Cross.

And at least one nonprofit group has been established in Lebanon with the mission of helping people made homeless by the violence. A group of young Lebanese friends and acquaintances started Mowatinun, or Citizens, out of frustration with the political situation and a desire to take action.

"It started out making sandwiches and collecting money and second-hand clothes within our circle, and giving them to places where refugees were staying," says Talia Khalil, the group's New York representative.

The group then received \$20,000, as well as office space in Beirut, from a Lebanese family to expand its efforts. It has since raised another \$20,000 and is providing food and other aid to 3,800 people. Ms. Khalil is in the process of applying for nonprofit status for the group in the United States.

Gaining Attention

American aid groups are hopeful that the news media's growing interest in the humanitarian aspects of the crisis, as well as increasing attention from the U.S. government to humanitarian needs in recent days, will also help their fund-raising efforts.

The United Nations announced an appeal on July 24 for \$150-million for Lebanon, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice -- during her trip there that same day -- announced a commitment to provide \$30-million in federal aid to the beleaguered country.

"Now that the U.S. government has stood up and announced this as an issue, this is hopefully something that could garner more attention," says Elizabeth Griffin, director of communications at Catholic Relief Services, which is providing aid to people who have fled or are trapped in their homes because of the violence.

Meanwhile, charities working in Lebanon and elsewhere in the region say their efforts to help those in need have been handicapped by a lack of security. The south of Lebanon is virtually inaccessible to humanitarian workers, and groups like Mercy Corps, which worked there before the outbreak of fighting, have relocated to other parts of the country.

Civilian trucks and other vehicles in southern Lebanon have been hit by the Israeli army, and aid trucks bearing relief supplies for displaced people were held up at the Syrian border because of violence.

"A lot of truck drivers don't want to go out there and put their lives at risk, and a lot of food, water, and day-to-day supplies aren't getting to the people," says Ms. Griffin of Catholic Relief Services. "Should these humanitarian supplies not get through, we're looking at a major humanitarian catastrophe."

Many relief organizations are calling for the establishment of a "humanitarian corridor," 50 miles long and five miles wide, into Beirut and southern Lebanon so that aid can arrive safely.

Some progress on the humanitarian front was made last week.

According to the United Nations, Israel has agreed to create a safe route for ships and aircraft, as well as for ground transportation to travel from the Syrian border crossing at Arida to Beirut. But while the first 10 of 100 U.N. trucks traveled south of the capital last week to provide aid, humanitarian groups say it is still unsafe for them to transport supplies in many parts of the country.

Charities have also been unable to travel to assess the extent of the need because of the dangers involved.

CARE, for example, is waiting until safety improves before sending staff members into Lebanon to determine the scope of the crisis and how much money will be required to help victims of the conflict.

And in Gaza, aid groups say that humanitarian needs fueled by the cut-off of international assistance after the January election of Hamas have only been exacerbated by recent air strikes and other violence.

Refugees Given Aid

Some charities are now helping those who have fled Lebanon for the United States. As part of a plan administered by the federal government, the American Red Cross has provided food, water, mental-health services, and assistance in finding housing to approximately 1,000 people in five cities.

Even groups that do not provide relief say their work has been affected by the crisis. Seeking Common Ground, a Denver charity that runs a program for Palestinian and Israeli girls, says that its staff members have spent more time discussing the mental health of the young girls it serves over the past two weeks than in previous years and are now seeking ways to provide psychological support.

But if the charity's work has become more challenging, it may well benefit from increased attention and additional contributions this year, says Melodye Feldman, the executive director.

"We are an alternative to the mayhem."

Load-Date: August 29, 2006



Israel to Indict President on Sex Charges, Justice Ministry Says

The New York Times

January 24, 2007 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 3

Length: 763 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Jan. 23

Body

The attorney general of Israel plans to indict President Moshe Katsav on charges of rape and other sexual offenses, the Justice Ministry announced Tuesday, in what would be the most serious criminal case involving a senior Israeli official.

Mr. Katsav, whose post is largely ceremonial, has denied any wrongdoing. He did not comment on Tuesday, but planned to hold a news conference on Wednesday, his lawyers said.

"The president is convinced that he is a victim of false allegations and attempts to remove him from his office, and he will fight to prove his innocence," David Libai, a lawyer for Mr. Katsav, said at a news conference in Tel Aviv.

The Justice Ministry announcement prompted more calls for the president to resign, which have been intensifying since the accusations surfaced last summer.

"I think the president must announce his resignation at once," Zahava Gal-On, a member of Parliament, told Israel Radio. "I believe he should have taken this step a long time ago, but now, with the attorney general's announcement of such a harsh indictment, there should be no delay."

Through his lawyers, Mr. Katsav, 61, has indicated previously that he might suspend himself at some point, and would resign if indicted. Though he has generally maintained a low profile, recently he has been more visible and has hinted he would rather contest the charges from office, Israeli news media have reported.

If he chooses to remain in office, Mr. Katsav would be afforded a hearing before any charges are filed. But the public announcement by the Justice Ministry made it highly likely that Attorney General Menachem Mazuz would ultimately issue an indictment. "The attorney general, with the agreement of the state attorney, reached the conclusion that there is sufficient prima facie evidence to indict the president," the Justice Ministry said in a statement.

Israeli law prohibits putting a sitting president on trial. But a trial is permitted if he resigns or is impeached by Parliament, or after his seven-year term, which will end this summer for Mr. Katsav.

According to the Justice Ministry, Mr. Katsav could face a rape charge involving a woman who worked with him when he was tourism minister in the late 1990s. He also could be charged with sexual misconduct involving three **women** who have worked at the president's office since 2000.

Mr. Katsav, who is married and is the father of five, could also face charges of fraud and breach of trust, the Justice Ministry said.

Because the authority of the president is limited, Mr. Katsav's case is not expected to have a direct impact on the Israeli government led by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. However, the case comes as many Israelis have expressed deep disappointment with the country's leadership.

Mr. Olmert is the subject of two formal investigations. One involves the sale of his private home in Jerusalem and the purchase of a new house. The second inquiry, announced last week, will seek to determine whether Mr. Olmert acted improperly to help friends before a leading Israeli bank was privatized in 2005.

Several other Israeli politicians are at various stages of the legal process in cases involving improper political appointments, sexual misconduct and other issues.

Also, Mr. Olmert and the country's military leaders have been roundly criticized for the handling of the war last summer in Lebanon with *Hezbollah*, and the prime minister's poll ratings have plummeted.

Mr. Katsav's case became public last July when he said he was the target of blackmail by a woman who had worked for him and accused him of sexual harassment.

However, an investigation by the police found the woman's claims to be credible, and several other <u>women</u> accused Mr. Katsav of sexual impropriety.

In October, the police recommended that the attorney general file rape and sexual harassment charges against the president. The attorney general has been studying the case since then.

"There is a great sense of relief; the facts speak for themselves," Kinneret Barashi, a lawyer for one of the accusers, told Army Radio.

Mr. Katsav served in Parliament and as a government minister for many years, representing the right-wing Likud Party. The Parliament, or Knesset, selected him as president after Ezer Weizman quit in 2000, amid a scandal of his own.

As a cabinet minister and a member of Parliament, Mr. Weizman received hundreds of thousands of dollars in the 1980s from a French businessman with interests in Israel. Mr. Weizman, who acknowledged receiving the money but was never charged, died in 2005.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: January 24, 2007



States negotiating with terrorists is nothing new

The Toronto Star September 16, 2006 Saturday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NATIONAL REPORT; Pg. H05

Length: 766 words

Body

Should Canada negotiate with the Taliban? When New Democratic Leader Jack Layton made that suggestion two weeks ago, he was dismissed as naive, opportunistic or both.

The National Post said Layton's call for a negotiated settlement to the Afghan civil war was "unconscionable." The Globe and Mail dismissed it as ludicrous while this newspaper shrugged the idea off as "a non-starter."

Interviewed on CBC Radio this week, former New Democrat Bob Rae (now a Liberal leadership candidate) expressed the sentiments of many: How could Canada, or indeed any civilized state, talk to a group that, when it was in power in Afghanistan, oppressed **women** and cozied up to terrorists?

How indeed? One could also ask how Canada, or any civilized state, could talk to Saudi Arabia, where a woman can be stoned to death simply for the "crime" of having been raped.

One could also ask Rae how he felt in 2003 when he journeyed to Sri Lanka to talk to Tamil Tiger terrorists - the original suicide bombers - about a negotiated settlement to that country's civil war.

The official explanation behind Rae's mission - heartily supported by Ottawa at the time - was that for ordinary Sri Lankans, anything was better than more war.

The truth is that civilized countries talk to terrorists all the time. After years of terrorism in Northern Ireland, Britain's Tony Blair negotiated a deal with the Irish Republican Army. In 1962, France ended its bitter colonial war in Algeria by handing over control of that country to the terrorist Front de liberation National.

In 1990, South Africa's apartheid regime realized it had no option except to talk to the African National Congress rebels it had characterized as terrorists. In 1948, Britain negotiated the details of its pullout from Palestine with a Zionist movement that included terrorists.

Even Israel has negotiated prisoner exchanges with organizations, such as *Hezbollah*, that it considers terrorist.

And lest we forget, Canada's most infamous brush with terrorism, the October crisis of 1970, ended in a negotiated settlement. Terrorists from the Front de liberation du Quebec released their British diplomatic hostage; in return, they were allowed to fly to Cuba.

As for the Taliban, that organization tried for five years to talk to anyone who would listen. Throughout its time as de facto government of Afghanistan, the Islamic hard-liners sent mission after mission to the U.S. to woo investment and international recognition.

States negotiating with terrorists is nothing new

Former U.S. president Bill Clinton wasn't interested. The Taliban's odious position on <u>women</u> was singularly unpopular with his Democratic base. But the Republicans were more amenable. George W. Bush's fledgling administration not only negotiated with the Taliban before Sept. 11, 2001, but praised them for eliminating opium production in their country.

It's worth recalling that, until recently, the Taliban did not employ tactics that are normally thought of as terrorist. Their sin was to allow foreign terrorists to train in Afghanistan - which puts them on a par with governments in Pakistan, Syria, Iran and possibly (depending on what you think of Cuban anti-Castro "freedom fighters") the United States.

It's also worth recalling that, while refusing to hand over Osama bin Laden to the U.S. after 9/11, the Taliban did offer to extradite him to Pakistan or Indonesia for trial under sharia law. At the time, Bush dismissed the offer as ludicrous which, given America's unforgiving post-9/11 mood, it may have been.

But it may have also been the most practical way to bring this particular terror chief - who today is still at large to some form of justice.

The Star's Chantal Hebert writes that Layton's new anti-war position stems in large part from his desperate desire to differentiate the NDP from other parties. She's probably right; callow opportunism is not unknown in politics.

But that doesn't mean the idea itself is without merit. Few civil wars are settled decisively by battle. Usually, an accommodation of some kind is made between the warring sides, either before or after the fighting stops (even in the U.S. civil war, the South, while technically defeated on the issue of slavery, was permitted to establish a system that for almost a century denied its black citizens economic and political rights).

Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor has admitted that Canada and its NATO allies cannot defeat the Taliban militarily. Others talk of the Afghan war lasting 10 years or more.

If these predictions are correct, is it really that naive or unconscionable to think of some other way of bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan?

Load-Date: September 16, 2006



Northwestern U. student completes yearlong fellowship in Israel

University Wire

January 29, 2007 Monday

Copyright 2007 Daily Northwestern via U-Wire

Length: 694 words

Byline: By Jen Wieczner, Daily Northwestern; SOURCE: Northwestern U.

Dateline: EVANSTON, III.

Body

You'll have to take Taube Schwartz's word for it when she says that dogs will run toward gunfire, jump through car windows and disarm terrorists. That's because the training of the K9 unit of the Israel Defense Forces is not for the public's eyes.

As the first and only Northwestern University student to complete a yearlong undergraduate fellowship on terrorism with the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, the sophomore traveled to Israel to see the country's army working up close and to Washington, D.C., to meet U.S. intelligence officials.

After applying for the program almost a year ago, Schwartz received a call early in spring. The call came so early in the morning, she was still sleeping when the phone rang. David Silverstein, the foundation's vice president of campus education programs, fired questions at her while she struggled to wake up, as though she was being tested on how well she could think on her feet instead of focusing on her answers.

"She essentially made the case that she was not just a good applicant, but (that she) would be a good participant," Silverstein said, adding that of the "hundreds and hundreds" of applicants, he looks for superior students with leadership experience, an interest in the subject matter and a degree of worldliness.

There were 40 students from 25 colleges in Schwartz's group, said Caitlyn Walters, the foundation's coordinator of campus programs.

The first phase of the program took Schwartz to Israel for the first two weeks of August, all expenses paid. She arrived during the war between Israel and *Hezbollah*.

"Before I got there, I was a little nervous," she said. But the feeling disappeared as soon as she landed, she said.

She described Israel as a country the size of New Jersey where rockets rained down on one side and people went out to dinner and nightclubs on the other.

The fellows attended lectures and visited IDF bases. They dropped in on an undercover unit's target practice session, where Schwartz was allowed to shoot M8 machine guns. You see how one democracy defends herself from terrorism," she said.

The group went to several security facilities, including one that housed terrorist prisoners.

"We had the unique opportunity to speak to (the prisoners) about their actions and motivations," Schwartz said.

Northwestern U. student completes yearlong fellowship in Israel

Silverstein said that although fellows are not privy to any top-secret information, they are provided with "cutting edge information and access to critical decision-makers in the U.S."

"No one else that we know of is permitted the same exposure," he said. "It's the best way to impress upon students the threat to democracies around the world."

Three weeks ago Schwartz traveled to Washington, D.C., for the next phase of the fellowship. She visited FBI and CIA headquarters and met high-ranking government officials.

At the CIA, she met a <u>female</u> agent who "goes to the Pentagon and essentially kicks ass every day," Schwartz said.

For a moment, she felt the allure of a spy lifestyle straight out of "The Bourne Identity."

"As seductive as that is, I think I'm better suited for public office," she said.

Schwartz isn't the only one with that idea. For 11 years, a coat has hung in her father's closet and never been worn. It's too warm for Los Angeles and too expensive for any but the occasion for which Schwartz's mother bought it: her daughter's inauguration.

Though neither Schwartz nor her parents believe she is destined for the presidency, the fellowship gave her greater knowledge of terrorism and refreshed her motivation to defend democracy against extremists who want to destroy it.

"The threat of terrorism is that there's no more of us, there's no more democracy, there's no more America because we're heretics, because we don't value Allah," she said.

Since she returned, she has organized two film screenings and a concert on campus to educate students about terrorism.

Although her experience hasn't changed her theater major, she said it has reinforced her desire for public service.

"No matter how successful a future I would ever have in movies or theater or anything," she said, "I think I still see myself one day running for office."

(C) 2007 Daily Northwestern via U-WIRE

Load-Date: January 29, 2007



Nostalgia For '50s Overlooks Retro Thinking Of That Era

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

August 27, 2006 Sunday

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2006 Times Publishing Company All Rights Reserved

Section: COMMENTARY; Pg. 2

Length: 714 words

Byline: MARSHA MERCER, Media General News Service

Body

By MARSHA MERCER

Media General News Service

WASHINGTON - Two-thirds of Americans say they're unhappy with the country's direction, and even President Bush said last week we're living in challenging, difficult times that strain "the psyche of our country."

So perhaps it's no surprise that some people look longingly at the "good old days."

But the 1950s? The current boomlet for that decade of conformity and racial backwardness is one retro trend that needs to go the way of the poodle skirt.

The Cold War and the McCarthy era are long gone, but our war on terrorism is poised to turn hunting for terrorists into the 21st-century equivalent of ferreting out communists. We're starting to see "Are you now or have you ever been?" questions asked on college campuses.

Ohio, in its effort to secure the homeland, has reached back for something that looks a lot like a loyalty oath. The state is requiring applicants for state jobs - including teaching at some public universities - to fill out a form certifying they don't belong to and haven't helped any of 111 terrorist groups on a State Department list.

If you admit to belonging to <u>Hezbollah</u> or dozens of other groups, including these colorfully named ones - Orange Volunteers, Red Hand Defenders, Red Brigades, Japanese Red Army - forget about teaching at the University of Akron.

The American Association of University Professors questions the requirement's legality. Writing on behalf of the AAUP, former University of Virginia president Robert M. O'Neil, now director of the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression, warned that Ohio's forms are broader than McCarthy-era loyalty oaths and a grave threat to free speech and academic freedom.

Courts found the McCarthy loyalty oaths unconstitutional. The University of Akron says it's just following state law.

Revisit 'Operation Wetback'?

Illegal immigration is rekindling xenophobic sentiment reminiscent of the 1950s.

Nostalgia For '50s Overlooks Retro Thinking Of That Era

To combat porous borders more than 50 years ago, the Eisenhower administration launched "Operation Wetback." Yes, that was the horrible and official name of a federal plan in the summer of 1954 that rounded up hundreds of thousands of Mexicans, loaded them into trucks, trains, buses and even ships, and took them back to Mexico.

The program was stopped after Americans objected to "police state" tactics. But today some people want a reprise of the roundup. In 1954, the number of illegal immigrants was estimated at 1 million. Today, the estimate is 12 million.

Commentator Patrick J. Buchanan has a new book out with the incendiary title "State of Emergency: The Third World Invasion and Conquest of America."

Buchanan argues that Mexicans' goal is nothing short of recapturing the land lost when Texas declared its independence and in the Mexican-American War.

Here's one more item in the '50s redux file, on a lighter note.

The battle between the sexes was revived last week on the Internet. The debate seemed like something from a vintage Tracy-Hepburn movie, but it was a dandy way to drive up traffic to Forbes magazine's Web site, forbes.com.

A '50s Take On Love And Marriage

Editor Michael Noer wrote a provocative piece that began, "Guys: A word of advice. Marry pretty <u>women</u> or ugly ones. Short ones or tall ones. Blondes or brunettes. Just, whatever you do, don't marry a woman with a career."

He cited studies that purportedly found that career <u>women</u> - defined as those with a college education who worked 35 hours a week outside the home and made over \$30,000 - were unsuitable wives - "more likely to get divorced, more likely to cheat, less likely to have children."

A rebuttal by Elizabeth Corcoran, a forbes.com staffer, began: "Girlfriends: A word of advice. Ask your man the following question: When was the last time you learned something useful, either at home or work? If the last new skill your guy learned was how to tie his shoes in second grade, dump him."

And the battle was on.

Such arguments are fun in a time when the psyche of the country is strained, but the 1950s, thankfully, are dead, like the poodle skirt.

Marsha Mercer is Washington bureau chief for Media General News Service. E-mail: mmercer@mediageneral.com

Copyright © 2006, The Tampa Tribune and may not be republished without permission. E-mail *library* @ tampatrib.com

Notes

OTHER VIEWS

Graphic

.

Load-Date: August 31, 2006



Lebanon's song of death continues its sad refrain

Ottawa Citizen November 22, 2006 Wednesday Final Edition

Copyright 2006 Ottawa Citizen, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A18; David Warren

Length: 709 words

Byline: David Warren, The Ottawa Citizen

Body

Music is among the subjects I should like to write about more often in these columns. What stops me is not the editors of this newspaper, who have been admirably indulgent through nearly a decade -- though I imagine after a few weeks of writing exclusively about music, they would quietly move my column to another page. It is instead sheer ignorance and incapacity that stays my hand.

Among the lamentable gaps in my education, I was never taught to sing, read music or play the piano. Well, a delightful lady, Promela, tried to teach me piano when I was a little boy in Lahore. But although one of nature's optimists, she soon gave up on me, abandoning her previous dogmatic position that "anyone can be taught to play the piano."

It is possible to love things you don't understand -- wine, <u>women</u> and song come to mind -- and the mystery of "how music works" has never interfered with my delight in it. I might love it more if I could play something, but even as pure consumer, supplied with nothing better than a mountain of CDs, I am kept happy. I do not play them for background music, nor listen to a radio in this way.

My brain is so wired that background music will distract me from any foreground activity -- and there are things such as deadlines to be met. Instead, I listen as an end in itself, often through headphones, and following the program in the album notes.

Today is the feast of St. Cecilia, the patron of music; and such fine musical odes have been written for her as that of 1692 by the Englishman Henry Purcell with its most sublime treble and chorus on the words, "Thou tun'st this world, this world below; the spheres above. Who, in the heavenly round, to their own music move!" Listen to it if you ever wished to know what might be meant by "the music of the spheres." It is by such music that we are raised above thugs.

St. Cecilia was, by legend, some early Christian maiden and martyr, possibly the foundress of a church at Rome. But even her association with music is for reasons now impossibly obscure. The story of her life is unhistorical. Yet she looms large in the consciousness of Christian musicians. Call it paganism if you wish: Many beautiful streaks of paganism enhance the beauty of the Church. Beauty was from our beginnings recognized as cognate with the good and the true.

Lebanon 's song of death continues its sad refrain

And while music can express malice and evil (as so much contemporary pop music does) -- as it can excite the wanton, to lust and violence -- so also can it express the divine, and what is most lovable in the human. As Martin Luther did not say (really it was the London pastor Rowland Hill): "The devil should not have all the best tunes."

- - -

It is certainly not the feast day of Our Lady of Lebanon. As part of the current power play to install the terrorist *Hezbollah* and its allies in power at Beirut, under Syrian and Iranian sponsorship, yet another prominent Christian politician has been assassinated. Pierre Gemayel, 34, was the fifth in a series, counting from the car-bombing of former prime minister Rafik Hariri in February 2005. Gemayel, murdered on his way from church, was the scion of one of Lebanon's leading political families, and among the Christians' and democrats' chief hopes for the future. The message in his killing is obvious to all: that opponents of fanatical Islam -- and of the ambitions of the ayatollahs in Iran -- must die ignominiously.

From St. Joseph's Hospital in Beirut, where Gemayel died, his shaken father, Amin Gemayel, begged his followers not to seek reprisals against the killers of his son. Embedded in that statement was the music of the spheres.

Here is a country that was once a little citadel of Christianity -- and only a few decades ago, by far the most economically advanced, the most free, and most livable country in the Middle East (except for Israel). Beirut was the entrepot through which commercial prosperity passed into many Arab lands. It was the centre of Arab music. It melts now in the hellfire of radical "Islamism," and the exodus of its once-majority Christians is accelerating. The Cedar Revolution, that briefly promised a restoration of freedom and democracy, is over. Tyranny and death will now call the tunes.

David Warren's column appears Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Load-Date: November 22, 2006



Pelosi's visit highlights hypocrisy

University Wire
April 9, 2007 Monday

Copyright 2007 Mustang Daily via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 712 words

Byline: By Zach Austin, Mustang Daily; SOURCE: Cal Poly

Dateline: SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif.

Body

This past week, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi made headlines all over the world by visiting Syria to meet with President Bashar Assad. Pelosi's message was one of peace: she pressured Assad to discontinue his government's support of the militant groups Hamas and <u>Hezbollah</u>, and to engage in peace talks with Israel and throughout the region.

Unsurprisingly, the Bush administration quickly issued a strong rebuke of Pelosi, while right-wing commentators and their enablers in the mainstream media repeated and amplified lies and distortions about the trip itself.

It was a case of real, meaningful diplomacy being attacked for partisan gains and to reinforce the failed foreign policy stance of a failed presidency.

It began Wednesday, when Pelosi left Israel for Syria with a message of peace from the Israeli leadership: If Syria would terminate support for international terrorism, Israel would open peace talks. Immediately, President Bush released a statement saying any visit by Pelosi would be counterproductive, that it just "wouldn't work."

I would be glad if Bush could indicate to me a single way in which his administration's attempts to bring peace to the Middle East are working.

The American occupation of Iraq has resulted in more than 600,000 dead Iraqis, 3,000 dead U.S. troops, and created a civil war between Sunni and Shiites that is spreading throughout the Middle East. The government offers selective, hypocritical support for some countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, while it completely rebukes and does not recognize others, like Syria, when all three countries have shown to be supporters of terrorist groups. This destroys any credibility the United States may have had, and worse, indirectly supports terrorism, which Bush administration claims to abhor.

Many in the shrill, right-wing blogs and opinion pages have accused Pelosi of undercutting the president's diplomatic powers and overstepping Congress' constitutionally prescribed abilities by visiting Damascus.

Leaving aside this administration's treatment of the Constitution for an article or six, Pelosi's visit to Syria was a direct step towards opening a dialogue of peace within the Middle East, one that is desperately needed and has certainly not materialized during George Bush's presidency. According to The Washington Post, Pelosi's dealings in Syria "have (not) strayed far, it at all, from those typical of a congressional trip."

Pelosi's visit highlights hypocrisy

Those shrill voices on the right also neglect the fact that five Republican congressmen visited Syria this past week, some with the president's blessing. I expect the political firestorm over these visits to begin any moment now.

No other aspect of this story illustrates the partisan hackism that is the right-wing opinion machine that the photos of Speaker Pelosi entering a mosque in Damascus wearing a headscarf, as is traditional for <u>women</u>. Many on the right were up in arms over these photos, claiming they gave the Syrians an air of domination, of control, over a visit by the third highest-ranking U.S. political officer.

These same voices must not have seen the numerous photos, which can be found on the White House's own Web site, of First Lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice wearing headscarves during diplomatic visits in the Middle East. If wearing a headscarf is a traitorous act, then I expect the calls for the resignation of the three most prominent **women** in the U.S. government to begin at any time.

What these critics fail to recognize is that respect for cultural and political traditions is vital to diplomacy, particularly on a visit to another country. The wearing of a headscarf by Pelosi was a sign of her willingness to work with the Syrian government towards a peace agreement in the Middle East.

Simply put, it is how diplomacy gets done.

Pelosi's visit to Syria is a sign of world leadership that is so lacking in our current presidential leadership. The trip is the exciting first step towards a real, substantive peace process within the Middle East. It leaves me excited for the 2008 presidential election, when we as a nation can finally put some grown-ups back in the White House. It is entirely clear that this visit is what global leadership looks like.

(C) 2007 Mustang Daily via U-WIRE

Load-Date: April 9, 2007



A collective failure in the Middle East; Israel and Lebanon

The International Herald Tribune
August 1, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 International Herald Tribune All Rights Reserved

Section: OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 759 words

Byline: Shirin Ebadi and Jody Williams

Body

As recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, we watch with stunned disbelief as the fighting in Lebanon and Israel spins out of control, while the humanitarian crisis in Gaza apparently has slipped from public consciousness. The lack of global leadership in the face of this violence affecting hundreds of thousands of civilians is appalling.

The failure of the Group of 8 in July to tackle blatant breaches of international humanitarian law demonstrates a crass unwillingness to put civilian lives above politics. The repeated U.S. vetoes in the UN Security Council, stopping efforts to resolve these crises, are unfortunately predictable. The Bush administration backed by strong language in the U.S. Congress supporting Israeli military operations has done nothing to mitigate the overwhelming impact on the civilian population.

The July emergency meeting in Rome, two weeks into the crisis, resulted in nothing tangible. Only the United States, Britain and Israel oppose an immediate cease-fire. With U.S. officials describing the destruction and chaos as the inevitable "birth pangs of a new Middle East," how can they expect anything less than dramatically increased anti-Americanism throughout the Middle East if not the entire world?

Watching the wholesale destruction of much of Lebanon, it is almost embarrassing to call the Israeli response to the kidnapping of its three soldiers "disproportionate." It is collective punishment of the civilian populations of Gaza and Lebanon. It is collective but personal as we read the sporadic e-mails describing death and destruction that reach us from <u>women</u> colleagues in Lebanon. It is collective but personal as a graduate student at the University of Houston keeps us informed about the impact on her relatives in Gaza.

The deliberate destruction of civilian infrastructure, including roads, bridges, apartment buildings, relief trucks, ports and the airport has resulted in large numbers of civilian casualties. It has prevented civilians from evacuating conflict areas, and hindered provision of humanitarian aid. Hundreds of thousands of refugees perhaps one out of every five people in Lebanon are attempting to flee in a country whose exit points have been deliberately destroyed. Much of Beirut has again been reduced to rubble. *Hezbollah*'s increasing attacks against civilian targets in Israel are also heinous and violations of international law.

While we watch the violence being ratcheted up in Lebanon and the north of Israel, the Gaza crisis simmers. The Israeli occupation of Gaza may have changed in form, but the reality is that it maintains control over all aspects of life there. Israel's prime minister, Ehud Olmert, has clearly stated that his soldiers will "operate, enter and pull out as needed." As Israeli attacks intensified in the north, its forces also began distributing leaflets throughout Gaza stating that it would begin bombing houses suspected of being used as weapons caches. They had already destroyed the only power station in Gaza, leaving tens of thousands without water and sewage.

A collective failure in the Middle East Israel and Lebanon

We do not understand how the international community can continue to stand by while entire populations are held hostage in what has been described as "self defense."

No deliberate attacks against civilians by armed groups should be condoned by the international community, either explicitly or implicitly through inaction. Every new attack leaves dead and wounded in its wake. Every new attack makes another woman a widow and more children orphans. Every new attack demonstrates the inability or unwillingness of governments to exercise their moral obligation to stop the violence. Every new attack underscores our collective failure to stop making violence our preferred choice for confronting the problems facing us all.

The UN Security Council must intervene to stop the violence and avoid an escalation of the conflict that could engulf the region in yet more war. It is time for internationally mediated negotiations for comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Such negotiations must include civil society groups, and <u>women</u> from throughout the region. <u>Women</u> and children suffer disproportionately during and after conflict, and <u>women</u> must have a voice in finding meaningful solutions to the violence.

Shirin Ebadi, an Iranian lawyer, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her work defending human rights. Jody Williams received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for her work with the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines.

[Not to be reproduced without the permission of the authors.]

Load-Date: August 1, 2006



Making Nice

The New York Times
August 20, 2006 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2006 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 6; Column 1; Magazine; Pg. 11; THE WAY WE LIVE NOW: 8-20-06: QUESTIONS FOR WHOOPI

GOLDBERG

Length: 618 words

Byline: By Deborah Solomon

Body

Q: Now that you're a New York disc jockey with a nationally syndicated radio show, "Wake Up With Whoopi," what time do you get up? A quarter to three.

What led you into radio? It's a medium I grew up with. When you think about the kinds of people who were on radio when I was a kid -- Frankie Crocker and Dan Ingram and Cousin Brucie and Murray the K -- these were the guys you carried everywhere you went. And introductions to new music came through D.J.'s.

Your show, which airs in the New York region on WKTU (103.5 FM), is taking shock radio in a new direction. Your goal is to shock by being nice. We're just trying to put something different out there that isn't rude and that isn't in your face and is just the kind of information you can take through the day. We talk about good manners on Mondays.

Your forthcoming children's book, "Whoopi Goldberg's Big Book of Manners," also agitates on behalf of courtesy words like "please" and "thank you." Isn't that an easy cause? It's not as if there are people who are against politeness. There certainly are, because very few people are practicing it. I say, give people things they can work on, because they can't stop <u>Hezbollah</u> and they can't stop the war in Iraq. But they can say thank you.

Still, why would you become a good-manners czar, after earning your reputation as a comedian specializing in noisy and needling remarks? When I am doing my characters on stage, that is the work I do. That is not a place to be polite. It is a performance. But I am a polite person in private.

Didn't you lose your contract as a SlimFast spokeswoman after denigrating President Bush at a Kerry-Edwards fund-raiser? That's the press. I didn't say what they said I said. Before I even left the stage that evening, it was on the A.P. wire that I had been vulgar and disgusting. It was terrible.

I would prefer your radio show if you dispensed with the dance music and made it 100 percent talk, which is definitely the highlight. That's the highlight for you. It isn't the highlight for me. I like the breaks in between. I like being able to run downstairs and do what I want to do. I can go to the bathroom, I can call my kid.

You're also a grandmother. Three times.

Making Nice

Wasn't your father a preacher? What is the connection between comedy and preaching? I have no idea. I am not that deep.

You and Oprah Winfrey began your acting careers in "The Color Purple," yet she failed to invite you to her recent Legends Ball to honor African-American <u>women</u>. Is there bad blood between you? I don't really know Oprah. I made a movie with her 20 years ago.

Have you ever seen her TV show? No. I don't think I have.

You've played gay and bisexual characters in various films, and some of your fans have raised the question of whether you are a lesbian. No, I am not a lesbian. I describe myself as heterosexual. I think it is hard to have good relationships with anyone.

Are you living with someone these days? Why? You got a man for me?

You were born Caryn Johnson. How did you wind up with the name Whoopi? Here's the thing. When you're performing on stage, you never really have time to go into the bathroom and close the door. So if you get a little gassy, you've got to let it go. So people used to say to me, You are like a whoopee cushion. And that's where the name came from.

If you find it rude to comb your hair in public, as you've said on your show, how can you possibly justify public acts of flatulence? Is it bad manners if you say, I really have to cut this?

Never mind. Will your radio show be your main gig from here on in? It's my everyday gig for the next three years. Unless they get mad at me and toss me out. Deborah Solomon

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo (Photograph by Timothy White)

Load-Date: August 20, 2006



Pennsylvanians Mourn Hometown Soldier

The Forward August 11, 2006

Copyright 2006 The Forward Association, Incorporated All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. 7

Length: 716 words

Byline: Matt Schuman

Dateline: NEWTOWN, Pa.

Body

NEWTOWN, Pa. - More than 1,200 men, <u>women</u> and children came together at Shir Ami, Bucks County Jewish Congregation in the Philadelphia suburbs on the evening of July 31 to demonstrate their support for the State of Israel. The evening's most poignant moment came when a speaker recognized the presence of Mark and Harriet Levin, noting that their son, Michael, had immigrated to Israel and become a paratrooper in the Israeli army. The spontaneous standing ovation reduced Mom, who was wearing a paratrooper's shirt, to tears.

Less than 24 hours later, Michael Levin, a first sergeant, was one of three Israeli soldiers killed when their platoon was hit by a <u>Hezbollah</u> anti-tank missile in the southern Lebanese town of Aita al-Shaab. Two days later, thousands attended his funeral in Mount Herzl Military Cemetery in Jerusalem.

On August 7, a mere eight days after the pro-Israel rally, an even larger crowd - estimated at 1,500 plus - again gathered at Shir Ami to memorialize a 22-year-old Israeli war hero from a quiet Bucks County, Pa., neighborhood known as Holland Acres.

"It's with all the love I have in my heart that I must now say farewell to my son," said Mark Levin, the last of more than a dozen speakers who shared their thoughts with the overflowing crowd.

Those who knew him best described Michael Levin as warm, caring, considerate and, perhaps above all else, driven. By the time he was 16, they said, he already was planning to move to Israel and join the army.

Rabbi David Silverstein, a close family friend, noted that Levin wasn't content to support the State of Israel and pledge allegiance to the Zionist ideal from the comfort of his suburban Philadelphia home. So after his 2002 graduation from Council Rock High School in Newtown, Pa., he immigrated to Israel. However, Levin wasn't content to merely live in Israel; he wanted to defend the Jewish homeland. So eager was the young man to join the Israeli military that he actually gained access to an enlistment center by standing on a Dumpster and climbing through a second-floor window in the rear of the building after being turned away at the front entrance. Still, Silverstein said, he wasn't content. The 5-foot-6-inch, 118-pound Levin had a burning desire for higher service, and his determination led him to become one of the few Americans admitted into an elite paratrooper unit.

In fact, in early July he cut short what was supposed to be a three-week visit home to rejoin his unit.

"Michael lived a heroic life and died a heroic death," Silverstein said, struggling to maintain his composure. "Not only was he a hero, but he defined what it is to be a human being and what it is to be a Jew."

Pennsylvanians Mourn Hometown Soldier

Uri Palti, consul general of Israel, added that Levin is a symbol of how "we are indeed one." Directing his comments to Levin's loved ones, the consul general said, "Michael left what was his world to be with us, to defend us. And now the nation of Israel is crying with you."

Ephraim Lapid, a brigadier general, related how just eight days ago, immediately following the rally, Mark Levin was bursting with pride as he showed him photos of his son the paratrooper. Since then, Lapid lamented, so very much has changed.

"We're sorry, Michael. Sorry we couldn't save you. God wanted you closer to him," the brigadier general said. Then he saluted and began to speak, but his voice cracked. "I salute you, Michael Levin."

Shortly before he and the other members of Battalion 101 headed to battle in southern Lebanon, Levin had told his twin sister, Dara, and older sister, Lisa, that he missed them, he loved them and that he'd be okay.

Kevin Waloff received a text message from his lifelong best friend. "Michael said I wouldn't be able to reach him by cell phone" for a short period of time, Waloff said. "I figured he was going to southern Lebanon."

Mark Levin vividly remembers his final in-person conversation with his son, which took place at JFK Airport in New York.

"After we exchanged hugs," the elder Levin began, "Michael said: 'Please don't worry about me. I'm going exactly where I want to be and doing exactly what I want to do.' He also told me that if anything should happen to him, he wanted to be buried in Mount Herzl Cemetery."

On August 3, thousands of mourners were on hand as Michael Levin's request was honored.

Graphic

IMAGE

Load-Date: August 11, 2006



In Israel, Carter book not worthy of outrage

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)
February 4, 2007 Sunday
0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2007 Times Publishing Company All Rights Reserved

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 17A

Length: 674 words

Byline: SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Times Senior Correspondent

Ulsrael's legendary hotel, the King David, is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Among the displays are a 1979 photo of two famous guests, U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Begin is speaking emphatically while Carter, lips pursed, looks as if he can't wait to get away. Although the two were working on a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, the photo is revealing - Carter and Begin couldn't stand each other.

Carter's "animus toward the late Israeli leader is limitless," Emory University professor Kenneth Stein writes, and it helps explain Carter's attitude toward Israel in his controversial new book, Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid.

Carter argues that Israel's security wall and expansion of Jewish settlements on occupied land have undermined prospects of a viable Palestinian state. Playing down the Arabs' own role, he claims that the failure to achieve peace in the Middle East is largely due to intransigence by Begin and successive Israeli leaders.

The animosity between the two men began during the Egyptian peace negotiations, when Begin learned of maneuvering to wring more concessions from Israel. Distrusting Carter, Begin refused to allow any talk of Israel relinquishing the West Bank or parts of Jerusalem annexed after the 1967 Mideast War.

That killed Carter's hopes of a broader Arab-Israeli peace deal and "he never forgave Begin," Stein writes. Carter even blamed Begin in part for his loss to Ronald Reagan, as many American Jews, upset by the pressure on Israel, turned to other candidates.

A former director and fellow of the Carter Center, Stein resigned in December to protest what he calls "egregious errors" in the book.

Carter has backpedaled on one point, admitting he was "stupid" to suggest Palestinians are justified in using terror tactics. But he still insists there will be no peace until Israel withdraws from all occupied land.

In Israel, Carter book not worthy of outrage

The book has caused an uproar in the United States where critics - most of them Jewish - accuse Carter of anti-Semitism. Others, though, applaud him for calling attention to the suffering of Palestinians, almost 70 percent of whom live in poverty.

Given the outcry, I was curious to learn what reaction Carter's book has caused here in Israel. The answer: not much.

"I'm not reading books on the modern Middle East because if you live here, you see what they all get wrong," said Marcel Marcus, owner of a book shop near the King David. "If it weren't for all the controversy, I wouldn't even look at it. Now I'll flip through it."

His assistant, Avital Porat, doesn't plan to do even that. A Hebrew University student, she and her friends "try not to discuss politics too much because it's too depressing," she said.

Indeed, Israelis acknowledge their country is in a malaise.

The radical groups Hamas and <u>Hezbollah</u> are still holding three captured Jewish soldiers. Israel's president faces trial on rape charges. The justice minister was convicted of sexual misconduct for forcibly kissing a young <u>female</u> soldier. And Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is under investigation in a banking scandal.

"Carter must come and live here and see what's going on and then he can write a book," said Rachel Schwarz, a retiree browsing in Marcus' store.

Palestine: Peace or Apartheid is doing better in the Arab part of Jerusalem, where customers have snapped up all 60 copies at one store. But Arab readers don't necessarily agree that Carter is a great friend of Arabs.

"My opinion is that he's the same as Bush," said Nihad Mune, a clerk. "Carter, he did not do anything special for the Palestinians."

Despite Carter's high profile, a lot of people here don't even remember him. As part of its anniversary celebration, the King David has lined the floor of its lobby with the enlarged signatures of notable guests.

Among those taking center stage are CNN's Wolf Blitzer and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. Carter's signature is way down the hall - by the stairs to the rest rooms.

Susan Martin can be reached at susan@sptimes.com.

Graphic

PHOTO, Associated Press: (1979) Despite the smiles between Egypt's Anwar Sadat, President Jimmy Carter and Israel's Menachem Begin in 1979, Carter and Begin had their differences.

Correction:

Load-Date: February 4, 2007



Top of the world

thespec.com

March 8, 2007 Thursday

Final Edition

Copyright 2007 Metroland Media Group Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A04

Length: 672 words

Byline: THE CANADIAN PRESS; The Associated Press

Body

There are questions about his death but there is no question about the sorrow being felt about the loss of Corporal Kevin Megeney in an apparent friendly-fire accident in Afghanistan. To the mournful skirl of bagpipes, a flag-draped casket containing the body of the North Nova Scotia Highlander was carried aboard a C-130 Hercules aircraft in Kandahar last night for the long trip home. Megeney, 25, a reservist who was a member of the base-security platoon, was reportedly shot in the chest in his tent Tuesday evening. The military has remained tight-lipped about the circumstances of the shooting other than to say it was an accident and did not involve enemy action. Megeney's death brings to 45 the number of Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan since 2002. A Canadian diplomat has also lost his life in Afghanistan.

Liberal MP Jim Peterson, 65, is set to announce his retirement from politics, leaving his Toronto-Willowdale seat vacant for recent party leadership candidate Martha Hall Findlay, above left. Sources said the riding's Liberal nomination will be handed uncontested to Hall Findlay. Meanwhile, Bob Rae, above, will have to contest the nomination in Toronto Centre where he filed nomination papers yesterday. The riding is held by Bill Graham, the interim party leader who announced last month he won't seek re-election. Rae is expected to face off against human rights advocate Meredith Cartwright for the Toronto Centre nomination. But he'll have some high-powered support from Ontario Health Minister George Smitherman, who represents the same riding in the Ontario legislature. Rae, who also sought the federal party leadership, served as Ontario's NDP premier from 1990 to 1995.

Repeat sex offender John Couey was found guilty yesterday of kidnapping and raping nine-year-old Jessica Lunsford and burying her alive. The Miami jury next must decide whether Couey, 48, should get death by injection or life in prison. Lunsford was snatched from her bedroom in 2005 about 140 metres from Couey's trailer.

The Israeli air force has unveiled its newest unmanned aircraft, saying the plane can fly longer, faster and higher than any other surveillance aircraft. A prototype of the drone, called the Heron, saw service during last summer's war in Lebanon, where it was used to seek out *Hezbollah* arms and direct air strikes. The Heron has a 16-metre wingspan and can fly up to 30 hours at a speed of 225 km/h and a height of 9,000 metres. That would give it a range of about 6,760 kilometres and the potential to reach as far as Iran, considered Israel's most serious strategic threat because of its nuclear program and its president's calls to wipe Israel off the map.

A physician well-known in Los Angeles' Russian community and her adult daughter were poisoned during a trip to Moscow last month, United States Embassy officials confirmed yesterday. It's the latest in a string of Russian poisoning cases that have sparked international intrigue. Officials said Marina Kovalevsky, 49, and her daughter,

Top of the world

Yana, 26, were poisoned with thallium, an odourless, colourless toxin originally suspected in the death of a former Russian spy in London last year. The **women** were in Moscow to attend a friend's wedding.

Astronaut Lisa Nowak has been dumped by NASA after being charged with trying to kidnap a woman she saw as a romantic rival for the affections of a space shuttle pilot. The agency said it had no choice because Nowak is a naval officer on assignment to NASA rather than an agency employee.

Heavy rains in Honduras have left some 35 people dead, flooded 14,000 hectares of farmland, and caused losses estimated at around \$20 million US. Recent heavy rains across South America have killed dozens of people, wiped out thousands of homes and triggered outbreaks of dengue fever in several countries. The heavier-than-normal rains are blamed on an El Niño weather cycle -- a periodic warming of tropical Pacific Ocean waters that causes severe weather every several years, particularly in the Southern Hemisphere.

Graphic

Photo: AFGHANISTAN; Photo: Aaron Harris, the Canadian Press, TORONTO; Photo: Diario La Prensa, the Associated Press, HONDURAS; Photo: MOSCOW; Photo: Gil Cohen Magen, Reuters, ISRAEL; Photo: Red Huber, the Associated Press, CAPE CANAVERAL; Photo: Christinne Muschi, Reuters, TORONTO; Photo: FLORIDA

Load-Date: March 8, 2007



Americans Bow Down To Anti-U.S. Ayatollahs

New York Sun (Archive) March 1, 2007 Thursday

Copyright 2007 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 7

Length: 782 words

Byline: STEVEN STALINSKY

Body

Iran is growing "stronger day by day" and is in its "strongest position ever," the Iranian supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, is warning. In a recent show of this strength, the Iranian military held war games and launched its first rocket into space - one that could be used to build intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching Britain.

President Ahmadinejad is also up to his old tricks, boasting to an audience in the Iranian town of Talesh on February 22 of the Zionists' imminent "undesirable ending," the Fars News Agency reported. More surprisingly, immediately after Mr. Ahmadinejad's appearance, he met with a visiting delegation of American Mennonites, Quakers, Episcopalians, United Methodists, and members of the National Council of Churches. The group was on a week-long pilgrimage to Iran at the personal invitation of the Iranian president, following an earlier meeting in America.

The delegation came "to build bridges of peace and security between Iran and the U.S," the Tehran Times reported on February 20.

"We are not representatives of the government, and we are not sent by them," the general secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, Mary Ellen McNish, told the Mehr News Agency. But on its return to America, she added, the delegation intended to travel directly "to Washington, D.C., and visit Congress to give a report on Iran's desire for peace."

The delegation's first day in Iran included a meeting with the Friday prayer leader in Tehran, Ayatollah Mohammed Emami-Kashani, who dazzled the Americans. "In a question and answer period with the delegates, the Ayatollah confirmed that the Grand Ayatollahs of Iran have issued a 'fatwa' against the development and use of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction," the Mennonite Central Committee said in a press release. "When asked why harsh language is used against the U.S. in the Friday prayers that he sometimes leads - prayers broadcast across the country - he replied, 'What you mention is not against the American people. Our objection is to statements of the American government."

Ms. McNish, along with other delegates who spoke to the Iranian press, blamed Western news outlets for making Americans fearful of Islam and Iran. After she met with Ayatollah Kashani, she said, "It was so moving to hear Islam prohibit weapons of mass destruction."

Yet Ayatollah Kashani is known to be vehemently anti-American and a supporter of terrorist groups such as <u>Hezbollah</u>. On July 8, 2005 - the day after the London transit bombings, which he called "divine justice" - he gave a sermon before a crowd chanting, "Death to England," "Death to America." Speaking against the West, he said, "You

Americans Bow Down To Anti- U.S. Ayatollahs

brought [Al Qaeda] into being in order to bring calamity to our lives, but, thank God, it has brought calamity to yours."

During a Friday sermon from Tehran University on January 28, 2005, he warned America: "If you behave with disrespect," the Iranian people "will punch you in the mouth so hard that all your devouring teeth will fall off." In another Friday sermon on August 9, 2004, the ayatollah said: "I say to you, the American people ... your lives are lost, you will collapse."

According to a February 16 report on Antiwar.com, the American delegation also planned to meet with Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi Mesbah-Yazdi, spiritual adviser to Mr. Ahmadinejad and an opponent of Iran's reformists.

A former president of Iran, Mohammed Khatemi, once called Ayatollah Mesbah-Yazdi a "theoretician of violence." Many in Iran's Revolutionary Guards are loyal to him. His disciples, including the Iranian cleric Mohsen Gharavian, are reportedly behind an important fatwa released early last month making the case for the use of nuclear weapons under Islamic law. Ayatollah Mesbah-Yazdi openly supports "martyrdom operations" and is connected to Elias Naderan, the leader of Zeitoon, a conservative group that supports suicide bombings against American, British, and Israeli forces.

Unfortunately, during the Americans' visit to Iran, there were no reports of the delegation attempting to meet with members of the Iranian reformist movement, including <u>women</u>'s and students' groups currently under attack by the government. The delegation missed a true opportunity to support those reformist efforts.

Reports did emerge, however, of the delegation denouncing American actions. "We are against the policies of the U.S. government in Iraq, Afghanistan, and its Middle East policy, which is contradictory to the instructions of Jesus Christ," the head of the Mennonite Central Committee, the Reverend Ronald Flaming, said.

Mr. Stalinsky is the executive director of the Middle East Media Research Institute.

Load-Date: March 1, 2007



Layton caught in crossfire

The Guardian (Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island)
September 14, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 The Guardian, a division of Transcontinental Media Group Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A6

Length: 769 words **Byline:** Riley, Susan

Body

Jack Layton achieved rare harmony in the wake of the New Democratic Party's recent convention in Quebec City: He was condemned by advocates for both Muslim and Jewish Canadians, for policies endorsed by 1,500 delegates. Beyond that, however, the news isn't encouraging.

The Canada-Israel Committee took issue with two convention resolutions, one deemed too critical of Israel and another that ignored <u>Hezbollah</u>'s terrorist activities. The motions were "irresponsible" and "dangerously misinformed," said the CIC. Then the Muslim Canadian Congress called the NDP "reckless and opportunistic" for proposing an immediate withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan.

To be fair, Middle East politics are a minefield - not just literally - for any mainstream party, and opinions within Jewish and Muslim communities are hardly uniform no matter what self- appointed spokesmen say. Layton's larger problem is persuading the general public that his policies - particularly on Afghanistan - are sensible and morally sound.

He has much work to do. His focus so far has been on the speedy withdrawal of Canada's 2,200 troops by February. He accompanies this demand with boilerplate about refocusing the mission on development and diplomacy - an excellent idea that would probably find wide support. But he doesn't say how this happy end will be achieved, nor does he seem too concerned about leaving our NATO allies to pick up the military slack while our troops are off doing good. He is too busy condemning George W. Bush's clumsy and dangerous tactics - preaching, if polls are to be believed, to the converted.

There is probably a significant constituency of Canadians who agree with Layton that the military campaign is, ultimately, futile, that peace will not be achieved without talking to the Taliban, that you do not win the hearts of Afghans - or promote Western values - by bombing their homes and villages. Many voters, including traditional NDP supporters, will also agree that Canada can't just walk away, that it has an obligation to help one of the poorest nations in the world rebuild, to encourage equality for <u>women</u> and universal education - the exact rationale cleverly advanced by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in defence of Canada's mission.

But Layton has to tackle, persuasively, the major argument in favour of a continued military campaign: that no rebuilding can take place while the Taliban, or warlords, control large tracts of the country. He and other advocates of early withdrawal also have to explain how to justify any such move to our allies.

Could Canada, for instance, redirect much of the \$4 billion earmarked for the military campaign in Kandahar to rebuilding in the relatively stable Kabul area and further north? As to the allies, Canada could argue that it has

Layton caught in crossfire

suffered more casualties proportionately than almost any other nation, that it has done its part and it is time for Germany, Italy, Turkey, Spain - four countries that yesterday refused a call from NATO for 2,500 new troops - to take the reins.

While the NDP has been slow to defend and explain its controversial stance, Harper is escalating his marketing efforts - using the anniversary of Sept. 11, and a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, to sell the Afghan mission to an uneasy public. Next week the offensive continues with a state visit by Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Harper's appeal to country, God and duty is similar to Bush's, but his argument is less problematic: There is a link between Sept. 11 and Afghanistan, where al-Qaida incubated, and none with Iraq.

Even the Liberals, distracted and divided, threaten to outflank the NDP on Afghanistan. Bob Rae, for example, says Canada should not pull out unilaterally but press NATO to re-evaluate the mission. "We can't just snap our fingers and say this week that we lost too many troops and we have to come home," he says. Ouch.

In Quebec City, Layton dismissed Rae as "a failed one-time Ontario premier, who, it turns out, is also a turncoat." Double ouch - an indication, perhaps, that Layton, who usually avoids personal attacks, fears Rae. He should. As Liberal leader, Rae could poach centre-left votes from the NDP; he has already stolen its one-time "star" candidate Paul Summerville, a former Bay Street economist.

Before Parliament resumes next week, the NDP caucus will be meeting to flesh out its Afghanistan policy. It also has to keep a nervous eye on the Greens. A recent poll has them at 10 per cent and the NDP back at 14 per cent. Little wonder Layton is looking a bit twitchy these days.

Susan Riley writes for the Ottawa Citizen.

Load-Date: September 14, 2006



Bomber kills 35 near shrine in Najaf; Attack raises fears of sectarian violence

The International Herald Tribune

August 11, 2006 Friday

Copyright 2006 International Herald Tribune All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 708 words

Byline: Edward Wong **Dateline:** BAGHDAD

Body

An explosive worn on a belt by a suicide bomber who intended to blow himself up inside the holiest shrine of Shiite Islam went off Thursday during a police patdown at a checkpoint near the shrine, killing at least 35 people and wounding more than 120 others, including Iranian pilgrims, Iraqi officials said.

The attack, which took place in Najaf, 160 kilometers, or 100 miles, south of Baghdad, was likely to ignite further rounds of sectarian violence in Iraq, especially in the increasingly chaotic capital. If the attacker had blown up inside the shrine itself, the ensuing wave of revenge killings by Shiites on Sunni Arabs would almost certainly have dwarfed the sectarian bloodletting that followed the bombing of another Shiite shrine in February.

The explosion underscored the degradation of security in the spiritual heart of the Shiite-dominated south, an area once believed to be under the tight control of Iraqi and American forces. The most revered Shiite cleric in Iraq, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, lives just blocks away from the shrine.

Other attacks around Iraq, mostly aimed at civilians, brought the death toll for Thursday to at least 48, even as additional Iraqi and U.S. troops continued to deploy across Baghdad to try to bring a modicum of security to the capital.

The blast in Najaf ripped into a crowd of Shiite pilgrims who had come to the golden-domed Shrine of Ali on the anniversary of the death of Zaineb, the granddaughter of the Prophet Muhammad. The shrine sits at the center of Najaf and is a memorial to Ali, the prophet's son-in-law and the first martyr in the epochal seventh-century split between Sunni and Shiite Islam.

The bomber walked up to a police checkpoint about 20 meters, or 60 feet, from the shrine, and the bomb exploded as a police officer searched his body, according to local officials and the prime minister's office. A ball of flame engulfed the police officers at the checkpoint, killing at least five of them, said Dr. Munthir al-Ethari, the head of the health bureau in Najaf. At least eight <u>women</u> were among the dead.

Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, the prime minister and a Shiite, blamed loyalists of Saddam Hussein for the bombing, as well as "takfiris," a term that refers to fundamentalist Sunni Arabs who consider Shiites to be infidels.

Bomber kills 35 near shrine in Najaf Attack raises fears of sectarian violence

Major General William Caldwell 4th, a spokesman for the American command, issued a statement saying the attack was the work of "a vicious death squad who targeted innocent Iraqis practicing their faith at one of the holiest sites in Iraq."

Najaf's economic growth is dependent on a steady stream of religious tourists, including many from neighboring Iran. Under Saddam's rule, few Shiites from outside Iraq were allowed to make pilgrimages to the Shrine of Ali. Now thousands stream into the city each day, according to some Iraqi officials.

Powerful Shiite parties with militias have control of the security forces in the province encompassing Najaf, and the area was once considered a safe haven shielded from the incessant bombings that plagued central Iraq. But a recent series of deadly attacks has eroded the sense of security.

On July 18, a suicide bomber exploded a van after luring day laborers into his car outside a Shiite shrine in the neighboring city of Kufa, killing at least 53 people and wounding more than 100.

That took place less than two weeks after a suicide car bomber rammed his sedan into two busloads of Iranian pilgrims near another Shiite shrine in Kufa, killing at least 12 people.

The bombings in Kufa seemed intended to provoke Moktada al-Sadr, a radical Shiite cleric, whose militia is accused by U.S. officials and many Sunni Arabs of slaughtering Sunnis across Baghdad and elsewhere. Sadr's head mosque is in Kufa, and he occasionally preaches there on Fridays.

Sadr's main office is right next to the Shrine of Ali in Najaf, as are those of some of the country's leading ayatollahs. The city is home to the marjaiyah, considered by many Shiites to be the four top clerics of their faith, and the base for the hawza, a venerable seminary.

Prominent Shiites have lived or studied in Najaf, including Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who led the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, and Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of *Hezbollah* in Lebanon.

Load-Date: August 11, 2006