

Date and Time: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:07:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223445379

Documents (100)

1. Rice prays for peace in holy land

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

2. 15 Iraqi civilians killed as US aircraft target al-Qaida leaders

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

3. Does Israel need 'tough love?'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

4. Livni's Rise Sparks Debate on Whether Orthodox Would Back a Woman

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

5. Bush stands by 'chosen people' of Israel

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas



Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

6. World datelines

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

7. TODAY IN HISTORY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

8. Bush lectures Arab world on repression, women's rights

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

9. The fall of Noah Feldman

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

10. TODAY IN HISTORY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

11. The Jewish state will co-exist with a Palestinian homeland in democratic POLITICS-US: An Ocean Apart, Bush, McCain Play to Neo-Con Dreams

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to News

Sep 30, 2008

12. Seven days

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

13. PM lauds Israel, but urges peace

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

14._TZIPI LIVNI

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to News

Sep 30, 2008

15. Israeli hawk retires after losing party vote Minister's exit a blow to new leader

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

16. Livni favoured to take over Israeli party leadership from Olmert

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

17. Peace movement hypocrisy

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

18. Bush takes soundings on Iran

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

19. Bush urges Arab world to confront threat from 'terrorism sponsor' Iran

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

20. Letters - What brave army bullies orphans?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008



21. Bush canvasses Arab support over Iran

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

22. Arrests made in West Bank killing of 2 Israelis, Arab says

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

23. Letters

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

24. Letters

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

25. Attack Raises Questions About East Jerusalem

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

26. Letters

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

27. Seeds of Hate

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

28._TODAY IN HISTORY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

29. Peace advocates seem to have blinders on

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

30. Bulldozer rampage leaves 4 dead, 40 hurt; 'Only way to stop him was with a bullet to the head'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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Sep 30, 2008

31. In Short

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

32. Frustration for Bush as pledge to Saudis fails to win oil concession

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

33. Seven days

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

34. DIGEST

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008

35. Hundreds storm Jebl Mukaber calling for revenge. 22 arrested as right-wing activists stone homes, cars

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

36. MDA treating both Israeli, Palestinian victims of violence. 'When there is lifesaving work to be done, it's as if there were no war'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

37. Commentary: For the sake of my son, I support McCain

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

38. Rights charter hateful work; Arbour's judgment suspect after initial support of charter

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

39. ISSAC BICKERSTAFFE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

40. Modern love Life

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

41. Bush takes personal pitch for reform to wary Mideast

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

42. U.S. pulls UN draft; Disliked by Israel

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

43. The end of peaceful Islam

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

44. Jetters @independent.co.uk Work 'success' at the expense of child care

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

45. Experiencing two absolutes Writers rejecting political correctness may dredge up truth about their society and country

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

46. New Israeli leader must hurry to form coalition

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

47. World - Truce brings no relief for Gaza Ann Douglas on the continuing suffering caused by Israel 's siege

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

48. Letters

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

49. Nurturing SA and African cinema

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

50. Canada strengthening its links with Israel; Tories abandon 'middle stance' of Liberals

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

51._Taliban support probed

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

52. Middle Eastern TV soap opera clashes with conservative ideals

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

53. Letters to the Editor

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

54. Zohan: The knee-slapping side of terrorism

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

55. No one has more at stake in this summit than Tony Blair

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

56. SIMI linked with Andhra outfit

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

57._*NATION*

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

58. Praising Egypt, Bush avoids rights issues

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

59. Nation

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

60. Jail for former language tutor caught with suicide vest video

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

61. 4 years for Taliban fanatic from Halifax who backed July 7 bombings

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

62. INSIDE THE TIMES: June 22, 2008

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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Sep 30, 2008

63. U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RACE: THIRD DISTRICT Candidates debate how best to handle Iran 's nuclear threat, support Israel Several hundred people turned out to hear the candidates' views on foreign policy and to question the candidates.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

64. Damaging Iran quake

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

65. Val kicks up high heels among her new friends

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

66. Nurturing SA and African cinema

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

67. Pelosi: Israel 'bears the brunt' of Iranian threat, but it's the world's problem

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by



News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

68. Pirates snatch tourists

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

69._Taliban support probed

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

70. <u>HOLDING HANDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST THE PRESIDENT SHEATHES HIS SWORD AND TRIES TO</u>
RESCUE HIS LEGACY BY LIVING IT UP ON A TOUR OF ARABIA

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

71. LTTE targeting impoverished Lankans - British Magazine

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

72. Faith, freedom and bling

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

73. Faith, Freedom and Bling in the Middle East

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

74. Overseas briefing

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

75. Letters:

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

76. <u>Palestine is all ours, cry schoolchildren on 'Nakba Day'. 'They took my father and destroyed my house,'</u> youngsters chant at Ramallah anti- Israel rally

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

77. THE LAST DEBATE CHURCHILL FACES OFF AGAINST SKELETOR

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

78._Column: The Maverick in the arena

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

79. Bush opens visit to mark Israel 's 60th Outlook for progress on peace called slim

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

80. US troops in shock - report

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

81._INSIDE THE TIMES: May 20, 2008

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

82. A wait to climb Everest

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

83. Gunman was Arab working at the school

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

84. International briefs

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

85. Israel strikes again

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

86. Hope for Kenya

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

87. Romney throws in towel

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

88. Israeli siege blocks medicine supply MIDEAST: No Rights, Little Mercy

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

89. 'Ties with US can harm Iran'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

90. Bush tempers criticism on stalled Mideast democracy, claims Iran poses danger

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

91. No talks with arms

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

92. Focus on forced marriages

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

93. SELF-STYLED MORALITY POLICE NOW COMMONPLACE IN EGYPT

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

94. 'Islamo-fascism' speaker meets controversy at Dartmouth

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

95. Focus on forced marriages

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

96. Islamo-fascism' speaker meets controversy at Dartmouth

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

97. Man fires into food queues

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

98. Letters to the Editor

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

99. Israel Frees 198 Palestinians Before Rice Arrives for Talks

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to

Sep 30, 2008

100. Second attack by a bulldozer in Jerusalem; Only Driver Killed; Incident comes hours before Obama arrives

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

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Sep 30, 2008



Rice prays for peace in holy land

Aberdeen Press and Journal October 18, 2007 Thursday

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Section: Pg. 18

Length: 459 words

Body

Us Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice lit a candle and paused for prayer yesterday at the grotto where Christians believe Jesus was born - urging the people of the Holy Land to "make religion a power of healing".

But in a stark reminder of the Middle East's divisions, Ms Rice also got a firsthand look at Israel's contentious separation barrier on her way to Bethlehem.

Ms Rice has been meeting Israeli, Palestinian and Egyptian leaders this week as part of preparations for a US-hosted peace conference in November or December.

She said her visit to Bethlehem was part of an attempt to assure ordinary people that the US is serious about helping them reach peace.

Ms Rice, the daughter and granddaughter of Presbyterian ministers and a devout Christian, began her day in the West Bank town with a tour of the Church of the Nativity, built over Jesus's traditional birth grotto.

She said the three religions of the region - Judaism, Christianity and Islam - "have an opportunity to overcome differences, to put aside grievances, to make religion a power of healing and a power of reconciliation, rather than a power of divisions".

Later, she met civic leaders and local security chiefs, who told her about the daily difficulties of life under Israeli occupation.

Maha Abu Dayyeh, head of a Palestinian <u>women</u>'s rights centre, said: "We told her that people don't trust any peace process. We said that a sense of security is the basis for any peace, and that this is a Palestinian need."

Throughout the visit, Israeli fighter planes flew overhead.

Bethlehem, just south of Jerusalem, is lined on two sides by Israel's West Bank separation barrier, along some stretches a towering wall of cement blocks.

Town residents need difficult-to-obtain permits to cross through a wall terminal into Jerusalem, and long queues often form during rush-hour.

On Ms Rice's way to and from Bethlehem, her convoy drove through a large gate in the wall, illustrating the reality of separation. She was also able to see the wall and an Israeli army watchtower from the Bethlehem hotel where she met civic leaders.

Rice prays for peace in holy land

Israel started building the West Bank barrier in 2002 as a defence against Palestinian attackers who have killed hundreds of Israelis in recent years.

Palestinians say the barrier's meandering route cuts off large chunks of land they want for a future state, and several Israeli politicians have suggested the barrier could become Israel's border.

Ms Rice did not comment publicly about the barrier.

Elsewhere yesterday, Israeli troops killed a <u>Hamas</u> gunman and Palestinians shot dead an Israeli soldier during fighting in southern Gaza, Palestinian and Israeli officials said.

The gunman was hit by tank fire near the town of Khan Younis during an Israeli military incursion.

Load-Date: October 19, 2007

End of Document



15 Iraqi civilians killed as US aircraft target al-Qaida leaders

The Guardian - Final Edition
October 12, 2007 Friday

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Section: GUARDIAN HOME PAGES; Pg. 3

Length: 449 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg and Ewen MacAskill, Washington

Body

At least 15 Iraqi civilians, including nine children, were killed last night in American air strikes against suspected al-Qaida militants north of Baghdad, the US military said yesterday.

The operations, which inflicted one of the heaviest tolls on Iraqi civilians for months, comes only days after the Iraqi authorities accused private security firms of firing indiscriminately on civilians.

The US military said last night it regretted the deaths of the civilians - six <u>women</u> and nine children - in the strikes near lake Tharthar, 75 miles north of the capital.

"We regret that civilians are hurt or killed while coalition forces search to rid Iraq of terrorism," Major Brad Leighton, a military spokesman in Baghdad, told reporters.

The US military claims it ordered the air strikes after receiving information that senior al-Qaida leaders had gathered for a meeting in the area north of Baghdad.

Four suspected militants were killed in the initial air assault. Fifteen others died in further air and ground raids on a building where the al-Qaida suspects were believed to be meeting, the spokesman said.

The heavy toll follows complaints from the Iraqi prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, that the commander of US forces in Iraq, General David Petraeus, has pursued a heavy-handed strategy that has inflicted a heavy toll on civilians.

The strikes also came on a day when six Iraqi insurgent groups took a step towards unifying the factions fighting the US yesterday by announcing the creation of a political umbrella organisation. A spokesman for the new alliance, his face blacked out, made the announcement on a video broadcast by al-Jazeera. He described the alliance as "the political council of the Iraqi resistance".

The six Sunni groups have been in discussion about the move for months. The aim is to reduce the fragmented nature of the insurgency, but also to try to claim a slice of the political agenda after the expected US withdrawal.

In a lengthy statement published yesterday, the six groups listed a 14-point political programme, of which the first was continued action against US forces. It declared all laws passed by the Iraq government null and void.

The six groups are opposed to al-Qaida in Iraq, which has been behind some of the most spectacular and bloodiest attacks, often on civilians - tactics that have alienated large swaths of Iraq's population. The main reason for the partial success of US deals with local leaders, initially in Anbar province, is widespread hostility towards al-Qaida.

15 Iraqi civilians killed as US aircraft target al-Qaida leaders

The six groups in the alliance are the Islamic Army in Iraq, the al-Mujahideen Army, Ansar al-Sunna, al-Fatiheen Army, the Islamic Front for the Iraqi Resistance (Jami), and Iraqi *Hamas*.

Load-Date: October 12, 2007

End of Document



Does Israel need 'tough love?'

The Jerusalem Post
August 6, 2008 Wednesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 14

Length: 1112 words

Byline: JONATHAN S. TOBIN

Highlight: The latest push for pressure to sustain a futile peace process has little to do with reality. The writer is

executive editor of the Jewish Exponent in Philadelphia.

Body

In the wake of Barack Obama's trip to Israel, Republicans and Democrats wasted no time tilting over the meaning of every word uttered by the man.

But amid all the partisan debate, one prominent analyst thought both sides had it wrong. According to Nicholas Kristof, The New York Times op-ed columnist, the problem wasn't whether or not Obama was supportive of Israel. Notwithstanding differences he might have with Republican John McCain, it was Obama's recitation of many time-honored cliches of pro-Israel rhetoric that was, in Kristof's view, unfortunate.

In his July 24 column "Tough Love for Israel?," which echoed "The Two Israels," an earlier piece published on June 22, the Times' resident human-rights advocate opined again that what Israel needs from the United States is the sort of intervention that friends and family of an alcoholic would employ: It must be stopped from destroying itself.

KRISTOF SEES the Jewish state as a sort of schizophrenic country split between its good and bad sides. In his formulation, the "good" Israel is the country of local human-rights groups and journalists who sympathize with the Palestinians and defend them against the nation's security establishment in the courts and media. The "bad" Israel is composed of settlers who supposedly "steal land" from the Arabs, with an army and government that abuses them with checkpoints and barriers.

What Kristof wants is for American presidential candidates to stop pandering to the "Israel lobby," and instead "clarify that the [Israel] they support is not the oppressor that lets settlers steal land and club <u>women</u> but the one that is a paragon of justice, decency, fairness - and peace."

People like Kristof can't be dismissed as Israel- haters, as some on the Zionist Right might like to do. Nor can Jewish groups like the Israel Policy Forum, Americans for Peace Now and the new left-wing lobby J Street be labeled as closet backers of <u>Hamas</u>. When it comes to support for Israel's right to exist, they deserve to be taken at their word when they say they want what's best for the country.

But good intentions notwithstanding, the point of this push for "tough love" is support for a troubling campaign to force Israel to make more unilateral concessions to the Palestinians, no matter what the actual conditions on the ground would dictate as rational policy.

Does Israel need 'tough love?'

The goal of Kristof - and the Jewish groups that seem to agree with him - is to splinter the bipartisan coalition that has remained Israel's ace in the hole in the US. They may not subscribe to every verse of John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt's controversial treatise The Israel Lobby, but they share the revulsion those two authors have for the ability of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and its allies to rally Congress and the vast majority of the American people to head off attempts to strong-arm Jerusalem.

The notion that any American ought to think themselves better qualified than Israel's democratically elected government to decide matters of life and death for that nation is, at best, a curious one. But what makes this latest push to "save Israel from itself" truly absurd is how divorced it is from the facts.

Israel has, after all, spent the past 15 years retreating from a maximalist position on territory and security. The Oslo Accords gave the Palestinians self government. Oslo collapsed due to a Palestinian refusal to end terrorism or accept a state alongside Israel, but three years ago, Israel withdrew every settler and soldier from Gaza. Instead of peace, the Palestinians - under the leadership of the *Hamas* terrorist group - have answered with rockets, missiles and bloodshed.

THE "MODERATE" Palestinian Authority, which Israel and the US still hopes to use as a negotiating partner, is itself compromised by support for terror. But even if one takes its stand on peace at face value, it is a weak structure whose sway only extends to those parts of the West Bank that remain effectively under the control of the Israel Defense Force.

Americans tempted to embrace the "tough love" thesis need to remember that the overwhelming majority of Israelis are already prepared to hand over most of the West Bank to a Palestinian state that will live in peace with them. If there is ever a reasonable chance for peace, they will be the first to seize it. But Israelis know that under the current circumstances, any land handed over will simply become yet another Hamastan terror base.

But none of that seems to matter to Kristof or the true believers in the peace process. For them, the only obstacle remains the presence of Jews in parts of the West Bank and those areas in Jerusalem occupied by Jordan prior to the city's unification in June 1967.

Indeed, Kristof used his column to chide those who rightly pointed out that in the absence of Israeli sovereignty, Jews would (as was the situation prior to June 1967) be unable to even visit holy places in Jerusalem or Hebron. For him, Jews and even Christians have no such right. The only thing that appears to be sacred in his view is the 1949 armistice line, which the late Abba Eban famously dismissed as "Auschwitz" borders because they placed Arab armies and terrorists in position to destroy the state.

Kristof acknowledges Israel's security barrier has stopped the flow of suicide bombers. But in spite of the lives it has clearly saved, he thinks it does more harm than good because it inconveniences Palestinians.

The columnist's preferred policy would be for Israel to negotiate "more enthusiastically" with Syria (the current pace of talks to give back the Golan Heights being too slow for his taste); talk with the Saudis on the basis of their peace proposal, which is predicated on a so-called Palestinian "right of return" (which means the end of a Jewish state); expel Jews from those places that were Judenrein prior to June 1967; and dismantle their anti- terror security checkpoints. He wants an American president who will try to force Israel - for its own good - to do exactly that. For the "tough love" crowd, only Israel has the ability to engender peace. Palestinian intentions, and their culture of terror and hatred for Israel and Jews, are mere details to be ignored.

It's far from clear exactly what an Obama or McCain administration would mean for Israel in the next four years.

But the one thing that friends of Israel should not hope for is a president who thinks he understands things better than the Israelis themselves.

Unlike those who intervene with addicts to give them "tough love," it is Kristof, and those Jewish groups who mimic his position, who are the ones with a tenuous grip on reality.

Graphic

Photo: DISMISSING JEWISH rights to visit holy sites, the 'tough love' crowd sees only the 1949 armistice line as sacred. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011

End of Document



Livni's Rise Sparks Debate on Whether Orthodox Would Back a Woman

The Forward July 4, 2008

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Section: News; Pg. 1 Length: 1232 words

Body

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert managed to hang on to power by his nails last week, after persuading the Labor Party to drop a bill to dissolve parliament just hours before the scheduled vote.

The price Olmert paid was a promise to Labor leader Ehud Barak that the Kadima party will hold new leadership primaries no later than September 25.

Now that a timeframe has been set for a leadership contest, campaigning will begin in earnest, and all eyes are on front-runner Tzipi Livni, the popular foreign minister. Some of the most intense discussion focuses on the question of how the contest will be affected by the fact that Livni is a woman.

When Olmert's corruption scandal broke last month and Livni entered the limelight as a possible replacement, one of the first questions raised by commentators was whether the Haredi parties, representatives of a fast-growing Orthodox community where gender attitudes are becoming increasingly conservative, would go into coalition under her.

Just three months earlier, an incident showed just how problematic the prominence of <u>women</u> in public life has become for the Haredi community. After a commission met to present its findings on the government's conduct of the Second Lebanon War, photographs of the briefing in the Haredi Orthodox press were digitally altered to erase commission member Ruth Gavison, a Hebrew University professor. The move was made to comply with current rulings of the Haredi rabbinate, which prohibit the publication of images of **women**.

Should Livni make it to the top, many Haredi Israelis would still be able to trip over her in the street without recognizing her un-publishable face, but the sector's main political parties have indicated that her gender will not hinder coalition negotiations.

Now, however, experts are casting doubt on whether Livni will get even that far. While she was the front-runner in early opinion polls, pundits are predicting that the run-up to the Kadima primaries will serve as a three-month reminder that Israeli politics is still very much a man's game. This is because security credentials are the expected trump card in convincing Israelis of prime ministerial qualities.

The fact that she is a woman, and as such was not a general in the army, is a real issue for her chances of winning the Kadima primaries, said Rina Bar-Tal, president and chairwoman of the Israel <u>Women's</u> Network. Another commentator, Hebrew University political scientist Naomi Chazan, veteran Israeli feminist and former Knesset member, voiced a similar opinion. People here say political ability, she said, but what they mean is military experience.

Livni's Rise Sparks Debate on Whether Orthodox Would Back a Woman

Livni's gender has been used against her in the past. A year ago, when she called for Olmert's resignation but failed to tender her own, she was widely accused of feminine indecisiveness. Tzipi Livni removed the last doubts as to her compatibility for the post of secretary general of [the <u>women</u>'s organization] Na'amat, or at most, president of the <u>Women</u>'s International Zionist Organization, wrote Ben Caspit, one of the country's leading political commentators, in the daily Ma'ariv.

Gender studies researchers believe that with attitudes like this rife in Israel, the only way Livni has gotten as far as she has in politics is by downplaying her femininity.

Whenever approached to push for progress in <u>women</u>'s rights or rape law, she declined to get involved ever when she was minister of justice, said Orit Kamir, Hebrew University professor of law and gender studies.

Livni's gender neutrality extends as far as it can for a woman, and she is smart enough to disguise her femininity, Kamir said. This means appearing calm and passionless on political matters, avoiding makeup and jewelry, and dressing in dark, ultra-conventional trouser suits that would not be out of place in London or New York, but which no other woman wears here.

Yet there is one symptom of her gender that she cannot hide: her lack of experience in dealing with matters of security. Times have changed since Golda Meir overcame this problem; she was elected when Israelis were on a high, believing themselves incapable of facing defeat after the triumph of the Six Day War. Today they feel deeply threatened by Hezbollah, *Hamas* and Iran. Then people sensed Israel was strong enough not to need a military leader. The same feeling of strength is not present today, Jerusalem Post analyst Calev Ben-David told the Forward.

Livni seems well aware of this. In early June, the Sunday Times of London boasted a scoop with her former colleagues playing up her role in the Mossad in the early 1980s, when she was in her 20s. The newspaper reported that she was a Paris agent when the Mossad ran a series of missions to kill Palestinian terrorists in European capitals. The word around the Knesset is that the story was put out by Livni's people as a bid to address the hole in her curriculum vitae.

Unfortunately for her, whatever she got up to in Paris was small potatoes compared with the security accomplishments of her party rivals. They include Minister of Internal Security Avi Dichter, who is a former director of Shin Bet, and Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz, a former military chief of staff.

What's more, voters in the primaries with reminders from Dichter and Mofaz will be well aware that the party needs a candidate to fight Labor leader and former army chief of staff Ehud Barak, who is (jointly with one other man) the most decorated soldier in Israel's history.

Israel is very much a militaristic country, and by extension one where men are dominant in public life. The mentality is that we need army officers at the top to take care of us, Bar-Tal said. But this is not valid. She can have thousands of military aides next to her who can ensure all the military decisions made are the best.

There have been Israeli leaders who have relied on this principle, including Meir. Olmert's military career was troubled: He began his service in 1963, but was temporarily relieved of duty because of injuries he sustained before enlistment; he eventually finished his military service in 1971 as a reporter for the army magazine, and later completed an officer's course, but he never has been regarded as a military authority.

This sense of following in Olmert's footsteps is unlikely to work for Livni, and is indeed likely to work against her. The Second Lebanon War spooked people, Ben-David said. There is a feeling that the problems there come from the fact that the people at the top lacked military background. After that, people feel the need for a military person at the top.

Chazan notes that this feeling is gaining strength, with the threats of Hezbollah, <u>Hamas</u> and Iran increasingly on people's minds. The longer the campaign for the primaries goes on, the more the security factor will play against Livni, she said.

Livni's Rise Sparks Debate on Whether Orthodox Would Back a Woman

According to Chazan, there is only one way that Livni can deal with the issue. The assumption that it is only military men that can lead Israel has disproved itself, and Livni should break this tradition.

She should realize that her source of strength is that she can propose that what Israel needs is actually a transition to a civilian worldview, which is exactly what she can offer.

Graphic

IMAGE: On the Front Line:Tzipi Livni, shown here peering out from an Israeli military position in the West Bank, hashad her fitness for Kadima party leadership called into question because of a lack of security credentials.; AP PHOTO

Load-Date: June 30, 2008

End of Document



Bush stands by 'chosen people' of Israel

Weekend Australian
May 17, 2008 Saturday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 13

Length: 503 words

Body

JERUSALEM: US President George W. Bush told Israelis yesterday they were a ``chosen people" who could forever count on American support against enemies such as *Hamas* and Iran.

On a day when Palestinians remembered homes and land lost as Israel was created in 1948, Mr Bush made only fleeting reference to their aspirations for a state of their own in a speech marking Israel's 60th anniversary.

Mr Bush said little of the talks he has sponsored in recent months between Israel and the Palestinians, which he hopes can bring a deal on a Palestinian state before he leaves office in January.

There have been few signs of progress in US-brokered negotiations since promises were made at a peace conference in Annapolis, Maryland, in November.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said: ``President George Bush is a great leader, is a great friend, he's a fount of inspiration, and we are proud that we can celebrate the 60th anniversary of the state of Israel with you and your wife here, in our eternal capital -- in Jerusalem."

Speaking of the ``promise of God" for a ``homeland for the chosen people" in Israel, Mr Bush told the Israeli parliament after a visit to the Roman-era Jewish fortress at Masada: ``Masada shall never fall again, and America will always stand with you.

"Israel's population may be just over seven million. But when you confront terror and evil, you are 307 million-strong, because the United States of America stands with you," Mr Bush said.

Letting Iran have nuclear weapons would be an ``unforgivable betrayal of future generations", he said.

Mr Bush described the `bonds of the Book' -- faith in the Bible shared by Christians like himself and Jews -- as bolstering an `unbreakable' alliance between Israel and the US.

Of the Palestinians, half of whom were pushed into exile to make way for the Jewish state, Mr Bush said that, looking ahead another 60 years in the future, ``the Palestinian people will have the homeland they have long dreamed of and deserved".

In scattered protests marking the anniversary of Israel's first day of statehood in 1948, Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip threw rocks at Israeli police and troops, who fired teargas and bullets in the air.

Bush stands by `chosen people' of Israel

In a speech marking what Palestinians call the ``Naqba", or catastrophe, when about 700,000 Arabs fled or were forced from their homes during Israel's foundation, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said Israel's security was dependent on a Palestinian homeland.

"Israel's security is linked to our independence and our security, and the continuation of the occupation and the persistence of the Naqba will not bring security to anyone," he said.

At Masada, a cable car carried Mr Bush high above the Dead Sea to the plateau where, according to a Roman-era historian, 960 Jewish men, <u>women</u> and children committed suicide rather than surrender to Roman legions crushing a rebellion.

Mr Bush flew out last night for weekend talks in Egypt with Mr Abbas and other Arab leaders.

Editor -- Page 32

Load-Date: May 16, 2008

End of Document



World datelines

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

May 31, 2008 Saturday

Copyright 2008 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Length: 511 words

Byline: Compiled from Deseret News wire services

Body

Ecuador: Galapagos volcano

QUITO -- A volcano on the largest of the Galapagos Islands has begun erupting and authorities are evaluating possible dangers to the island's famed plant and animal life, officials said Friday.

Park official Oscar Carvajal told Radio Quito that as many as four lava flows "have consumed a lot of vegetation" but do not pose a threat to the famed Galapagos tortoises. Neither was the eruption endangering people on the island, park official Vinicio Pauta said.

Israel: Mideast leaders to meet

JERUSALEM -- Embattled Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert will meet the Palestinian president before flying to Washington for talks with President Bush next week, a top Palestinian official confirmed Friday.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said Monday's talks would include discussion of a permanent peace agreement and Egyptian attempts to broker a truce between Israel and <u>Hamas</u> in the Gaza Strip.

Jordan: Energy deal signed

AMMAN -- Jordan and France signed an agreement on Friday to help the Arab kingdom develop its nuclear energy program.

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and his Jordanian counterpart, Salaheddine al-Bashir, announced the deal in Amman. France will train Jordanian nuclear scientists and help in uranium extraction, according to the agreement. Uranium is abundant in the desert country.

Spain: Sky-diving plane crashes

MADRID -- Nine sky-divers leapt from a plane in eastern Spain on Friday when the aircraft lost a wing and plunged to earth, killing the pilot and one passenger, according to the country's Interior Ministry.

The News network Cadena Ser, citing local witnesses, reported that four of the parachutists were injured, two of them seriously.

United Nations: Piracy policy

World datelines

A draft U.N. resolution finalized on Friday would allow foreign ships to enter Somali waters to capture and prevent acts of piracy and armed robbery.

Piracy is rampant along Somalia's 1,880-mile coast, which is the longest in Africa and near key shipping routes connecting the Red Sea with the Indian Ocean.

Vatican City: No female priests

VATICAN CITY -- The Vatican insisted Friday that it is properly following Christian tradition by excluding <u>females</u> from the priesthood as it issued a new warning that <u>women</u> taking part in ordinations will be excommunicated.

The move dashed the hopes both of <u>women</u> seeking to be priests and of Catholics who see that as an option for a church struggling to recruit men. A top Vatican official said the church acted after what it described as "so-called ordinations" held in various parts of the world.

Venezuela: Chavez keeps aide

CARACAS -- Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is keeping his information minister in his post despite an offer by the top aide to resign.

Information Minister Andres Izarra had offered to step down after deciding to make private TV channels pay to broadcast the president's speeches -- without consulting Chavez. The state television channel has since announced it will toss out the plan to charge private channels about \$200,000 an hour for the right to broadcast Chavez's speeches.

Load-Date: May 31, 2008

End of Document



TODAY IN HISTORY

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

June 11, 2008 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: GENERAL; Pg. A-2

Length: 507 words

Body

June 11, 1776 The Continental Congress formed a committee to draft a Declaration of Independence calling for freedom from Britain.

1509 England's King Henry VIII married Catherine of Aragon.

1770 Capt. James Cook, commander of the British ship Endeavour, discovered the Great Barrier Reef off Australia by running onto it.

1919 Sir Barton won the Belmont Stakes, becoming horse racing's first Triple Crown winner.

1947 The government announced the end of household and institutional sugar rationing, to take effect the next day.

1963 Buddhist monk Thich Quang Duc set himself afire on a Saigon street to protest the government of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem.

1970 The United States presence in Libya came to an end as the last detachment left Wheelus Air Base.

1977 Seattle Slew won the Belmont Stakes, capturing the Triple Crown.

1978 Joseph Freeman Jr. became the first black priest ordained in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

1985 Karen Ann Quinlan, the comatose patient whose case prompted a historic right-to-die court decision, died in Morris Plains, N.J., at age 31.

2001 Timothy McVeigh was executed by injection at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind., for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people.

Ten years ago Mitsubishi Motors agreed to pay \$34 million to settle allegations that <u>women</u> on the assembly line at its Illinois factory were groped and insulted and that managers did nothing to stop it.

Five years ago Pioneering broadcast journalist David Brinkley died in Houston at age 82. A suicide bomber killed 17 people in a Jerusalem bus blast; two Israeli rocket strikes against <u>Hamas</u> fugitives killed 11 Palestinians in Gaza City.

TODAY IN HISTORY

One year ago A divided panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the Bush administration could not use new anti-terrorism laws to keep U.S. residents locked up indefinitely without charging them.

Virginia In 1864, the largest all-cavalry engagement of the Civil War, which pitted 5,000 Confederate troops under Gen. Wade Hampton against 8,000 federal soldiers led by Gen. Philip H. Sheridan, began at Trevilian Station in Louisa County.

Today's Birthdays Opera singer Rise Stevens is 95. Actor-producer Richard Todd is 89. Actor Gene Wilder is 75. Actor Chad Everett is 71. Comedian Johnny Brown is 71. Former auto racer Jackie Stewart is 69. Singer Joey Dee is 68. Actress Adrienne Barbeau is 63. Rock musician Frank Beard (ZZ Top) is 59. Rock singer Donnie Van Zant is 56. Actor Peter Bergman is 55. Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana is 52. Actor Hugh Laurie ("House, M.D.") is 49. Singer Gioia Bruno (Expose) is 45. Country singer-songwriter Bruce Robison is 42. Actor Peter Dinklage is 39. Country musician Smilin' Jay McDowell is 39. Rock musician Dan Lavery (Tonic) is 39. Rock musician Tai Anderson (Third Day) is 32. Actor Joshua Jackson is 30. Christian rock musician Ryan Shrout (Kutless) is 28. Actor Shia LaBeouf is 22.

Thought for Today "Forgetfulness is a form of freedom." - Khalil Gibran, American poet and artist (1883-1931).

Graphic

PHOTO

Load-Date: June 17, 2008

End of Document



Bush lectures Arab world on repression, women's rights

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

May 19, 2008 Monday

Copyright 2008 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Length: 1173 words

Byline: Terence Hunt Associated Press

Body

SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt -- President Bush lectured the Arab world Sunday about everything from political repression to the denial of <u>women</u>'s rights but ran into Palestinian complaints he is favoring Israel in stalled Mideast peace talks. "Freedom and peace are within your grasp," Bush said despite scant signs of progress.

Winding up a five-day trip to the region, Bush took a strikingly tougher tone with Arab nations than he did with Israel in a speech Thursday to the Knesset. Israel received effusive praise from the president while Arab nations heard a litany of U.S. criticisms mixed with some compliments.

"Too often in the Middle East, politics has consisted of one leader in power and the opposition in jail," Bush said in a speech to 1,500 global policymakers and business leaders at this Red Sea beach resort. That was a clear reference to host Egypt, where main secular opposition figure Ayman Nour has been jailed and President Hosni Mubarak has led an authoritarian government since 1981.

"America is deeply concerned about the plight of political prisoners in this region, as well as democratic activists who are intimidated or repressed, newspapers and civil society organizations that are shut down and dissidents whose voices are stifled." Bush said.

"I call on all nations in this region to release their prisoners of conscience, open up their political debate and trust their people to chart their future," Bush said.

Scattered applause followed, with barely a ripple of reaction later to his declaration than Iran must not be allowed to obtain a nuclear weapon.

Bush arrived back in Washington late Sunday with little to show for the trip. Saudi Arabia rebuffed his plea for help with soaring oil prices, Egypt's leader questioned his seriousness about peacemaking, and there was not enough progress in the peace talks to warrant a three-way meeting of Bush with Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

The Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, did not conceal his disappointment over Bush's remarks to the Israeli parliament. The speech barely mentioned Palestinian hopes.

"We do not want the Americans to negotiate on our behalf," Abbas said Sunday after talks with Mubarak. "All that we want from them is to stand by (our) legitimacy and have a minimum of neutrality." Abbas had dinner Saturday with Bush.

Bush lectures Arab world on repression, women's rights

"In principle, the Bush speech at the Knesset angered us, and we were not happy with it," Abbas said Sunday. "This is our position and we have a lot of remarks (about the speech) and I frankly, clearly and transparently asked him that the American position should be balanced."

Abbas told Israeli parliament member Yossi Beilin on Sunday he would resign if there was no substantial progress in peace talks over the next six months, according to the lawmaker's office.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, on Air Force One with Bush returning to Washington, said there were serious peace negotiations going on in private and that she expected them to intensify in the months ahead. She said Bush inserted the wording in the speech that "I believe" the Palestinians will build a democracy, as a sign of his confidence that will happen.

As for Arab criticism Bush leans too far in supporting Israel, Rice said, "The president isn't pro this or pro that. The president is pro-democracy and pro-peace."

The trip was Bush's second to the Mideast this year. His national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, said Bush might return again before his term ends in January if "there is work for him to advance the peace process."

The White House made clear that Bush's goal for a peace accord before his leaves office does not mean it will be put into place by then or produce an immediate Palestinian state. "That would be a process that would take years," Hadley said.

Bush ended his visit with an address to the World Economic Forum on the Middle East, an offshoot of the annual gathering of political and business leaders in Davos, Switzerland.

After talking privately with key leaders, the president in public touched only broadly on Mideast peacemaking. He did not suggest concrete steps to resolve the generations-old differences standing in the way of an agreement.

"Palestinians must fight terror and continue to build the institutions of a free and peaceful society," Bush said. "Israel must make tough sacrifices for peace, ease the restrictions on Palestinians. Arab states, especially oil-rich nations, must seize this opportunity to invest aggressively in the Palestinian people and to move past their old resentments against Israel."

"And all nations in the region must stand together in confronting <u>Hamas</u>, which is attempting to undermine efforts at peace with acts of terror and violence" from the Gaza Strip, Bush said. <u>Hamas</u>, which the U.S. considers a terrorist group, controls that territory; the U.S.-backed Abbas is in charge of the West Bank.

The heart of Bush's speech was a warning that Mideast nations lag behind the developing world and cannot count on their oil wealth forever.

Bush urged countries to make their economies more diverse, open to free trade, with lower taxes and protection for intellectual property rights.

He called for political changes that bring competitive, legitimate elections where leaders are held to account and appealed to nations to push back against the negative influence of "spoilers" such as Iran and Syria.

He urged an expansion of <u>women</u>'s rights as "a matter of morality and of basic math. No nation that cuts off half its population from opportunities will be as productive or prosperous as it could be. <u>Women</u> are a formidable force, as I have seen in my own family and my own administration."

At the same time, Bush hailed democratic advances in countries such as Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq, Morocco and Jordan and said, "The light of liberty is beginning to shine."

Bush's speech recalled his promise in his second inaugural address to work in every nation for "ending tyranny in our world." One of the obvious targets of his message was Egypt, the country hosting the conference.

Bush lectures Arab world on repression, women's rights

Egypt has often been publicly singled out by his administration, especially in its early years, as a country that needs to do more in terms of political liberalization and democracy. Egypt did hold its first presidential elections in 2005 but pulled back following strong gains by the Muslim Brotherhood in later parliamentary elections.

In addition to Nour's jailing, independent newspaper editors were sentenced to prison for criticizing the president and his government, and hundreds of members of the Muslim Brotherhood were put behind bars. Public criticism of Mubarak's government by the Bush administration, however, has been increasingly muted in recent years as the situation in Iraq worsened and worries grew over Iran, and as the U.S. sought Egypt's help on a Palestinian-Israeli peace deal.

Bush said political changes must accompany economic ones in Egypt.

Associated Press writer Salah Nasrawi contributed to this report.

On the Net: White House site on Bush's trip: tinyurl.com/598kka

Load-Date: May 19, 2008



The fall of Noah Feldman

The Jerusalem Post June 6, 2008 Friday

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Section: BOOKS; Pg. 26

Length: 1258 words

Byline: JONATHAN SCHANZER

Highlight: Can the crisis of Islamic governance be solved by the application of Shari'a law? The writer, a former US Treasury intelligence analyst, is director of policy for the Jewish Policy Center and editor of inFocus Quarterly. He is

author of the forthcoming book *Hamas* vs Fatah: The Struggle for Palestine (Palgrave, November 2008).

Body

The Fall and Rise of the Islamic State By Noah Feldman. Princeton University Press 189 pages; \$22.95

Determined to prove that Islamic law (Shari'a) is compatible with democracy, Harvard law professor Noah Feldman is still laboring to fit a square peg into a round hole.

Five years ago, I reviewed Feldman's After Jihad: America and the Struggle for Islamic Democracy in The Jerusalem Post and concluded that Feldman, then a professor at New York University, adopted "a 'why not?' approach to Islam and democracy," and that he "ignored certain realities" that made the synthesis of Islam and democracy exceedingly difficult.

In his new book, Feldman, who was the center of controversy last June after writing a New York Times essay that slammed the Orthodox Jewish community, attempts to make a more pointed argument. However, The Fall and Rise of the Islamic State fails to convince the informed reader that Islamic law and democracy are destined for marriage.

Feldman's central premise is that the scholars of early and medieval Islam were guardians of justice. These independent scholars, he argues, kept the all-powerful caliph in line by judiciously ensuring that his decrees were in accordance with Shari'a law. The proper application of Shari'a ensured fair governance. Thus, Feldman claims, resurrecting the scholarly class is needed today.

Feldman stands on shaky ground. Where was the scholar- enforced justice during the reign of Fatimid Caliph al-Hakim in 11th-century Egypt? His peculiarities included a restriction on manufacturing <u>women</u>'s shoes; prohibitions against watercress, dates, honey and raisins; a campaign against dogs; and the forbidding of chess.

"The most striking feature of his decrees is, however, their inconsistency," writes noted scholar Hugh Kennedy. "At one time the appearance of the cross in the streets was forbidden as an anti-Christian measure, yet shortly afterwards, all Christians were obliged to wear large crosses, thus making nonsense of the previous decree... At some times he encouraged the spread of Ismaili customs while at others he seems to have permitted Sunni practices which had been banned."

Granted, the role of scholars varied from one caliphate to the next. Hakim's case was among the more extreme. Still, it underscored that under most caliphs, scholars were at the whim of their autocratic rulers. Thus, Feldman

The fall of Noah Feldman

ignores the historical fact that true checks and balances, similar to those of modern democracies, have been largely absent throughout Islamic law's evolution.

Feldman admits that the scholars, particularly during the Ottoman period, were "deeply imbedded in the bureaucratic and institutional structure" of the government. Thus, their rulings meant little, since they did not act as a counterbalance to the executive, and because their authority was minimized. But he loses credibility when he implies that the rightful place of the scholars was "undercut by the introduction of a human source of legislation."

The anti-Western/anti-enlightenment tone is striking. Why is Feldman bothered by the notion that human reason would legislate, rather than Shari'a? Feldman bemoans that the Ottoman legislature was able to "replace the scholars as an institutional source of lawmaking." He then seems to sneer at the modern Turkish constitution, which is devoutly secular, and only lightly peppered with Muslim influence. Turkey is the only democracy in a predominantly Muslim country with real checks and balances. Yet Feldman disdainfully complains that the constitution created by Kemal Ataturk "went further than any other... in marginalizing Islam." Ataturk drew inspiration for his reforms from Europe. Yet, it is highly doubtful that Feldman would argue that secular law is wrong for Europe. Why, then, is secular law good for Europe, but bad for the Muslim world?

That Feldman does not hold Turkey as the best attempt to synthesize Islam and democracy is confounding. Over the last century, outside of Turkey, not one truly representative government has sprouted in the Muslim desert of authoritarianism. Only in Iraq and Afghanistan, where American military intervention toppled tyrants, has democracy shown the most remote signs of promise.

Interestingly, Feldman appears to understand the causes and dangers of Islamism. He notes that the "call for the restoration of the Shari'a in contemporary Islamist politics may be seen in substantial part as a response to this constitutional defect" of the executive eclipsing the state. He also notes that most important Islamist figures are not learned scholars, and that Islamists conveniently seek to implement Shari'a and Islamic values "as they define and apply them," or as Sayid Qutb, the Muslim Brotherhood's oracle in the 1960s put it, "the spirit of Islam." Still, Feldman believes that Islamism, even though it is the ideology that powers *Hamas*, al-Qaida and a host of other deadly terrorist organizations, offers the best hope for marrying Islam with democracy. At this point, Feldman's credibility is irredeemable.

Still, even without Feldman's Islamist apologetics, this short book (which may have been more compelling as a less-repetitive journal article) fails to convince the reader that an Islamic government that "draws upon the best of the old while coming to terms with the new" is feasible.

While melding Islamic law and democracy is a noble undertaking that may yet occur in Iraq and Afghanistan (and perhaps elsewhere), there can be no denying that the Koran provides only a handful of passages (Suras) that even vaguely address governance.

Moreover, some of the laws proscribed in the Shari'a, notably the "Hadd offenses" (also known as Hudud), carry gruesome penalties, reflecting values that would appear to be incompatible with modern conceptions of justice. Indeed, sexual intercourse outside of marriage carries a penalty of stoning to death, while theft is punished with cutting off a hand. While the Judeo-Christian world has rejected similar punishments and religious laws in return for secular law, parts of the Muslim world have not.

Could the Islamic scholars of today help set things straight? Not likely. Even Feldman admits that Saudi scholars "intensively resisted the granting of permission to <u>women</u> to drive cars in Saudi Arabia." This mistreatment of women is decidedly incompatible with democratic values.

Other scholars have endorsed jihadi violence against civilians. Qatar-based Yusuf al-Qardawi ruled that suicide bombing against civilians is permissible. In 2004 he told BBC television, "Allah... has given the weak a weapon the strong do not have, and that is their ability to turn their bodies into bombs as Palestinians do." He later added that suicide bombings "are not in any way included in the framework of prohibited terrorism, even if the victims include some civilians."

The fall of Noah Feldman

The scholars of yore may well have helped to maintain justice in their time. Today's scholars may have a different conception of what justice means. Thus, Feldman appears to have committed an error common among professors of Islamic studies. He has not let go of the past. What held true in centuries past may not hold true today.

Feldman must understand that the proper application of Islamic law is not the answer for the crisis of governance in the Muslim world. Nor is a combination of Islamic law and democracy. The answer lies is tolerance, pluralism and egalitarianism. Once these virtues are upheld and enforced in Muslim states, the exact means through which they are implemented will make little difference.

Graphic

Photo: Noah Feldman. Still unable to make the case for Islamism. (Credit: Courtesy)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



TODAY IN HISTORY

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

April 2, 2008 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: GENERAL; Pg. A-2

Length: 503 words

Body

April 2, 1968 - The influential science-fiction film "2001: A Space Odyssey," produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick, had its world premiere in Washington.

1792 C- ongress passed the Coinage Act, which authorized establishment of the U.S. Mint.

1865 - Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet fled the Confederate capital of Richmond, because of advancing Union forces.

1908 - Actor-dancer Buddy Ebsen was born in Belleville, III.

1917 - President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy." (Congress declared war four days later.)

1932 - Aviator Charles Lindbergh and John Condon went to a cemetery in New York, where Condon turned over \$50,000 to a man called "John" in exchange for Lindbergh's kidnapped son. (The child was not returned and was found dead the following month.)

1974 - French President Georges Pompidou died in Paris.

1982 - Several thousand troops from Argentina seized the disputed Falkland Islands, located in the south Atlantic, from Britain. (Britain took back the islands the following June.)

1986 - Four American passengers were killed when a bomb exploded aboard a TWA jetliner en route from Rome to Athens, Greece.

2005 - Pope John Paul II, who had led the Roman Catholic Church for 26 years, died in his Vatican apartment at age 84.

Ten years ago - Shaking their fists in rage, thousands of mourners marched in a funeral procession in the West Bank for a top <u>Hamas</u> bomb maker, Mohiyedine Sharif, hailed by Palestinians as a martyr and condemned by Israel as a terrorist.

Five years ago - American forces fought their way to within sight of the Baghdad skyline.

TODAY IN HISTORY

One year ago - In its first case on climate change, the Supreme Court declared in a 5-4 ruling that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

Virginia - In 1863, city firefighters turned their hoses on a group of several hundred <u>women</u> protesting high food prices and looting stores in an event that came to be known as the "Richmond Bread Riot."

Today's Birthdays - Actress Rita Gam is 80. Actress Sharon Acker is 73. Singer Leon Russell is 66. Jazz musician Larry Coryell is 65. Actress Linda Hunt is 63. Singer Emmylou Harris is 61. Actress Pamela Reed is 59. Rock musician Dave Robinson (The Cars) is 55. Country singer Buddy Jewell is 47. Actor Christopher Meloni is 47. Singer Keren Woodward (Bananarama) is 47. Country singer Billy Dean is 46. Actor Clark Gregg is 46. Actress Jana Marie Hupp is 44. Rock musician Greg Camp (Smash Mouth) is 41. Rock musician Tony Fredianelli (Third Eye Blind) is 39. Actress Roselyn Sanchez is 35. Country singer Jill King is 33. Actor Adam Rodriguez is 33. Actor Jeremy Garrett is 32. Rock musician Jesse Carmichael (Maroon 5) is 29. Actress Bethany Joy Lenz ("One Tree Hill") is 27.

Thought for Today - "No artist is ahead of his time. He is his time. It is just that others are behind the time." - Martha Graham, modern dance pioneer (1894-1991).

Graphic

PHOTO

Load-Date: April 5, 2008



The Jewish state will co-exist with a Palestinian homeland in democratic; POLITICS-US: An Ocean Apart, Bush, McCain Play to Neo-Con Dreams

IPS (Latin America)
May 16, 2008 Friday

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Length: 1204 words

Byline: Jim Lobe

Body

In separate speeches delivered an ocean apart, the two standard bearers of the Republican Party Thursday offered rosy visions of a future designed to gladden the hearts of Israel-centred neo-conservatives without offering any details about how their dreams will be achieved.

In an address marking the 60th anniversary of Israel's founding before the Knesset in Jerusalem, President George W. Bush predicted that, 60 years from now, the Jewish state will co-exist with a Palestinian homeland in a democratic Middle East where 'Al Qaeda and Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> will be defeated' and 'Iran and Syria will be peaceful nations, with today's oppression a distant memory...'

'From Cairo to Riyadh to Baghdad and Beirut, people will live in free and independent societies, where a desire for peace is reinforced by ties of diplomacy and tourism and trade,' he said.

Such a 'bold vision' will not 'arrive easily overnight', he said. But it will be possible 'so long as a new generation of leaders has the courage to defeat the enemies of freedom, to make the hard choices necessary for peace, and stand firm on the solid rock of universal values.'

Just a few hours later and some 11,000 kms away, Sen. John McCain, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, told a partisan audience in Columbus, Ohio that, if elected, he will have 'won' the Iraq war by 2013 and brought home 'most of the servicemen and <u>women</u> who have sacrificed terribly so that America might be secure in her freedom.'

By the end of his first term, he went on, the threat from the Taliban in Afghanistan will have been greatly reduced, al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden and his key lieutenants captured or killed, and Iran 'persuaded (by) a reluctant Russia and China to cooperate in pressuring Iran to abandon its nuclear ambitions, and North Korea to discontinue its own.'

In contrast to Bush, however, McCain failed to mention any progress on settling the Israel-Palestinian conflict, suggesting that such an effort will not rate particularly high on his foreign policy agenda.

That should be just fine with pro-Likud neo-conservatives who, despite their appreciation for Bush's staunch support for former hard-line Prime Minister Ariel Sharon (whom the president Thursday praised as 'warrior for the ages, a man of peace' in his speech), have been uneasy about his thus far feeble efforts to prod the two sides towards a framework peace agreement by the time he leaves office next January.

The Jewish state will co-exist with a Palestinian homeland in democratic POLITICS-US: An Ocean Apart, Bush, McCain Play to Neo-Con Dreams

Indeed, Thursday's speeches served to underline how powerful and durable the neo-conservative vision of the world, particularly for the Middle East, remains, at least for the Republican Party, and how likely it will be that a President McCain will 'stay the course' set by Bush.

Bush's speech was pure neo-conservatism, beginning with his assurance that Washington was 'Israel's closest ally and best friend in the world' and featuring a familiar depiction of the world as a struggle between the forces of 'good and evil', the latter embodied by the most immediate threats to Israel's security -- <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah, Iran, and Syria.

'Some seem to believe that we should negotiate with the terrorists and radicals, as if some ingenious argument will persuade them they have been wrong all along,' he declared in a thinly veiled slap at the presumptive Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, who, along with most of the U.S. foreign policy establishment, has called for engagement with Tehran and Damascus.

'We have heard this foolish delusion before,' he said, referring to the failure of western powers to challenge the Nazis in the 1930s, a core neo-conservative leitmotif. 'We have an obligation to call this what it is -- the false comfort of appearsement, which has been repeatedly discredited by history,' he continued, implicitly comparing the threats faced by Israel with Nazi Germany and explicitly assuring his audience that '...(T)he world must not allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon.'

But, apart from confronting 'evil', presumably through military force, if necessary, and steadfastly promoting basic freedoms and democracy in the region -- a policy which even some of his neo-conservative backers believe Bush has largely abandoned as he has sought to rally Sunni Arab leaders against Iran and its allies -- Bush offered no ideas as to how his hopeful vision of the Middle East, particularly that of a 'homeland (Palestinians) have long dreamed of and deserved', in 2068 will be achieved.

McCain similarly failed to explain how he would achieve his own vision of victory in Iraq, substantial progress in Afghanistan, a defeated al Qaeda, and Iran's abandonment of its alleged nuclear ambitions by 2013. His comments led Rand Beers, a top counter-terrorism official under both George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton who resigned from the National Security Council to protest the younger Bush's decision to invade Iraq, to compare the speech to Richard Nixon's 'secret plan' to end the Vietnam War as a gimmick to win the 1968 presidential election.

McCain's vision for 2013 was more modest than Bush's for 2068 -- in addition to omitting any mention of an Israeli-Palestinian peace process, he made no predictions about 'transforming' the Middle East as a whole -- but the basic trajectory was consistent.

He described an Iraq at the end of his first term in office as 'a functioning democracy' in which violence would be 'spasmodic (but) much reduced', militias would be disbanded, al Qaeda in Iraq defeated, the central government able to impose its authority 'in every province of Iraq', and the U.S. military presence 'much smaller' and no longer engaged in combat.

And not only would the threat from the Taliban be 'greatly reduced' and the al Qaeda leadership captured or killed, he said, but a newly formed 'League of Democracies' -- another neo-conservative chestnut -- would 'apply stiff diplomatic and economic pressure' on Sudan to stop genocide in Darfur and use similar tools to end gross human rights abuses, such as human trafficking, in other parts of the world.

The absence of detail regarding how these goals will be accomplished drew mainly scorn from both Democrats and independent observers, with the former president of the influential Council on Foreign Relations, Leslie Gelb, describing McCain's vision as 'kind of a wild-eyed, unsupported prediction.'

'I think John McCain has been one of the most important voices on national security policy for many years now, so it really surprises me to see him giving speeches like the one today that are almost in la la land,' Gelb told reporters in a teleconference sponsored by the National Security Network.

The Jewish state will co-exist with a Palestinian homeland in democratic POLITICS-US: An Ocean Apart, Bush, McCain Play to Neo-Con Dreams

At the same time, Sen. Hillary Clinton, who is lagging behind Obama in the race for the Democratic nomination, noted that 'this is not the first time Sen. McCain has predicted victory in Iraq' and that his speech 'promises more of the same Bush policies...'

McCain himself suggested that his worldview was not so different from Bush's. Asked later Thursday about the president's assertion that negotiating with 'terrorists and radicals' today was similar to appeasing Adolf Hitler in the 1930s, McCain said he agreed with the analogy. © 2008 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS - All rights reserved

Load-Date: May 16, 2008



Seven days

The Courier Mail (Australia)

April 5, 2008 Saturday

1 - First with the news Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 50

Length: 529 words

Byline: compiled by Graham Clark

Body

Saturday

UN investigators said a criminal network was responsible for the killing of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik al-Hariri, pictured, in 2005.

US Democrat chief Howard Dean warned presidential contenders Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton not to destroy the party in their bitter battle.

DISGRACED doctor Jayant Patel lost his bid to have US taxpayers foot his legal bill for his extradition battle with Australia over the Bundaberg Hospital deaths.

Sunday

EQUATORIAL Guinea issued an international arrest warrant for businessman Mark Thatcher, pictured, son of former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, accusing him of being an instigator of an abortive coup plot in 2004.

A SURVEY found that many Australians were depressed about their financial prospects with 75 per cent of families interviewed saying they were struggling, in a poll which revealed a marked downturn in consumer confidence.

Monday

ISRAELI soldier Gilad Shalit, pictured, captured by Palestinian militants in 2006, was alive and being treated well, <u>Hamas</u> chief Khaled Meshaal said.

MOBILE phones would overtake asbestos and smoking as a leading public health danger, research by Canberra Hospital found.

LISA Curry-Kenny, who won seven Commonwealth Games gold medals between 1982 and 1990, was recovering from surgery to implant a defibrillator for an irregular heartbeat.

Tuesday

Seven days

FOUNDATION Broncos figurehead Wayne Bennett, pictured, became the country's highest-paid National Rugby League coach after signing a three-year, \$800,000-a-season deal with Sydney's St George Illawarra.

ADVISERS to Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe were in talks with Opposition Leader Morgan Tsvangirai after elections which saw the dictator's 28-year administration close to defeat.

Wednesday

WINDS reaching 140km/h roared across southern Australia, pictured, killing three people in Victoria, unroofing buildings and disrupting traffic in Melbourne and Adelaide.

THE State Government scrapped the controversial western bypass proposal for Brisbane, and said it would instead investigate a tunnel linking Toowong and the northern suburbs.

AUSTRALIAN soldier Jake Kovco killed himself in an irresponsible and reckless act but did not mean to take his own life, a coronial jury ruled.

Thursday

ARGENTINA'S claim to the Falklands, which remain in British hands after a war in 1982, was ``inalienable", the country's new President Cristina Kirchner, pictured, warned in a speech marking the 26th anniversary of her country's ill-fated invasion of the islands.

AL-QAEDA chief Osama bin Laden, believed to be still hiding in the bandit border country between Pakistan and Afghanistan, was ``healthy and well'', the terror network's deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahiri said.

Friday

RESERVE Bank Governor Glenn Stevens, pictured, agreed that many Australians felt aggrieved by high bank profits during the current round of rising interest rates and generally tougher economic times.

THE son of a retired widower in Hampshire, southern England, is offering customers at his local pub \$15 an hour to drink with his lonely father -- but <u>women</u> need not apply, because his father would feel ``uncomfortable" drinking with a woman he did not know.

Load-Date: April 4, 2008



PM lauds Israel, but urges peace

The Australian (Australia)
March 13, 2008 Thursday
2 - All-round First Edition

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Section: LOCAL; Pg. 3

Length: 516 words

Byline: Patrick Walters, Brad Norington, Additional reporting: Paul Maley

Body

KEVIN Rudd praised Israel's democratic achievements as parliament yesterday commemorated Israel's 60th anniversary and stressed the need for an independent and economically viable Palestinian state.

The House of Representatives passed with bipartisan support a government motion marking the anniversary in May, with only Labor backbencher Julia Irwin abstaining from the vote in a protest at human rights abuses by Israel.

The motion left Labor bitterly divided, with Ms Irwin and several affiliated left-wing unions attracting savage criticism for using the occasion to attack Israel.

The Prime Minister was briefly interrupted as he commenced his speech by a <u>female</u> protester in the public gallery who shouted, "What about the UN resolution?", before being escorted from the house. Mr Rudd said that while Israel's history had been marked by bloodshed, there had been signs of hope.

He paid tribute to former Labor prime minister Ben Chifley and foreign minister Bert Evatt for their roles in helping to establish the state of Israel.

"The 60 years since the establishment of Israel have been full of challenges and full of trials," Mr Rudd said. "Similarly the process of the emergence of a Palestinian state has come along a tortuous path -- there has been too much bloodshed."

Brendan Nelson said Australians should remember the freedoms for which Israelis had fought. "In a region of the world that is characterised more by theocracies or autocracies, Israel and the state of Israel is the custodian of the most fragile and yet powerful of human emotions," the Opposition Leader said. "That is hopeful belief in the freedom of man, freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of assembly."

ACTU secretary Jeff Lawrence and Australian Workers Union chief Paul Howes dissociated themselves from leftwing colleagues who put their names to an advertisement in The Australian yesterday condemning the bipartisan motion.

Mr Lawrence said individual unions were entitled to their views, but the ACTU did not endorse the advertisement's claims that Israel's anniversary celebrated ``the triumph of racism and the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians'', or that Israel had poisoned the West's relations with ``the whole of the Arab and Muslim world''.

PM lauds Israel, but urges peace

"We have tried to take a balanced position that supports the right of Israel to exist and a negotiated settlement for the establishment of a Palestinian state," Mr Lawrence said.

Mr Howes went further, saying he could not understand how Ms Irwin or any of his union colleagues could ``line up in support of *Hamas*''.

Among those endorsing the anti-Israel advertisement were the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union and the Maritime Union of Australia. Individuals included former Labor MP Margaret Reynolds and South Australian Democrat Sandra Kanck.

Ms Irwin told The Australian she could not ``congratulate a nation which commits human rights abuses each day and shows blatant disregard for the UN".

Ms Irwin said at least 10 of her ALP colleagues and four Coalition parliamentarians had congratulated her on her stand.

Letters -- Page 15

Load-Date: March 12, 2008



TZIPI LIVNI

Weekend Australian
September 20, 2008 Saturday
1 - All-round Country Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 32

Length: 523 words

Body

CLOSE-UP

ISRAELI Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni was one step closer to becoming the country's next prime minister after winning the leadership of centrist party Kadima. The former Mossad spy and mother of two has been a rising star on Israel's political scene for years and is the Jewish state's most powerful woman.

Ehud Olmert, the corruption-tainted outgoing prime minister, was expected to formally stand down once Livni confirmed she had formed a working coalition.

"Should she succeed in putting together a governing majority in the wake of her primary victory -- no easy task -- she will be Israel's second *female* prime minister after Golda Meir," Tobais Buck wrote in the Financial Times. "But, unlike the uncompromising Meir, (Livni) has pledged to put all her efforts into striking a peace agreement with the Palestinians. That in itself is a striking departure: Livni hails from an ultra-nationalist family but is now seen as one of the chief proponents of a peace deal with the Palestinians in order to safeguard the Jewish state. She has spoken repeatedly about her realisation that Israel can continue to exist as a Jewish and democratic state (only) if the country relinquishes its hold on the Palestinian West Bank, which has been under Israeli occupation since 1967."

According to Bronwen Maddox in The Times, Livni offered the best chance for progress in talks with the Palestinians that have been blocked by the expired powers of US President George W. Bush and Olmert and divisions in the Palestinian leadership. ``Yet if a new US president is to revive them, he will need an Israeli leader prepared to do so too. Livni is the best on offer. She has made an Obama-like case that change and `cleanliness' from the murk of the past should outweigh experience."

Calev Ben-David wrote in The Jerusalem Post that if Livni was going to live up to her promise of change, ``the very first thing she must address as party leader is the state of Kadima itself, and try to reshape her divided and scandal-ridden faction closer to her own image as the straight-talking `Mrs Clean' of local politics. What's more, she must do this while forming a new government, a process that by its nature encourages, if not outright requires, the kind of ideological compromise, political horse-trading and policy dissembling needed to craft a coalition of parties and personalities with differing and sometimes conflicting agendas."

Amir Oren, in Haaretz, predicted 50-year-old Livni would have her work cut out for her. "If she were leading a rock group, we could call it Tzipi and the Expectations. She is expected to form a nimble yet stable government, broad enough to avert early Knesset elections yet efficient enough to work and to make policy. Her first priority will be to

TZIPI LIVNI

briskly de-Olmertise the party and to purge the rot and corruption at the top of the government. Livni has no time. She may find herself leading a state at war not in a year's time but in a month or even a week because it is not only Israel that has the initiative. Its enemies -- Iran, Hezbollah, <u>Hamas</u> -- may be tempted to take advantage of her inexperience."

Load-Date: September 19, 2008



Israeli hawk retires after losing party vote; Minister's exit a blow to new leader

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)
September 20, 2008 Saturday
First Edition

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Section: NEWS; International News; Pg. 14

Length: 523 words

Byline: Jason Koutsoukis, Jerusalem

Body

AS NEWLY elected Kadima party leader Tzipi Livni began talks over a new coalition agreement to govern Israel, her defeated rival Shaul Mofaz dropped a bombshell by announcing his retirement from politics.

The Transport Minister and a former chief of the Israeli Defence Force, Mr Mofaz narrowly lost Wednesday's ballot to decide who would succeed Prime Minister Ehud Olmert as leader of the governing Kadima party.

"Today I have decided, together with my family, that the time has come for a time-out," Mr Mofaz told stunned reporters at a news conference in Jerusalem late on Thursday.

He did not express direct criticism of the way the party primary was held, but was visibly angry and disappointed at losing.

Mr Mofaz's resignation came as a shock to his party colleagues and staff, who had no idea what he planned to say when he called a sudden evening news conference. Ms Livni immediately tried to set up a meeting with Mr Mofaz to get him to change his mind, but he refused.

Mr Mofaz's exit from the political stage comes as a blow to Ms Livni, whose first task since winning the party leadership was to try to unite her colleagues.

The decision to quit politics was all the more surprising given that during the campaign he launched a scathing attack on Ms Livni over reports that she might consider quitting Kadima if she lost the leadership ballot.

"Livni is not a loyal person," Mr Mofaz said at the time. "Kadima is holding democratic elections for the first time and (she) will refuse to accept the results?"

Meanwhile, a day after securing a victory that could make her Israel's second <u>female</u> prime minister, Ms Livni had a productive meeting with the chairman of the religious Shas party, Eli Yishai, who controls 12 seats in the 120-member Israeli parliament, the Knesset.

Shas is currently part of the governing coalition but has threatened to walk out unless Ms Livni agrees to increases in allowances for parents who have more than five children.

Israeli hawk retires after losing party vote Minister's exit a blow to new leader

There were also reports that Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak has threatened not to remain in the coalition and wants to go to elections. According to the daily newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth, Ms Livni is believed to have delivered an ultimatum to Mr Barak: either agree to participate in a government headed by her, or face elections within 90 days.

Ms Livni's election as Kadima leader was welcomed by Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas, whose spokesman Saeb Erekat said he believed that Ms Livni would continue to work towards the creation of a Palestinian state.

"We hope once the dust settles down in Israel, whether they will have a new coalition or whether they go to national elections, is that the path of peace will not be undermined. We hope that the Israelis will choose the path of peace, the path of two states, Palestine and Israel, living side by side in peace and security."

A spokesman for <u>Hamas</u>, the radical Islamic movement that controls the Gaza Strip, said Ms Livni's victory was another indicator of the "collapse in Israeli society after the departure of the founding generation and the takeover by weak personalities beginning with Olmert and then Livni".

Load-Date: September 19, 2008



Livni favoured to take over Israeli party leadership from Olmert

The Australian
September 15, 2008 Monday
2 - All-round First Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 13

Length: 537 words

Byline: Martin Chulov, Middle East correspondent

Body

TZIPI Livni will make a high-stakes play on her way to becoming Israel's first *female* prime minister in 35 years on Wednesday when she contests a party primary vote to replace the incumbent she helped to oust, Ehud Olmert.

Israel's perennially troubled 12th leader now has a maximum of 45 days left to serve, but only three of them as leader of the Kadima party -- a position he inherited from the former prime minister, Ariel Sharon, 33 months ago.

Mr Olmert will remain caretaker prime minister after the Kadima vote for as long as whoever replaces him in the party ballot takes to cobble together a coalition government, which will lead the country until the next general election that most pundits expect to be held early next year.

But with faltering talks with Syria and the Palestinians, a dwindling mandate, a cancer scare and possible criminal charges from a corruption investigation hanging over him, Mr Olmert's effort as a peacemaker appears to have failed.

What remains of Mr Olmert's legacy -- particularly on the Palestinian peace track -- will now probably be inherited by Ms Livni, the ambitious foreign minister who turned on her one-time sponsor in the wake of the failed 2006 war with Hezbollah.

Ms Livni is favoured to roll two rival candidates, Transport Minister Shaul Mofaz and Security Minister Avi Dichter, to become Kadima's second leader, and then run for the prime ministership. Polling shows she has a slight edge on Mr Mofaz and a strong lead over Mr Dichter.

Broader opinion polls show the 50-year-old mother of two rivals the hard right-wing Likud party leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, as preferred prime minister.

A win in the Kadima ballot would put Ms Livni within striking distance of joining Golda Meir to become the country's second *female* leader.

Ms Meir resigned in the wake of Israel's 1973 Yom Kippur war with Egypt and Syria. However, she is fondly remembered by many in Israeli society, who fear the next development in the Jewish state's political life might edge its people further away from peace than ever.

Livni favoured to take over Israeli party leadership from Olmert

Alhough currently coming from similar political viewpoints, Ms Livni and Mr Mofaz have vowed to lead the country on sharply different tracks if elected.

Ms Livni wants to pull together a centre-left coalition and Mr Mofaz has pledged to look towards the Right. Ms Livni favours continuing the peace talks with the Palestinians -- a project instigated by the Bush White House and backed by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Ms Livni lays claim to being Israel's most powerful woman -- and she and Dr Rice have become close during the past 11 months of often fruitless talks between the Olmert Government and the Palestinian Authority led by President Mahmoud Abbas.

However, Ms Livni does not back the second peace track, instigated by Mr Olmert, of indirect talks with the Syrians, claiming it to be a ruse by the Syrians to win favour with the US. She is widely expected to stop the discussions, brokered by Turkey, until Syrian President Bashar al-Assad shows signs of moving away from his key partners, Iran, *Hamas* and Hezbollah, all seen as enemies by Israel.

Ms Livni is campaigning on a message that she is the only candidate who can defeat Mr Netanyahu in a general election.

Load-Date: September 14, 2008



Peace movement hypocrisy

Nelson Daily News (British Columbia)

September 18, 2008 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 7

Length: 524 words

Byline: Roger Pratt, Nelson Daily News

Body

To the Editor:

Re: War Resisters

MP Alex Atamanenko wrote that Robin Long's deportation was a sad day for Canada. I disagree. I believe it was a great decision.

"Peace Activists" call deserters like Robin Long "war resisters." That is a false description. There is a war against the Jews in Israel by <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah, a war against the people of Afghanistan by the Taliban, a war against the people of Darfur by the government of Sudan, and a war against the people of Zimbabwe by Robert Mugabe. Robin Long and his ilk are not resisting any of those wars. In fact, Mr. Long insists that the reason he is against going to Iraq is because it is an illegal war. So, why did he not ask for a transfer to Afghanistan, which is a legal war?

While Mr. Long and his fellow deserters hide in comfort in Canada, Canadian soldiers are being killed in Afghanistan, and unarmed civilian aid workers of many nationalities are being murdered by the Taliban. Two Canadian aid workers were recently murdered. Mr. Long and his associates could have been carrying out guard duty in Afghanistan trying to protect civilians. Unfortunately, Alex Atamanenko and the peace movement seem to care nothing about the people of Afghanistan, and do not care how many schools and hospitals are destroyed, or how many civilians are murdered.

The peace movement claims that NATO's presence in Afghanistan is the problem. This is like saying that the existence of the RCMP and Nelson City Police are the cause of crime in Nelson. Suicide and other bombings and attempted bombings, have been taking place recently in India, Algeria, China and Israel, yet there are no NATO soldiers there. Mr. Long and his ilk seem delusional if they think they can escape terrorist war and violence in Canada. Last month twelve workers for the Canadian company SNC-Lavalin were murdered by jihadists in Algeria. They were constructing a water treatment plant. Mr. Long should know that the terrorist jihadist movement has frequently advertised that it intends to spread its hate-filled war across the entire world, no matter what happens in Afghanistan.

What is truly amazing is the fact that Alex Atamanenko and the peace movement continue to state that they are opposed to all war and violence, yet they refuse to condemn some of the worst atrocities, such as suicide bombings

Peace movement hypocrisy

in markets, on buses, on trains, against pilgrims, against aid workers and against schools and hospitals. Their silence is sweet music to the ears of the jihadists.

In my recent Amnesty International Review it describes some of the events in Zimbabwe. It describes 64-year-old Costa, a widow looking after six orphaned grandchildren. She is banned from buying food from the government store because the authorities believe she supported the opposition party. She has joined WOZA, <u>Women</u> of Zimbabwe Arise. By now most people know about the violence against these <u>women</u>, and against aid workers in Afghanistan, Somalia, and other dangerous places. These <u>women</u> have real courage. They put themselves at risk to make the world a better place.

I regard the peace movement as a movement without a conscience

Roger Pratt

Nelson, B.C.

Load-Date: September 19, 2008



Bush takes soundings on Iran

The Guardian - Final Edition
January 12, 2008 Saturday

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Section: GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 34

Length: 501 words

Byline: Ian Black and Rory McCarthy Jerusalem

Body

President George Bush yesterday began canvassing Arab support for containing Iran as his Middle East tour moved to the Gulf amid concerns about escalating tensions between Washington and Tehran.

En route from Tel Aviv to Kuwait after three days in Israel and the Palestinian territories, Condoleezza Rice, the US secretary of state, dismissed hopes for any sudden breakthroughs towards an agreement - despite the president's insistence that a treaty could be signed before he leaves office. "There isn't going to be a blinding flash in any of this, not on this trip, not on the next trip," Rice said. "But this is a process that is moving forward."

Bush went into talks with the Emir, Sheikh Sabah al Ahmed al Sabah, as well as holding a discussion with Kuwaiti <u>women</u> in the most liberal of the Gulf states. The US is popular there because of its role in the liberation from Iraqi occupation in 1991.

He was also scheduled to address US troops and meet General David Petraeus, commander of US forces in Iraq.

Worries about Iran's nuclear ambitions and backing for radical groups in Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine are expected to be the main theme of talks in Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

US officials acknowledge that Arab-Iranian relations have thawed and that the sense of crisis was defused by the recent US intelligence estimate stating that Tehran ceased developing nuclear weapons in 2003 - though last weekend's naval clash in the Straits of Hormuz was a reminder of the potential for trouble.

In Kuwait, the al-Rai newspaper greeted Bush with a front page editorial headlined: "Mr President, the region needs smart initiatives, not smart bombs." Al-Khaleej, a UAE daily, accused him of "striving to transform the Arab-Israeli conflict into an Arab-Iranian conflict, since nuclear Israel, which is armed to the teeth with weapons of mass destruction, which is aggressive, expansionist, racist and an international outlaw, does not threaten world peace".

Before leaving Jerusalem the president toured the official Holocaust memorial at Yad Vashem. He wore a yarmulke as he placed a wreath at the memorial and lit a torch to the victims of the Nazi genocide.

"I wish as many people as possible would come to this place," he said. "It is a sobering reminder that evil exists and a call that when we find evil we must resist it." He signed the visitors' book and wrote "God Bless Israel". Later, he was flown by helicopter to northern Israel where he visited Capernaum, overlooking the Sea of Galilee, and the Mount of Beatitudes.

Bush takes soundings on Iran

Though Bush called for an end to the Israeli occupation, he did not secure any concrete changes. Mark Regev, a spokesman for prime minister, Ehud Olmert, said Israel hoped for an agreement this year that would "outline the framework" of a future Palestinian state. But Israel wants implementation delayed until the Palestinians dismantle militant groups, including *Hamas*, which won elections two years ago and controls the Gaza Strip.

guardian.co.uk/israel >=

Load-Date: January 12, 2008



Bush urges Arab world to confront threat from 'terrorism sponsor' Iran

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

January 14, 2008 Monday

Copyright 2008 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Length: 503 words

Byline: Richard Wolf USA Today

Body

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates -- President Bush urged the Arab world Sunday to confront a growing threat from Iran, which he described as "the world's leading state sponsor of terror."

During the signature speech of his eight-day trip to the Middle East, Bush also said the region's mostly authoritarian governments must do more to promote human rights and democratic reforms.

Bush accused Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government of sending hundreds of millions of dollars to extremists, including Hezbollah in Lebanon, <u>Hamas</u> in Gaza, the Palestine Islamic Jihad, the Taliban in Afghanistan and Shiite militants in Iraq.

"Iran's actions threaten the security of nations everywhere," Bush told several hundred residents of this wealthy Muslim nation at the Emirates Palace, a \$3 billion hotel.

Bush was to travel to Saudi Arabia today for two days of meetings and social events with King Abdullah in hopes of winning his support for continued pressure on Iran, as well as for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. In recent months, the king has made overtures to Ahmadinejad, inviting him to the Hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, and walking with him arm in arm at a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

He didn't mention it in his speech, but Bush stood by the Pentagon's contention that Iranian boats threatened three U.S. Navy ships in the Strait of Hormuz a week ago, nearly prompting a battle. Iran has questioned the U.S. description of the incident.

The military took the incident "very seriously," White House press secretary Dana Perino said. "All of the people in the military remember what has happened in the past, such as the USS Cole."

The Navy destroyer was struck by a suicide bomber in 2000 while docked in Yemen, killing 17 sailors.

The audience for Bush's 24-minute address in Abu Dhabi was a mix of Muslims in robes and headdresses and business-attired leaders of academia and the media. They politely applauded only twice, upon his introduction and conclusion.

After the speech, Bush ventured to a sprawling horse farm for a traditional desert dinner, outside of a tent set up in the sand. Large carpets with colorful red and white pillows were set up for the meal. Before eating, Bush was shown several prized falcons and even took a turn holding one. When the bird moved suddenly, Bush jumped back a bit but quickly recovered. "You're making him nervous," Bush told the assembled media. "He never had a press conference before."

Bush urges Arab world to confront threat from 'terrorism sponsor' Iran

With his political career nearly over, Bush is using the trip to embark on a new campaign here: fomenting freedom in a part of the world teetering between authoritarianism and fledgling democracy.

He's prodding emirs and kings to moderate their governments and modernize their societies. He's heralding nations that expand <u>women</u>'s rights, such as Kuwait, where Bush met Saturday with <u>female</u> academics and government officials.

On Sunday, he called the war against extremism "the great ideological struggle of our time." Contributing: Associated Press

Load-Date: January 14, 2008



Letters - What brave army bullies orphans?

Irish News

July 22, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: Pg. 23

Length: 578 words

Body

During a recent trip to Palestine to attend a conference on non-violence I was invited by friends to see what was happening in Hebron.

I found the Israeli army threatening to close 14 schools and orphanages.

Eight of these schools and orphanages belong to the Islamic Charitable Society, while the remaining six belong to the Muslim Youth Society.

We went to see a newly built school where the Israeli army welded the gates of the school shut.

The reason given, as for all these closures, was 'security'.

We also visited a boys' and girls' orphanage both under military orders of closure.

International observers are being invited to sleep overnight in the orphanage in an attempt to stop it being destroyed by the Israeli army.

I joined four friends in sleeping overnight in the orphanage - we were alone as the children have gone to friends for the summer.

That night the army did not arrive, but what will happen when there are no internationals to sleep over?

Before our sleep-over we met local Muslims and were hosted to a beautiful meal and great kindness and gratitude for our presence.

The outside world, for the most part, is unaware of the Israeli policy of demonisation and wilful destruction of Muslim institutions, not only in Hebron but throughout the illegally occupied Palestinian territories.

If the schools and orphanages continue to be closed down, and the military continue to destroy these institutions, then 7,000 children will be without school and 4,500 children will be without homes.

The excuse given is that these Islamic institutions are a front for <u>Hamas</u> but the Islamic Charitable Society was established in 1962, and all their financial dealings and accounting are completely open.

The money for the school and orphanages comes from local investments - they have their own businesses - from donors abroad and from Arab and Western countries.

Prince Charles, through a UK Trust has donated towards these orphanages.

I was shocked and horrified to see the destruction of these Islamic institutions.

The threats of the Israeli army against orphans must be loudly resisted by all of us concerned for a peaceful world for Muslim children, indeed all our children.

This behaviour is immoral, unethical and illegal.

Israel should be held accountable by the international community for its abuse of the rights of these children to safety and education.

As occupiers they have legal obligations to protect the occupied, especially **women** and children.

One of the things that struck me during my visit to the illegally occupied territories was the courage, friendliness and resilience of the Palestinian people.

But I was also conscious of the fact that so many of them are traumatised by what is happening, and bewildered that the outside world is silent and inactive in the face of their tremendous suffering.

All occupations come to an end, as this one surely will, but if this occupation continues it will begin to destroy the very soul of the Jewish people and leave a legacy of anger and resentment within some of the Arab people, especially the young, which will take generations to heal.

It behoves the Israeli (and international community) to awaken to the urgency of justice for the Palestinians by ending the siege of Gaza, the occupation of Palestine and moving to build justice and reconciliation while there is still time to turn this around and before more blood of our Israeli/Palestinian brothers and sisters is shed.

MAIREAD MAGUIRE, www.peacepeople.com.

Load-Date: July 22, 2008



Bush canvasses Arab support over Iran

The Irish Times

January 12, 2008 Saturday

Copyright 2008 The Irish Times All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Pg. 10

Length: 502 words

Byline: Ian Black Rory McCarthy in Jerusalem

Body

IRAN: President George Bush has begun canvassing Arab support for containing Iran as his Middle East tour moved to the Gulf amid concerns about escalating tensions between Washington and Tehran.

En route from Tel Aviv to Kuwait after three days in Israel and the Palestinian territories, Condoleezza Rice, the US secretary of state, dismissed hopes for any sudden breakthroughs towards an agreement - despite the president's insistence that a treaty could be signed before he leaves office.

"There isn't going to be a blinding flash in any of this, not on this trip, not on the next trip," Dr Rice said, "but this is a process that is moving forward."

Mr Bush went into talks with the emir, Sheikh Sabah al Ahmed al Sabah, as well as holding a discussion with Kuwaiti **women** in the most liberal of the Gulf states.

The US is popular there because of its role in the liberation from Iraqi occupation in 1991.

He was also scheduled to address US troops and meet Gen David Petraeus, commander of US forces in Iraq.

Worries about Iran's nuclear ambitions and backing for radical groups in Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine are expected to be the main theme of talks in Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

US officials acknowledge that Arab-Iranian relations have thawed and that the sense of crisis was defused by the recent US intelligence estimate stating that Tehran ceased developing nuclear weapons in 2003 - though last weekend's naval clash in the Straits of Hormuz was a reminder of the potential for trouble.

In Kuwait, the al-Rai newspaper greeted Mr Bush with a front-page editorial headlined: "Mr President, the region needs smart initiatives, not smart bombs."

Al-Khaleej, a UAE daily, accused him of "striving to transform the Arab-Israeli conflict into an Arab-Iranian conflict, since nuclear Israel, which is armed to the teeth with weapons of mass destruction, which is aggressive, expansionist, racist and an international outlaw, does not threaten world peace".

Before leaving Jerusalem, the president toured the official Holocaust memorial at Yad Vashem. He wore a yarmulke as he placed a wreath at the memorial and lit a torch to the victims of the Nazi genocide.

Bush canvasses Arab support over Iran

"I wish as many people as possible would come to this place," he said. "It is a sobering reminder that evil exists and a call that when we find evil we must resist it." He signed the visitors' book and wrote "God Bless Israel".

Later, he was flown by helicopter to northern Israel where he visited Capernaum, overlooking the Sea of Galilee, and the Mount of Beatitudes.

Although Mr Bush called for an end to the Israeli occupation, he did not secure any concrete changes.

Mark Regev, a spokesman for prime minister Ehud Olmert, said Israel hoped for an agreement this year that would "outline the framework" of a future Palestinian state.

However Israel wants implementation delayed until the Palestinians dismantle militant groups, including *Hamas*, which won elections two years ago and controls the Gaza Strip.

Load-Date: January 12, 2008



Arrests made in West Bank killing of 2 Israelis, Arab says

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

December 30, 2007, Sunday

Copyright 2007 Charleston Newspapers

Section: NEWS; Pg. P3B

Length: 486 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

JERUSALEM - The Palestinian prime minister said Saturday his security forces had arrested a number of suspects in the killings of two off-duty Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and had given Israeli authorities weapons taken from the dead men by their attackers.

Sharing a podium with Israeli President Shimon Peres at an economic conference near Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Salam Fayyad expressed "heartfelt" condolences to the families of the Israelis and sought to limit diplomatic fallout for peace talks which just restarted after a seven-year hiatus.

"In spite of our best efforts, from time to time our relations get tested with an incident like this, unfortunately," Fayyad said. "This is a sad reality. It's something that we have to deal with."

Peres responded positively, speaking, like Fayyad, in English.

"The way you expressed yourself, and your government did, on the last incident is encouraging for us," he said. "It was a painful experience, but we are listening very carefully to your reaction, both in what you said and what you do."

The two armed off-duty soldiers were hiking Friday in hills north of the Palestinian town of Hebron in the West Bank when they were attacked by a group of Palestinian gunmen in a car. They returned fire and killed one of their attackers before they died.

Both the Israelis were in their 20s and residents of the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, close to Hebron where about 500 Jewish settlers live in heavily guarded enclaves among about 160,000 Palestinians in Hebron in an atmosphere of mutual hostility.

A <u>female</u> companion hiking with the soldiers, also from Kiryat Arba, fled the attack and escaped unharmed after hiding among trees.

A statement from the Yesha settlers' council blamed the attack on Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's recent initiative to seek cabinet approval for the release of Palestinians involved in failed attacks on Israelis - an effort to trade them for an Israeli soldier captured by Gaza militants in June 2006.

The killings posed a new challenge for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks formally relaunched at a U.S.-hosted Mideast summit last month. A key Israeli demand is that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas rein in Palestinian militant groups and Fayyad said Saturday the arrests were proof of his government's determination to do so.

Arrests made in West Bank killing of 2 Israelis, Arab says

"We have suspects in custody already. We are coordinating and cooperating with the Israeli security services, weapons have already been returned to Israeli security in connection with this particular incident," he said. "So it's not only strong words of condemnation, it's action."

Fayyad did not say how many suspects had been arrested or give further details and the Israeli military had no immediate confirmation of the arrests.

There was also internal Palestinian trouble, as Abbas' Fatah movement looked to be squaring off for a fresh showdown with the radical Islamic *Hamas* group, which rules the Gaza Strip.

Load-Date: December 31, 2007



<u>Letters</u>

The Jerusalem Post August 8, 2008 Friday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 14

Length: 560 words

Byline: Jack Cohen, Barbara Shamir, Hilary Gatoff, Israel Pickholtz, Terry G.C. Ting, Elie Feuerwerker

Highlight: Readers' Letters

Body

Sink this 'cruise'

Sir, - I disagree with Yehudit Collins ("Memorable cruise," Letter, August 7). This "cruise" by international leftist dupes to supposedly break the Gaza blockade is a publicity stunt intended to embarrass Israel and provide support to the <u>Hamas</u> terrorist regime that is the occupying power in Gaza (according to the PA in Ramallah).

Israel should do what any self-respecting country would do: respond seriously and definitively, in a way that will put a stop to any further such attempts.

Let them see we mean business, otherwise we will forever be partners in the continuing process of trivialization of the Palestinian war against us.

JACK COHEN

Netanya

Nail on the head

Sir, - Arieh Eldad hit the nail on the head in "It's embarrassing to be an Israeli" (August 7). The people of Israel deserve better than a system where Kadima's candidates for prime minister are currently buying votes.

BARBARA SHAMIR

Beit Horon

Livni and Meir

Sir, - After I submitted a lighthearted letter about Tzipi Livni's personal appearance (which, admittedly, is not vital to her ability to be prime minister) I was amused to see an experienced journalist like Hillel Halkin write "Livni is a blandly personable woman who keeps tossing the hair out of her eyes" ("National elections, now," August 6).

But, in all seriousness, is she really of the caliber of Golda Meir?

HILARY GATOFF

Letters

Herzliya Pituah

No give, no get

Sir - It seems to me that people who object to the removal of organs because brain death may not be sufficient should certainly object to having their own failing organs removed in order to replace them with healthy ones.

If you take a deliberate step to prevent your organs from being used for transplant, logically and automatically you should thereby disqualify yourself from receiving organs should you need them ("Edah Haredit to distribute "Card of Life' to reject organ donations," August 7).

ISRAEL PICKHOLTZ

Jerusalem

Chinese Taipei

Olympic team

Sir, - Today, we are witnessing a time when relations across the Taiwan Straits are moving in a positive direction, after being in high tension for many years. After May 20, when Dr. Ma Ying-jeou was inaugurated as our new president, and especially after July 4, when weekend direct charter flights between Taiwan and mainland China started operating regularly, both sides have demonstrated good will.

With the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games today, the Chinese Taipei Olympic Team is in Beijing with its 80 athletes, 44 men and 36 *women*, who will participate in 15 Olympic events.

We wish them all success and hope the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games will be smoothly successful ("Great first impression," Allon Sinai, August 6).

TERRY G.C. TING

Representative

Taipei Economic &

Cultural Office

Tel Aviv

Aunt Rose, hero

Sir, - When Iread "'Exodus' passenger finally makes aliya" (July 23) it made me think of my aunt Rose Warfman (her maiden name was Gluck), who lives in Manchester, England.

Together with Abbe Joseph Glasberg, a Jew who had become a Catholic priest - and who saved thousand of Jews during WWII, becoming a Righteous Among the Nations - she made up, in France, false identity cards for the passengers of the Exodus 1947.

Herself a survivor of Auschwitz and of Gross-Rosen, she helped other Jews return to their homeland. Her work and dedication live on.

ELIE FEUERWERKER, Highland Park, New Jersey

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



<u>Letters</u>

The Jerusalem Post January 7, 2008 Monday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 14

Length: 1131 words

Byline: Jonathan Feldstein, David Lloyd Klepper, David Schoen, Avigdor Bonchek, Jay Zuckerman, Fred Crown-

Tamir, I. Lewis, Daniel Rainer, Victoria Feinerman, M.M. Van Zuiden

Highlight: Readers' Letters

Body

Super-heroes

Sir, - The overall impression I got from reading Herb Keinon's and David Horovitz's interview with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was of a man who views himself as a sort of super-hero in his own comic book, illustrated by pictures of the friends to which he kept pointing and alluding to during the interview: "Impressive-Man" Putin, "Very Impressive-Man Mubarak," "Exceptional-Man" King Abdullah II, Reformed-Terrorist-Man Abbas, and "Giant Friend-of-Ours" Bush.

Olmert related his adventures with these other super- heroes as if they were enough to pass off as leadership ("Every solution will be painful," January 4).

JONATHAN FELDSTEIN

Efrat

Sir, - Our prime minister seems unaware of what Palestinian children are taught, what Palestinian imams teach in mosques, and what Mahmoud Abbas's speeches to the Palestinians in Arabic actually say. I believe most Israelis would agree that the pains Olmert seems willing to help inflict on us will simply lead to more and worse pain.

DAVID LLOYD KLEPPER

Jerusalem

Sir, - Among the most striking aspects of the interview were Olmert's completely inappropriate, and wrong, "admissions" that Israel has violated its commitments and, perhaps more tellingly, his claim that Israelis have to understand that Israel's closest allies, including the US, envision an Israel with 1967 borders.

Olmert could not be more wrong when it comes to public opinion and political analysis in the US. No responsible member of Congress sees an Israel with 1967 borders, and in visit after visit to Capitol Hill we hear the same refrain, that Olmert has either misread the political will here or deliberately undercut it for his own agenda - as they complained Ehud Barak did in earlier years.

DAVID SCHOEN

Atlanta

Sir, - A deep-seated need for friends "out there" instead of securing safety here has guided Ehud Olmert for years. What about the age-old question: What have they done for us lately? Where were our friends as Hizbullah armed itself to the teeth following the UN truce which forbade that; and as <u>Hamas</u> has followed suit via the Philadelphi corridor, which we gave up in return for our friends' promises? Where have our friends been as our Negev is bombarded daily for years?

And where will our friends be when, within the '67 borders, we are bombarded daily from the West Bank? Answer: Where they have always been - at home, saying good things about us.

AVIGDOR BONCHEK

Jerusalem

Democracy ain't all

Sir, - In "The asymmetry confronting Bush" (January 4) David Horovitz noted the "urgency of the democratic dangers" as evoked by Prime Minister Olmert. He concurred that such concern is appropriate, as sooner or later "a compromise will have to be made between the river and the sea over either territory, democratic rights, or the Jewishness of Israel," and that the vast majority of Israelis are "not prepared to compromise on a Jewish state and a democratic one."

However, as recent reality has shown, if Israel were to withdraw from the West Bank without an appropriate security apparatus - as may happen in the foreseeable future and as occurred in Gaza - then I think a majority of Israelis, their homes threatened on a daily basis by a barrage of Kassams, Grads or Katushyas, would (unfortunately) prefer to rule another people - yes, undemocratically.

JAY ZUCKERMAN

Oranit

Good plan!

Sir, - Seth Clyman's solution to end the Kassam rocket attacks in Sderot was right on! I would only add the suggestion that Mahmoud Abbas be invited to set up his tent next to Bush ("My plan to stop the Kassams now," Letters, January 6).

FRED CROWN-TAMIR

Mevaseret Zion

Vilna'i on Barghouti

Sir, - Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilna'i's remarks about releasing Marwan Barghouti were ill-advised, to say the least ("Vilna'i backs Barghouti release as part of Schalit prisoner swap," January 6). When will our leadership understand that <u>Hamas</u>, and Fatah, care nothing for the Palestinian prisoners, who are considered only a tool to impress the gullible Europeans and others, and for use as a bargaining chip.

To underline this I suggest we choose up to 50 Palestinian prisoners who would be exchanged for Gilad Schalit. Every day they should be placed on a bus ready to go, and returned to captivity every evening that agreement is not reached, with articles and photos sent to every available international news agency.

The opinion and support of the international community are crucial to the Palestinians, and publicity showing how little the Arabs actually care for their brethren might ring a bell with that community and have some positive results here in Israel.

I. LEWIS

Netanya

Lantos & Wallenberg

Sir, - It is symbolic that Rep. Tom Lantos (D- Burlingame) announced his illness and his stepping-down in the same month that we commemorate the day Raoul Wallenberg - the man who saved Lantos and his wife more than 60 years ago - was taken by the Soviets, never to be seen again ("Lantos to quit US Congress," January 3).

Lantos never forgot the man who saved his life. When elected to Congress in 1981, he was the driving force behind president Reagan awarding Wallenberg honorary US citizenship. Lantos was also the first to sign our "100,000 Names for 100,000 Lives" campaign to disclose the fate of Wallenberg. We know he will continue his work to preserve the memory and uncover Wallenberg's fate.

DANIEL RAINER

Int'l Raoul Wallenberg

Foundation

Jerusalem

Why new moms

get depressed

Sir, - Re "Post-natal depression hits 1 in 10" (January 6): A woman is often expected to experience the discomforts of pregnancy in silence since "pregnancy is not a disease," undergo natural childbirth since "women have been doing it since the beginning of time," breastfeed successfully since "any woman can do it if she really wants to" and return to her pre-pregnancy weight by her first postpartum checkup or else she's "let herself go." On top of it all, she is expected to forget what she went through giving birth, because "it's all worth it."

Personally, I have been subjected to a midwife who told me to "stop being a baby"; a gynecologist who castigated me for not losing my "baby fat" by my six-week checkup, and numerous Tipat Halav nurses who harshly criticized me for everything from not breastfeeding to not hanging a toy on the carriage.

Pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period are physically and emotionally challenging; however, <u>women</u> are expected to remain silent regarding their experiences, while taking the abuse of others. Is it any wonder that 10% suffer from depression?

VICTORIA FEINERMAN

Petah Tikva

35, and counting

Sir, - Mazal tov to Yaakov Kirschen for his first 35 years of Dry Bones (January 6). I once wrote him a criticism of an inadvertent mistake he used to make frequently, and he's never done it again. Keep up the good work!

M.M. VAN ZUIDEN

Jerusalem

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Attack Raises Questions About East Jerusalem

The Forward July 11, 2008

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Section: News; Pg. 5 **Length:** 550 words

Body

The deadly terrorist attack by an Arab bulldozer driver on a crowded street July 2 raised questions anew about how Israeli authorities can protect against attacks by Ione Palestinian assailants from East Jerusalem, who carry Israeli identity cards and may travel freely around the Jewish state.

At least three people were killed, and dozens injured, in the noontime attack on Jaffa Road.

Husam Duwayat, a 30-year-old father of two from East Jerusalem, plowed through traffic on one of the busiest streets in the Israeli capital, overturning a commuter bus, crushing cars and sending pedestrians on a mad rush for safety.

It was terrible, like nothing you could imagine, a bus passenger who gave her name as Bat-El told Israel Radio.

Policemen and an armed civilian ended the rampage by scrambling aboard the 20-ton bulldozer and shooting Duwayat at point-blank range. The brutal scene was captured on film and broadcast around the world.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the rampage, prompting speculation that Duwayat, who had been working at a construction site nearby, turned violent spontaneously. Police said he had a criminal record but no known terrorist ties.

It was the second attack in Jerusalem in five months by a lone Arab assailant from East Jerusalem. The previous attack was a shooting spree at a Jerusalem yeshiva in March, which left eight students dead.

Israel's West Bank security fence and regular Israel Defense Forces counterterrorist operations and intelligence gathering in Palestinian-populated territories have dramatically reduced terrorist attacks against Israelis from their highs during the second intifada. But such security measures provide little defense against attacks like that on July 2, in which an Arab from an area west of the security fence, apparently acting alone, perpetrated a deadly attack using relatively unsophisticated weaponry.

The March attack at the Mercaz HaRav yeshiva bore the same hallmarks.

The terrorists never tire of thinking up original ways to strike, said Jerusalem's mayor, Uri Lupolianski. It's no accident they choose Jerusalem. This is the heart of the State of Israel, of the Jewish people.

After the attack, Israeli Industry

Attack Raises Questions About East Jerusalem

and Trade Minister Eli Yishai called for the terrorist's house in the Sur Bacher neighborhood of Jerusalem to be demolished a punitive measure commonly used in the West Bank and Gaza until recently, when it was discontinued amid criticism by civil liberties groups.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert ordered his ministers and legal advisers to assess the legal implications of taking such action, promising an answer by day's end.

Pending a decision, police raided the house in search of clues as to Duwayat's motives. As they left, a *female* relative ululated from a balcony to watching journalists: Husam's a martyr! May God have mercy on his soul.

The attack came as Olmert struggled to preserve a two-week-old cease-fire with <u>Hamas</u> in Gaza. The cease-fire has been interrupted multiple times by rockets and shelling from Gaza.

Islamic Jihad, which has claimed responsibility for some of that rocket fire from Gaza, praised Duwayat's attack.

The Fatah-led Palestinian Authority issued a condemnation of the attack.

Load-Date: July 8, 2008



The Jerusalem Post

February 6, 2008 Wednesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 14

Length: 1179 words

Byline: Raymond Cannon, Martin Lewis, Sydney Davis, Rachel Birati, Zev Chamudot, Mavis Mantai, Peter

Simpson, Paul Sandler, Libby Werthan, H. Friedman

Highlight: Readers' Letters

Body

No immunity...

Sir, - Given that <u>Hamas</u> in Gaza takes orders from its leadership based in Syria, it must be legitimate to hold the Syrian regime responsible for terrorist attacks against Israel, a sovereign member state of the UN, whether by suicide bombers or rockets.

Syria must not be allowed to assume it is immune to any retaliation for offering comfort, shelter and active support to an organization internationally recognized as a terrorist outfit ("MKs from all camps call for boost in security along southern border," February 5).

RAYMOND CANNON

Netanya

...but with impunity

Sir, - When will we learn that the Palestinians do not want peace with us, only to score political points - and gain even more financial support for their cause - by throwing out an occasional olive branch via the international media?

Your February 5 photo of a Palestinian handing out sweets, and TV footage of Palestinians dancing in the streets after an innocent civilian's murder by the brave freedom fighters of Palestine tell the real story.

MARTIN LEWIS

Ramat Gan

How depressing!

Sir, - I could not agree more with your February 4 editorial about the political behavior of our current leaders; except for the title, "Devalued norms." I believe this kind of behavior is what we have to expect from politicians. And therein lies our problem because in these times we need leaders who are statesmen, not politicians.

See Webster's New World Dictionary for one definition of "politician": "frequently used in a derogatory sense, with implication of seeking personal or partisan gain, scheming, opportunism, etc." A statesman, on the other hand, is "a person who shows wisdom, skill and vision in conducting state affairs and treating public issues."

SYDNEY DAVIS

Jerusalem

Sir, - This editorial was both enlightening and depressing. Enlightening, because of its lucid analysis; depressing because it afforded us little light at the end of the tunnel. "However long the Olmert government manages to survive in office," you concluded, "one fears the devalued political culture it has embraced will be with us for a lot longer."

RACHEL BIRATI

Melbourne

Barking up

the wrong tree

Sir, - It seems puzzling and contradictory for Sheldon Schreter, who left his native Canada in 1976 to make aliya to Israel and bemoans the loss in the "belief in God's promise of this Land to Abraham," to speak disparagingly of "messianist ideologies" and vigorously advocate the removal of all post-'67 settlements ("For the cause, the settlements must go," January 30). Even more bewildering is his haste to uncritically accept the defamation of settler behavior and repeat horrid accusations concerning abominations committed in the West Bank in the name of the Jewish people.

As someone who came on aliya before Schreter, my belief in the rightness of our cause has grown in strength, accompanied by a feeling of inspiration almost entirely due to witnessing the settlers' idealism, courage and dedication to the original values of our Zionist founding fathers.

I find myself dumbfounded by Schreter's naive and distorted ideas regarding the cures for our internal strife, and his panacea for bringing about peace with our enemies. He insists that our dismantling the settlements will gain us both security and respect in the international community. Surely the tragedy that resulted from the abandonment of Gush Katif should convince Schreter that he is barking up the wrong messianic tree.

ZEV CHAMUDOT

Petah Tikva

Be of good courage

Sir, - Israel needs to stop making concessions to appease the Palestinians. Have you not leaned that this is counterproductive? God gave the land of Israel to the Jews; it is not to be given away.

We are behind Israel 100%. Stick to your guns. I am a Christian, and I love the Jews and the land of Israel. I pray for the peace of Israel, and God has greatly blessed me because of it. As God tells us in Genesis: "Those who bless you will be blessed, and those who curse you will be cursed." God will continue to defend you as He has in the past so many times.

Hang in there, be of good courage.

MAVIS MANTAI

Hinton, Alberta

Who gets

the last laugh?

Sir, - However heartening it is that Bryan Reuben is a sophisticated person who is not taken in by anti-Israel propaganda served up by the choice of guest speakers chosen by Limmud in the UK, he should recognize that all he is achieving is giving a free platform to those enemies of Israel ("In defense of Israel," February 3). How could the UK have become a world center for pro-<u>Hamas</u> propaganda and originator of the academic boycott against Israel if not for a good number of individuals lacking in-depth knowledge of the Israel-Arab conflict falling victim to such propaganda? If Prof. Reuben were living in the mid-'30s and Limmud had existed then, would he have supported inviting Goebbels, citing his right to free speech?

In any event, he should know that Rabbi Shlomo Riskin was permitted a slot at Limmud only in response to pressure after it was known that Saeb Erekat had been invited. Of course Erekat got the last laugh, as while in all probability he never intended to come, the Anglo-Jewish community was left divided. Limmud's organisers should have known better.

PETER SIMPSON

Jerusalem

Sir, - When will Israel finally start taking its international PR seriously? Spokesmen such as Aryeh Mekel and Avi Pazner simply do not make the grade - it is vital to ensure that all our English-language spokesmen can communicate as articulately as Mark Regev and Micky Rosenfeld, or the splendidly eloquent Bibi Netanyahu.

PAUL SANDLER

Tel Aviv

Beyond sportsmanlike

Sir, - What you labeled "The wonderful craziness of the crowd at Ramat Hasharon" (Sports, February 4) was anything but wonderful. Being high-spirited and supportive at athletic events is part of the fun, but what happened on Sunday at the Fed Cups matches was disruptive, crude and disrespectful to all the players.

Cheering loudly is certainly appropriate - but disrupting the play by extended chanting, booing and whistling during a serve, and calling a ball out is beyond sportsmanlike behavior in tennis.

Tennis is a game of individuals, demanding the utmost concentration and flow. The crowd on Sunday was trying to influence the outcome of the game rather than letting the <u>women</u> play. In doing so they didn't help, but came off as unsophisticated and rude spectators.

This is hardly an image we should project to the world of tennis.

LIBBY WERTHAN

Jerusalem

Sir, - Forget "Israeli nationalism" and "gleeful Israeli support" - call it what it was: plain bad manners. And there is no excuse because anyone who enjoys tennis has watched enough games on TV to know how tennis spectators behave.

It may be the lack of exposure to sport facilities and culture in schools, or coaches (and parents) who fail to emphasize the importance of manners in sport, and elsewhere. Whatever the reason, the results are deplorable.

I am embarrassed. The tone of this article implied that the Israeli crowd was "cute." In fact, it was a moment of lost opportunity for the Israeli sports fans.

H. FRIEDMAN, Yedidya

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Seeds of Hate

The New York Times

January 6, 2008 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section 7; Column 0; Book Review Desk; Pg. 9

Length: 1154 words

Byline: By JEFFREY GOLDBERG

Jeffrey Goldberg is a national correspondent for The Atlantic and the author of "Prisoners: A Muslim and a Jew

Across the Middle East Divide."

Body

JIHAD AND JEW-HATRED

Islamism, Nazism and the Roots of 9/11.

By Matthias Kuntzel.

Translated by Colin Meade.

180 pp. Telos Press Publishing. \$29.95.

One day in Damascus not long ago, I visited the understocked gift shop of the Sheraton Hotel, looking for something to read. There wasn't much: pre-owned Grishams, a hagiography of Hafez al-Assad, an early Bill O'Reilly (go figure) and a paperback copy of "The International Jew," published in 2000 in Beirut. "The International Jew" is a collection of columns exposing the putative role of Jews in such fields as international finance, world governance and bootlegging. "Wherever the seat of power may be, thither they swarm obsequiously," the book states. These columns, which are based on the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" -- they are a plagiary of a forgery, in other words -- were first published in Henry Ford's Dearborn Independent more than 80 years ago.

Next to "The International Jew" was a copy of "The Bible Came From Arabia," a piece of twaddle that suggests the Jews are not Jews and Israel isn't Israel. And then there was a pamphlet called "Secrets of the Talmud." Not knowing these secrets (I was raised Reform), I started reading. The Talmud apparently teaches Jews how best to demolish the world economy and gives Jews the right to take non-Jewish <u>women</u> as slaves and rape them.

The anti-Semitic worldview, generally speaking, is fantastically stupid. If its propagandists actually understood the chosen people, they would know, for instance, that no one, not the chief of Mossad, not even the president of Hadassah, could persuade 4,000 Jews to stay home from the World Trade Center on Sept. 11. ("And why should I listen to you?" would have been the near-universal rebuttal to the call.) Anti-Semitic conspiracy literature not only posits crude and senseless ideas, but also tends to be riddled with typos, repetitions and gross errors of grammar, and for this and other reasons I occasionally have trouble taking it seriously.

Seeds of Hate

The German scholar Matthias Kuntzel tells us this is a mistake. He takes anti-Semitism, and in particular its most potent current strain, Muslim anti-Semitism, very seriously indeed. His bracing, even startling, book, "Jihad and Jew-Hatred" (translated by Colin Meade), reminds us that it is perilous to ignore idiotic ideas if these idiotic ideas are broadly, and fervently, believed. And across the Muslim world, the very worst ideas about Jews -- intricate, outlandish conspiracy theories about their malevolent and absolute power over world affairs -- have become scandalously ubiquitous. Hezbollah and *Hamas*, to name two prominent examples, understand the world largely through the prism of Jewish power. Hezbollah officials employ language that shamelessly echoes Nazi propaganda, describing Jews as parasites and tumors and prescribing the murder of Jews as a kind of chemotherapy.

The question is not only why, of course, but how: how did these ideas, especially those that portray Jews as all-powerful, work their way into modern-day Islamist discourse? The notion of the Jew as malevolently omnipotent is not a traditional Muslim notion. Jews do not come off well in the Koran -- they connive and scheme and reject the message of the Prophet Muhammad -- but they are shown to be, above all else, defeated. Muhammad, we read, conquered the Jews in battle and set them wandering. In subsequent centuries Jews lived among Muslims, and it is true that their experience was generally healthier than that of their brethren in Christendom, but only so long as they knew their place; they were ruled and taxed as second-class citizens and were often debased by statute. In the Jim Crow Middle East, no one believed the Jews were in control.

Obviously, then, these modern-day ideas about Jewish power were imported from Europe, and Kuntzel makes a bold and consequential argument: the dissemination of European models of anti-Semitism among Muslims was not haphazard, but an actual project of the Nazi Party, meant to turn Muslims against Jews and Zionism. He says that in the years before World War II, two Muslim leaders in particular willingly and knowingly carried Nazi ideology directly to the Muslim masses. They were Haj Amin al-Husseini, the mufti of Jerusalem, and the Egyptian proto-Islamist Hassan al-Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood. The story of the mufti is a familiar one: he was the leader of the Arabs in Palestine, and Palestine's leading anti-Jewish agitator. He eventually embraced the Nazis and spent most of the war in Berlin, recruiting Bosnian Muslims for the SS and agitating for the harshest possible measures against Jews. Kuntzel writes that the mufti became upset with Himmler in 1943, when he sought to trade 5,000 Jewish children for 20,000 German prisoners. Himmler came around to the mufti's thinking, and the children were gassed.

Hassan al-Banna did not embrace Nazism in the same uncomplicated manner, but through the 1930s, his movement, aided by the Germans, led the drive against not only political Zionism but Jews in general. "This burgeoning Islamist movement was subsidized with German funds," Kuntzel writes. "These contributions enabled the Muslim Brotherhood to set up a printing plant with 24 employees and use the most up-to-date propaganda methods." The Muslim Brotherhood, Kuntzel goes on, was a crucial distributor of Arabic translations of "Mein Kampf" and the "Protocols." Across the Arab world, he states, Nazi methods and ideology whipped up anti-Zionist fervor, and the effects of this concerted campaign are still being felt today.

Kuntzel marshals impressive evidence to back his case, but he sometimes oversimplifies. One doesn't have to be soft on Germany to believe it was organic Muslim ideas as well as Nazi ideas that led to the spread of anti-Semitism in the Middle East. In his effort to blame Germany for Muslim anti-Semitism, he overreaches. "While Khomeini was certainly not an acolyte of Hitler, it is not unreasonable to suppose that his anti-Jewish outlook ... had been shaped during the 1930s," Kuntzel says, citing, in a footnote, an article he himself wrote. He also oversimplifies the Israeli-Arab conflict. Jews today have actual power in the Middle East, and Israel is not innocent of excess and cruelty.

Still, Kuntzel is right to state that we are witnessing a terrible explosion of anti-Jewish hatred in the Middle East, and he is right to be shocked. His invaluable contribution, in fact, is his capacity to be shocked, by the rhetoric of hate and by its consequences. The former <u>Hamas</u> leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi once told me that "the question is not what the Germans did to the Jews, but what the Jews did to the Germans." The Jews, he said, deserved their punishment. Kuntzel argues that we should see men like Rantisi for what they are: heirs to the mufti, and heirs to the Nazis.

Graphic

DRAWING (DRAWING BY OLIVER MUNDAY)

Load-Date: January 6, 2008



TODAY IN HISTORY

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

December 16, 2007 Sunday

Final Edition

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Section: GENERAL; Pg. A-2

Length: 499 words

Body

Dec. 16, 1907 - 16 U.S. Navy battleships, which came to be known collectively as the "Great White Fleet," set sail from Hampton Roads on a 14-month round-the-world voyage at the order of President Theodore Roosevelt, who wanted to demonstrate American sea power.

- 1653 Oliver Cromwell became lord protector of England, Scotland and Ireland.
- 1770 Composer Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany.
- 1773 The Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea overboard to protest tea taxes.
- 1905 The entertainment trade publication Variety came out with its first weekly issue.
- 1944 The World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise attack against Allied forces in Belgium. (The Allies were eventually able to beat the Germans back).
- 1950 President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a national state of emergency to fight "world conquest by communist imperialism."
- 1960 134 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collided over New York City.
- 1977 The movie "Saturday Night Fever," starring John Travolta as a Brooklyn disco dancer, opened in wide release.
- 1991 The U.N. General Assembly rescinded its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism by a vote of 111-25.
- 2000 President-elect George W. Bush selected Colin Powell to become the first African-American secretary of state.

Ten years ago - U.N. weapons monitor Richard Butler left Iraq after failing to persuade President Saddam Hussein to open his palaces to inspections. A Pentagon-appointed panel concluded that the Army, Navy and Air Force should segregate male and <u>female</u> recruits in their earliest phases of basic training.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Five years ago - President Bush named former New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean to replace Henry Kissinger as head of the panel investigating the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

One year ago - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called for elections to end his violent standoff with *Hamas*.

Virginia - In 1949, the city of Richmond hired its first black **female** police officer, Ruth B. Blair, who was assigned to investigate juvenile offenses.

Today's Birthdays - Author Sir Arthur C. Clarke is 90. Civil-rights attorney Morris Dees is 71. Actress Joyce Bulifant is 70. Actress Liv Ullmann is 69. CBS news correspondent Lesley Stahl is 66. TV producer Steven Bochco is 64. Pop singer Benny Andersson (ABBA) is 61. Actor Ben Cross is 60. Rock singer-musician Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top) is 58. Rock musician Bill Bateman (The Blasters) is 56. Actress Alison LaPlaca is 48. Actor Sam Robards is 46. Actor Jon Tenney is 46. Actor Benjamin Bratt is 44. Country singer-songwriter Jeff Carson is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Michael McCary is 36. Country musician Chris Scruggs is 25. Actress Hallee Hirsh is 20.

Thought for Today - "I love criticism just so long as it's unqualified praise." - Sir Noel Coward, English actor, playwright, composer (born this date, 1899; died in 1973).

Graphic

PHOTO

Load-Date: December 19, 2007



Peace advocates seem to have blinders on

Nelson Daily News (British Columbia)

July 15, 2008 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. 7

Length: 580 words

Byline: Roger Pratt, Nelson Daily News

Body

To the Editor:

Re: The "Peace Coalition"

It is ironic that the secretary of the group that calls itself the "Peace Coalition" wrote to thank the editor for publishing their articles, while NDN columnist Donna Macdonald wrote a piece about her trip to Germany and about the memorials to the Nazi holocaust.

The terrorist groups <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah have both threatened, several times, to exterminate Israel, including the ethnic cleansing and murder of over five million Jews. The government of Iran has taken it a step further and called for the extermination of every Jew on the planet, including all of Canada's Jews, and all the Jews living in the Kootenays. This would be Holocaust II, and it seems that through their silence, the "Peace Coalition", including MP Alex Atamanenko, have thrown their support behind it.

It is a further irony that while Alex Atamanenko is congratulating himself for shutting down uranium mining in British Columbia, his friends in Tehran are refining uranium to weapons grade, presumably with the idea of nuking Israel.

In Zimbabwe, the glorious socialist leader Robert Mugabe has virtually destroyed the country through brutality and incompetence. Fair elections are impossible as he continues to attack and murder many in the opposition. He has created 80 per cent unemployment, the destruction of the agricultural sector, starvation, racism, and massive inflation. The ANC government of South Africa is complicit in this destruction by failing to condemn him for it.

The "Peace Coalition", Alex Atamanenko and the federal NDP, are also fully complicit by their silence.

Several years ago the Calgary-based oil company Talisman was working in Sudan. The federal NDP, among others, complained bitterly that Talisman was helping to create and perpetuate a war. Under this pressure Talisman pulled out. Since then hundreds of thousands of people have been murdered in Darfur by the government of Sudan. The NDP and the "Peace Coalition" are fully complicit in this ongoing violence because they remain silent about these murders, and refuse to complain about the Chinese and Indian oil companies that currently operate there.

About a dozen honour killings are carried out each year in Europe. Young <u>women</u> are murdered because they have "dishonoured" the family. A recent CBC radio program featured a Palestinian family living in Israel where so far six

Peace advocates seem to have blinders on

<u>women</u> have been murdered. The remaining <u>women</u> finally decided to go to the authorities. The murderers were arrested. If the family lived in the Palestinian territories instead of Israel, the murderers would not be punished. Why does the NDP and the "Peace Coalition" keep silent about honour killings?

In the June 2008 edition of Atlantic magazine is an article about highway construction in Afghanistan. More than \$2 billion is being spent on upgrading highways, and by 2010 the 3,000 km ring road around Afghanistan will be completed. While this infrastructure construction is denigrated by the NDP and the "Peace Coalition", the Taliban regard it as a serious problem, and they offer special incentives for killing U.S. soldiers and Afghan construction workers. The journey between Kandahar and Kabul has been reduced from 14 hours to five. Trade for Afghanistan is expected to increase from \$4.7 billion in 2005 to \$16 billion in 2016.

It is both bizarre and disgraceful that the "Peace Coalition" continues to show its support for so many of the world's worst thugs and terrorists.

Roger Pratt

Nelson, B.C.

Load-Date: July 21, 2008



Bulldozer rampage leaves 4 dead, 40 hurt; 'Only way to stop him was with a bullet to the head'

The Vancouver Province (British Columbia)

July 3, 2008 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A43

Length: 460 words

Byline: Reuters

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- A Palestinian construction worker yesterday rampaged in a bulldozer along one of west Jerusalem's busiest streets, killing three Israelis as he crushed cars and overturned a bus before being shot dead.

There was no claim of responsibility from militant groups and police said they were trying to establish if 30-year-old Hosam Dwayyat acted alone. At his family home in the Arab east of the city, there was no sign of the crowds and banners that normally accompany funerals of Palestinian guerrillas.

Neighbours and relatives, including an uncle, said Dwayyat was divorced from a Jewish Israeli. Police said he had a history of drug offences but no known political affiliation.

Dwayyat drove the 20-tonne earthmoving vehicle for 500 metres along Jaffa Road -- crushing people inside cars and ramming into a crowded bus, flipping it on its side with his mechanical shovel.

Dramatic TV footage showed the vehicle later at a standstill and a police officer in the cab, as rescue workers and passersby surveyed the wreckage. However, the bulldozer started moving again and a struggle could be seen inside the cab.

A man in civilian clothes leapt aboard and fired a pistol into the cab, followed by a helmeted policeman in body armour who fired an automatic rifle. The officer later said he fired twice at the wounded driver to ensure he was no further threat.

"The only way to stop him was with a bullet to the head," witness Moshe Oren said afterwards. "We were relieved."

Medical officials said more than 40 people were taken to hospital. Police at first identified the dead as two Israeli men and a woman, but then corrected this to one man and two **women**.

Vice-Premier Haim Ramon said the incident showed that some Palestinian areas, such as the one where Dwayyat lived, should be separated from Jerusalem.

Bulldozer rampage leaves 4 dead, 40 hurt; 'Only way to stop him was with a bullet to the head'

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has faced criticism for his willingness to consider giving Palestinians some Arabpopulated areas annexed by Israel as part of Jerusalem after it occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem in 1967. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas wants the capital of a Palestinian state to be in Jerusalem.

Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev said the attack "was an act of senseless, murderous violence." An aide to Abbas called it an attempt to wreck peace negotiations and urged Israel to show restraint in its response.

Abbas's opponents in <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad said the attack was a "natural" response by Palestinians to Israeli aggression but, nearly two weeks into a truce in the Gaza Strip, neither Islamist group said it was responsible for the incident.

It was the first Arab attack in Jewish west Jerusalem since a gunman killed eight students on March 6 at a rabbinical seminary a short distance from Jaffa Road.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Reuters; An injured baby (above) is rescued from the aftermath of yesterday's carnage in west Jerusalem wreaked by Hosam Dwayyat in a bulldozer.;

Colour Photo: Agence France-Presse; An injured baby is rescued from the aftermath of yesterday's carnage in west Jerusalem wreaked by Hosam Dwayyat (above) in a bulldozer.;

Load-Date: July 3, 2008



In Short

The Irish Times

October 29, 2007 Monday

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Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 8

Length: 547 words

Body

A roundup of today's other world stories in brief:

Tories plan to curb rights of Scottish MPs

LONDON - British Conservative leader David Cameron has been accused of threatening the break-up of the United Kingdom after the Tories unveiled proposals to strip Scottish MPs of the right to vote on English matters at Westminster.

Ministers rounded on the Conservatives yesterday, accusing them of "playing fast and loose" with the constitution amid growing tensions between London and Edinburgh.

Under the Tory proposals, a new English grand committee - open only to English MPs - would be established to deal with legislation, such as schools and hospitals, relating solely to England.

- (PA)

ElBaradei critical of Israeli raid

WASHINGTON - The head of the UN nuclear watchdog has criticised Israel for attacking a suspicious Syrian site last month, saying the "bomb first and then ask questions later" policy undermined global atomic monitoring work.

Mohamed ElBaradei, the chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency, called yesterday on the Israelis and other countries to share information with the agency.

- (Reuters)

Museum opens at Belsen camp

BERLIN - Germany has opened a museum at the site of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where tens of thousands died during the Nazi era.

More than 60 years after the camp was liberated, politicians yesterday inaugurated a new building containing Holocaust victims' diaries, drawings, items of clothing, memorabilia and video statements from survivors.

- (Reuters)

In Short

US firefighters make progress

ESCONDIDO - Cooler, calmer weather is helping firefighters to gain the upper hand over seven remaining wildfires in Southern California, although state officials have said blazes still threatened 12,000 homes.

A fire in Orange County's Silverado Canyon covering 27,900 acres was about 50 per cent contained yesterday, up from 40 per cent late on Saturday, according to fire captain Phil Rawlings.

- (Reuters)

Forced marriage ban considered

BERLIN - Germany is considering introducing new rules against forced marriages, a sensitive subject in a country which is home to western Europe's second biggest Muslim population.

Chancellor Angela Merkel raised the issue in a speech to a women's conference on Saturday.

"I think the demand to make forced marriage an offence is absolutely right," Dr Merkel said.

- (Reuters)

Fuel supplies to Gaza cut

GAZA - Israel has begun reducing fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip under new sanctions to punish the <u>Hamas</u>-controlled Palestinian enclave for rocket fire on Israeli towns.

"In line with the Israeli government's decision, the Defence Ministry will this week begin cutting fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip by between 5 and 11 per cent," an Israeli security source said yesterday.

- (Reuters)

Hurricane Noel on the way

MIAMI - The 14th named storm of the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season, Noel, has formed in the Caribbean and was yesterday expected to drench the impoverished island of Haiti with potentially deadly rains, US forecasters said.

- (Reuters)

Bosnians agree police reform

MOSTAR - Bosnia's Muslim, Croat and Serb political leaders have reached an agreement to get stalled police reform proposals back on track in order to fulfil a key condition for closer ties with the European Union.

- (Reuters)

Load-Date: October 29, 2007



Frustration for Bush as pledge to Saudis fails to win oil concession

The Guardian - Final Edition
May 17, 2008 Saturday

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Section: GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 28

Length: 504 words

Byline: Ian Black, Middle East editor

Body

The US agreed yesterday to help Saudi Arabia protect its oil industry from terrorist attack, while offering to back conservative Arab countries resisting Iranian influence spreading across the Middle East.

The White House announced new agreements with the kingdom as President George Bush flew to Riyadh for private talks with King Abdullah at his ranch outside the capital. But the king was not persuaded to boost Saudi oil production to ease the effect of the \$127-a-barrel price on the US economy.

Bush arrived from Israel, where he spent two days celebrating its 60th anniversary, an event which brought the release yesterday of another threatening message from the Saudi renegade and al-Qaida leader, Osama bin Laden.

"We will continue, God willing, the fight against the Israelis and their allies . . . and will not give up a single inch of Palestine as long as there is one true Muslim on Earth," he declared in a 10-minute audio message posted on an Islamist website. The tape's authenticity could not be verified but it bore the hallmarks of al-Sahab, al-Qaida's media arm.

"The participation of western leaders with the Jews in this celebration confirms that the west backs this Jewish occupation of our land, and that they stand in the Israeli trench against us," he said, claiming that the Palestinian issue had motivated the 9/11 attacks on the US.

Bin Laden, clearly aware of Palestine's wider resonance, attaches more importance to the issue these days, having made little of it in public statements before 2001. "Peace talks that started 60 years ago are just meant to deceive the idiots," he said. "After all the destruction and the killings . . . your leaders talk about principles. This is unbearable. You describe Palestinian organisations as terrorists and you boycott them and punish them while Israelis are killing civilians, <u>women</u> and children."

Bush's speech in the Knesset on Thursday lavished praise on Israel and excoriated its enemies - <u>Hamas</u>, Hizbullah in Lebanon, as well as Iran and Syria. But he barely mentioned the Palestinians, who were that same day marking the "nakba" (catastrophe) they suffered as the Jewish state won its independence in May 1948.

Frustration for Bush as pledge to Saudis fails to win oil concession

It will have confirmed many Arabs in their conviction that the US is irredeemably biased in favour of Israel.

US expectations for good news on oil had been low. The Saudis are bound by agreement with the rest of Opec. "What they're saying is . . . Saudi Arabia does not have customers that are making requests for oil that they are not able to satisfy," said the US national security adviser, Stephen Hadley. Bush made a similar pitch in January and was rebuffed. The Saudis want \$1.4bn in arms sales, which Democrats have threatened to block unless Riyadh agrees to increase oil production by 1 million barrels per day.

Bush flies to Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, today for a meeting of the World Economic Forum. He will also meet the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, and the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak.

Oil nears \$128 a barrel, page 39 >=

Load-Date: May 17, 2008



Seven days

The Courier Mail (Australia)

May 17, 2008 Saturday

1 - First with the news Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 50

Length: 576 words

Byline: Graham Clark

Body

SATURDAY

US DEFENCE Secretary Robert Gates, pictured, ordered a review of the handling of the remains of American war dead after soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan were cremated at a facility that also disposes of pets.

QUEENSLAND was facing a critical winter bushfire season after early heavy rains boosted vegetation growth, the Emergency Services Minister Neil Roberts warned.

LEBANON'S Iranian-backed Hezbollah military took control of the Muslim quarter of Beirut after heavy fighting with pro-government forces.

SUNDAY

PRINCE Philip, pictured, took time out from his royal duties to tell the world that he knew why there was a shortage of food -- too many people were being born.

AUSTRALIA increased its aid to cyclone-ravaged Burma to \$25 million as international outrage grew over the junta's refusal to open its borders fully to allow a massive international relief effort.

MEXICAN drug cartel gunmen ambushed and killed a police chief in Ciudad Juarez. He was the sixth senior officer to be killed in a week.

MONDAY

WESTPAC boss Gail Kelly, pictured, shook up the banking sector with her proposal for a \$65 billion merger with her former employer St George.

CHINESE authorities warned there could be tens of thousands of casualties after an earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale struck near the southwestern city of Chengdu.

A SENIOR Chinese official had asked whether the Dalai Lama would attend the Beijing Olympics to ease tensions between China and Tibet, a Tibetan government-in-exile spokesman said.

TUESDAY

Seven days

FEDERAL Treasurer Wayne Swan, pictured, unveiled the first Budget of the Kevin Rudd Labor Government, vowing to crack down on middle-class welfare to help fund \$40 billion worth of nation-building projects.

INCOMING Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin announced a formidable Cabinet line-up to entrench his power, as his presidential successor Dmitry Medvedev unveiled three top appointments to signal an increasingly close link between the two posts.

WEDNESDAY

WEST Australian Liberal leader Troy Buswell, pictured, under fire for sniffing the chair of a <u>female</u> staffer, denied he had ever treated a small marsupial -- a quokka -- in an inappropriate manner. The report was later revealed as a hoax, which didn't help his mood.

A 13-year-old Texas boy who used his father's credit card to hire prostitutes during a \$US30,000 spending spree was convicted of fraud after the hookers told police they became suspicious when the boy and his friends showed more interest in Xbox games than them.

THURSDAY

FORMER US presidential candidate John Edwards, pictured, endorsed Barack Obama in a major blow to the flickering hopes of his rival Hillary Clinton.

THE ASEAN group said it would lead an international ``coalition of mercy" to cyclone-hit Burma after talks with the country's junta.

ROYAL Darwin Hospital surgeons confirmed ``mango madness" -- when violence hits a high during the humid October-November months -- was a medical reality and a genuine health hazard.

FRIDAY

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush, pictured, told Israelis they were a ``chosen people" who could forever count on American support against enemies including *Hamas* and Iran.

CALIFORNIA'S Supreme Court ruled in a landmark case that a ban on gay marriage was unlawful, effectively leaving same-sex couples in the most populous state in the US free to wed.

AN EGYPTIAN man aged 42 was sentenced in a Giza court to 1000 years in jail after scamming 480 people out of \$A55 million.

Load-Date: May 16, 2008



DIGEST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 18, 2008 Sunday

FOURTH EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A14

Length: 548 words

Byline: FROM NEWS SERVICES

Body

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Ambassador returns home after kidnapping

Pakistan's ambassador to Afghanistan returned home Saturday three months after he was kidnapped on the main highway through Pakistan's wild border region.

Tariq Azizuddin was released at a time when the government is seeking to negotiate peace deals to curb Islamic militancy along the Afghan border - an approach viewed with apprehension in the West.

However, senior Pakistani official Rehman Malik said the envoy was freed Friday through a "law enforcement action" and the government had made no concessions in return.

Azizuddin vanished Feb. 11 along with his driver and bodyguard as they drove from the city of Peshawar toward the Afghan border. In a video aired April 19 on an Arab TV channel, Azizuddin said Taliban militants had abducted them.

WINDSOR, ENGLAND

Queen's eldest grandson marries Canadian fiancée

The eldest grandson of Queen Elizabeth II married his Canadian fiancée Saturday in a private ceremony at Windsor Castle.

Peter Phillips and Autumn Kelly wed at the castle's 15th-century St. George's Chapel in front of 300 guests, including the queen, Prince Phillip, Prince Charles and Phillips' mother, Princess Anne. Prince Harry, the third in line to the throne, and his girlfriend, Chelsy Davy, were also there. Phillips is 11th in line to the throne.

BEIRUT, LEBANON

Coalition demands talks on Hezbollah's weapons

Lebanon's ruling coalition demanded Saturday that talks to end the country's 18-month-old political crisis tackle the issue of Hezbollah's weapons, a demand the militant group rejected.

DIGEST

Hezbollah insisted the group's arsenal remain untouched, saying it was necessary for fighting Israel, Lebanese media reported on the first day of the negotiations in Qatar on forming a unity government and electing a president after the country's worst violence since the 1975-1990 civil war.

JOHANNESBURG, S. AFRICA

Opposition leader delays return to Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's opposition leader was on the way to the airport when word came that assassins were awaiting him in his homeland Saturday, derailing plans for his return.

It was unclear when Morgan Tsvangirai would return to rally his party and campaign for the presidency against longtime leader Robert Mugabe. A runoff election is set for June 27.

"We have received information from a credible source concerning a planned assassination attempt on President Tsvangirai today," spokesman George Sibotshiwe told The Associated Press. "Because of that, it has been decided that the president will not return today."

Repeated attempts Saturday to reach Zimbabwean police for comment were unsuccessful.

Briefly

- •Dominican Republic: Dominican President Leonel Fernandez coasted to a third term in office, vowing Saturday to push ahead with policies he says have lifted the Caribbean nation's economy from crisis.
- •Kuwait election: Kuwaitis voted Saturday for a parliament that could include <u>women</u> for the first time and which many hope will end two years of political wrangling that has created widespread disgust with politics. Results were expected Sunday.
- -"...Mideast move: Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak will meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday to discuss efforts to work out a cease-fire between the *Hamas* rulers of the Gaza Strip and Israel, officials said.

Graphic

PHOTO

PHOTO - Peter Phillips, 30, and Autumn Kelly, 31, leave St. George's Chapel in Windsor, England, Saturday after their marriage vows. The bride recently converted from Roman Catholicism to Anglicanism so that her husband, son of Princess Anne, would not have to renounce his right of royal succession. Sang Tan AFP/Getty Images

Load-Date: May 19, 2008



Hundreds storm Jebl Mukaber calling for revenge. 22 arrested as right-wing activists stone homes, cars

The Jerusalem Post March 17, 2008 Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 520 words

Byline: SHELLY PAZ

Body

Hundreds of right-wing activists stoned Arab homes in the east Jerusalem neighborhood Jebl Mukaber on Sunday in an attempt to raze the house of the family of Ala Abu Dhaim, who killed eight Mercaz Harav Yeshiva students 10 days ago.

One policeman was lightly wounded in a scuffle with the protesters, while 22 activists were arrested on suspicion of stoning Arab residents' houses.

The protesters were comprised chiefly of teenagers and veteran far-right activists such as Itamar Ben-Gvir, Baruch Marzel, members of the Komemiut organization and *Women* in Green head Nadia Matar.

For almost three hours, police struggled to prevent the activists from vandalizing the property of the residents of the Arab village while calling "revenge, revenge." Young girls shouted at policemen and refused to be evacuated from the village, some crying and lying on the ground, telling the police that they were guarding murderers.

As police prepared for the protesters' arrival at the Sherover Promenade, massive security forces fanned out in Jebl Mukaber in case the activists tried to attack the terrorist's family's home.

"The entire village is on alert right now. They won't let them touch a stone of the family's house, and it wouldn't be a pleasant sight if they scuffled," a Jebl Mukaber resident told the Post while passing the demonstration.

Finally, police declared that the demonstration was illegal and forced the protesters to leave, escorting them out of the neighborhood.

"Today is the beginning of the fight to expel our enemy. Today, there are more people who understand that it's us or them," Ben-Gvir told The Jerusalem Post earlier Sunday as the activists gathered at the city's Sherover Promenade.

Matar, who arrived at the meeting point ahead of most of the protesters, told TV crews that "we will lose this country just because we're afraid of being called racists. It's time we say it out loud - the Arabs of Israel put us all in danger."

"We need to replace [Prime Minister Ehud] Olmert's government with a government that isn't afraid to handle Kassam rockets and the enemy at the front door," Matar added.

Hundreds storm Jebl Mukaber calling for revenge. 22 arrested as right-wing activists stone homes, cars

The protesters, many of whom were settlers, carried signs reading "Expel the Arab Enemy" and "The Land of Israel for the Jewish People." Some called to "kill the Arabs" and, despite a heavy police blockade at the entrance to Jebl Mukaber and a massive deployment of security forces in the area, the marchers managed to enter the village, stone residents' homes and damage a couple of cars belonging to villagers.

"We're here on behalf of the Jewish people... The people are strong in their demand to raze the terrorist's house," one of the organizers of the demonstration told the protesters. "The Jewish people are wounded and hurt, and not just because of eight children who were murdered [in the Mercaz Harav shooting] but also because anyone who has an Israeli ID card and an Israeli license plate can go anywhere he wants and do whatever he wants. The Jewish people, here and in the Diaspora, have woken up and demand that the house of the family who tortured an entire nation by rising *Hamas* flags be destroyed."

Graphic

Photo: BORDER POLICE arrest a right-wing protester in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Jebl Mukaber yesterday. (Credit: Kevin Frayer/AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



MDA treating both Israeli, Palestinian victims of violence. 'When there is lifesaving work to be done, it's as if there were no war'

The Jerusalem Post March 3, 2008 Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 507 words

Byline: JUDY SIEGEL, AP contributed to this report.

Body

Some Magen David Adom personnel currently have a surreal job - both treating Israeli victims of Palestinian rocket attacks from Gaza and facilitating the transfer of Gazan patients to Israeli hospitals for treatment.

"Just today, we transferred three Palestinians from Gaza to Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer for ongoing care," said Dudi Abadi, who coordinates between MDA and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC).

"We are continuing our humanitarian work even though rockets are still being hurled at us from Gaza," he added. "Our medics are exhausted, but when there is lifesaving work to be done and sick and wounded people to be helped, it's as if there were no war. We act according to the Geneva Convention. We save lives, and we hope the conflict will end."

Meanwhile, Gaza's eight hospitals that have surgical facilities (out of a total of 14) are stretched beyond their capacity, said Laila Blacing of the ICRC's Jerusalem office, which deals with medical conditions in Gaza. "The hospitals are very full, but they have been coping so far. We have been distributing medical equipment such as medications, dressing and plasma," she said.

She noted that some Gaza hospitals urgently needed clean sheets for patients "as sheets were taken to wrap up bodies" of Palestinians killed in Israeli counterattacks. The ICRC has provided 200 pieces of bed linen. Shifa Hospital, Gaza's largest, had to expand its intensive care unit capacity, but its power and water supplies were intact. Fuel supplies were low, Blacing said.

Because regular ICUs in Gazan hospitals are full, patients have been moved to specialized ICUs. Blacing added that, according to ICRC reports, "one third of the dead in Gaza are <u>women</u> and children. It's difficult to know among the wounded and dead who are civilians."

Blacing said that "there has been damage to civilian areas. We are very concerned, as conditions in hospitals can quickly deteriorate." Both Palestinians and the Israelis "have a responsibility to distinguish between military and civilian areas and to avoid harming civilians," the ICRC official declared.

Meanwhile, Egypt on Sunday opened its only crossing to the Gaza Strip to receive wounded Palestinians. Egypt sent 27 ambulances to the Rafah crossing to transfer 150 to 200 wounded Palestinians to hospitals in the Sinai Peninsula and other cities on the mainland, said Emad Kharboush, a medical official at el-Arish Hospital near the

MDA treating both Israeli , Palestinian victims of violence. 'When there is lifesaving work to be done, it's as if there were no war'

Israeli border. This was the first time Egypt has agreed to open the crossing since <u>Hamas</u> blew up part of the border wall on January 23, allowing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to cross over.

MDA will train residents of Ashkelon and its environs to administer first aid as well as how to respond when rockets fall. The course is free, and residents can register at 1-700-500-430.

Over the weekend, MDA medics were alerted almost every 15 minutes to treat victims in Sderot, Ashkelon and other places within rocket distance from Gaza who were either physically wounded or suffered from shock.

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Commentary: For the sake of my son, I support McCain

Long Island Business News (Long Island, NY)
February 22, 2008

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Section: COMMENTARY

Length: 542 words

Byline: Alfonse D'Amato

Body

Alfonse D'Amato Jr. sleeps a lot in what had been my home office. He is surrounded by paintings and snapshots from my past. Yet he has his entire future before him.

In this world less than a month, he has already been visited by a troop of brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, cousins and nephews, grandparents and family friends. And yet, he will need to make his way in the world based on his own actions, integrity and work ethic. He will grow up in a world that is far more challenging than the one his father has experienced because, while the global threats are just as dangerous as the Cold War, these enemies are zealots who are far more subtle, far more rabid and firm in the belief that we are heathens worthy of destruction.

He will face a world where our religious freedom, gender equality and First Amendment rights will be under direct attack, perhaps for a generation or more. He will live in a world where children are taught by cartoon characters to kill Israelis, where <u>women</u> are stoned to death for being raped, and where sworn enemies of democracy have pledged to repeatedly attack the United States. And that is why Alfonse D'Amato Jr. came home from the hospital with a John McCain hat.

Much has been written about the oratory of Sen. Barack Obama, the charismatic senator from Illinois. He has electrified his political base by speaking of change, using words to describe a world that embraces all colors, creeds and religions. Regretfully, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad doesn't understand a word of English. Khaled Mashal, political head of the terrorist organization *Hamas*, champions a cause that recruits young children to blow up their enemies through the use of bombs strapped to their bodies. Syria and North Korea clearly have a series of diplomatic compacts that see sophisticated military technology funneled into that Middle East regime. No one there is listening to oratory.

Obama speaks of change. It is a recurring theme. He envisions an America embracing change. He advocates for it and has struck a responsive chord in the hearts of many young Americans. Ironically, it is the one common theme he inadvertently has with our radical Islamic enemies. They too intend to seek change in America, although it is certainly not consistent with that of Obama's intent. We are a nation at war and no one understands better how to preserve, protect and defend the United States against unprecedented threats than Sen. John McCain.

McCain does not wear a rigid ideological cloak. His public policy positions are honed on what he believes is the right course for this country based on his years in public service. He has been tempered by the horrors of war and imprisonment. He has been schooled in the harsh world of international alliances and confrontation. He knows what the stakes are, and they have little to do with oratory and everything to do with what other nations hear and how they perceive the words of the president of the United States.

Commentary: For the sake of my son, I support McCain

So while Obama can effectively speak to the frustrations that many Americans have, he does not have the skill set, experience or pragmatic understanding of this very dangerous 21st century world to win the vote of Alfonse D'Amato or, more important, Alfonse D'Amato Jr.

Load-Date: March 25, 2008



Rights charter hateful work; Arbour's judgment suspect after initial support of charter

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)
February 3, 2008 Sunday
Final Edition

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Section: THE EDITORIAL PAGE; Pg. A10

Length: 584 words

Byline: Calgary Herald

Body

Human rights are just that -- rights for all humans, regardless of political ideology, ethnicity, religion or other category. That simple message seemed at first to be lost on Louise Arbour, the UN high commissioner for human rights, when she uttered her support for an Arab charter on human rights that states "efforts must be deployed for (the) elimination" of Zionism.

Arbour backed away from those comments a day later, claiming she actually had qualms about the charter's wording. Someone behind the scenes must have told her that cherrypicking among human rights by political ideology brilliantly evokes that Orwellian observation from Animal Farm: "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." As a Canadian, her cheerleading for a charter whose declarations reflect the stated goal of *Hamas*, Hezbollah and the late Yasser Arafat, of wiping out Israel, was a shameful mark on Canada, whose government has unequivocally affirmed its support for the only democracy in the Middle East. Arbour's early stance was also a reflection of the sadly misguided position of the left, which sees itself as a champion of the underdog. In this case, the underdogs are deemed to be the Palestinians, although unwilling to look any further into the reasons for that, this faction fails to comprehend that the Palestinians are underdogs because they are forced to live under the thumb of oppressive, dictatorial regimes. They are the victims, not of Israel, but of their own despotic leaders. Their poverty, lack of job opportunities, low levels of literacy and failure to make economic progress are the direct effects of living under such regimes, not of being neighbours with Israel. Those who attack "Zionism" which is merely the right of Israel to exist, would be highly unlikely to attack "Americanism" or "Canadianism," denying those countries the right to exist, in the same manner they deny Israel.

This type of skewed thinking also leads to the fostering of selective wrath -- for example, Israel is often bitterly assailed for building a wall in the West Bank, but the wall between Egypt and Gaza, erected by Arab nations, goes unmentioned and uncriticized. Israel continues to be the only nation that is condemned for defending itself against attack, and the only democracy that comes under fire by people living in other democratic countries, for trying to defend the principles of democracy which these same people otherwise approve. This type of thinking is epitomized by Naomi Klein in her new book, The Shock Doctrine, when she accuses Israel of attacking Lebanon in the summer of 2006, without ever mentioning that thousands of missiles fired by Hezbollah had rained down upon Israel first before Israel finally moved to retaliate and defend itself.

It was equally shameful for Arbour to be seen supporting a document which makes a mockery of Arab <u>women</u>'s rights with its backhanded acknowledgment of "positive discrimination" established for <u>women</u> "by the Islamic

Rights charter hateful work; Arbour's judgment suspect after initial support of charter

sharia (and) other divine laws." Had Arbour never heard of how <u>women</u> suffer under sharia and other so-called "divine" laws, including everything from not being allowed to drive cars to the fairly common occurrence of honour killings of <u>women</u> by their own brothers and fathers?

Arbour should never have lent any stamp of legitimacy to this profoundly flawed Arab charter. True declarations of human rights advocate peaceful co-existence and equal rights for everyone. Arbour needs to re-read her copy of Animal Farm.

Load-Date: February 3, 2008



ISSAC BICKERSTAFFE

Daily Mail (London)
February 21, 2008 Thursday

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Section: IRE; Pg. 17 Length: 559 words

Body

'ANNOUNCED The Irish Times yesterday: Most Cubans, however counter-revolutionary, will be keen to preserve social achievements. How The Irish Times knows this, as elections have not been permitted in the communist dictatorship within living memory, is unspecified. The last time Fidel Castro allowed Cubans to leave the country of their own volition, 120,000 broke for the borders before the strongman thought better of his decision and permanently closed off the exit route hardly an expression of satisfaction with his socialist paradise.

IMR BICKERSTAFFE has fond memories of the days when Young Fine Gael used to run vodka parties for members and nonmembers alike, before the national worry about alcohol understandably prompted a review of the hospitality policy. Hospitality, though, seems not to have been afforded to the Lisbon Treaty opposition by the student politicians at their debate on the EU referendum. After disinviting Libertas from the event, Fine Gaels Lucinda Creighton and Alan Dukes both used the platform to have a crack at the absent opposition. How unsporting.

IEXQUISITELY preserved actress Raquel Welch, 67, right, who runs a wig -manufacturing enterprise called Raquel Welch Wig Creations her long, blonde Infatuation Wig costs £245 wears one herself and will donate some of her profits to providing false tresses for balding <u>women</u>. A worthy cause, surely. IMARY OROURKE, whose intervention in the autism debate has caused so much difficulty for Education Minister Mary Hanafin, is no fool. Nobody around Leinster House doubts how strongly ORourke feels about the issue, having experienced autism within the family. But is there a shade of political calculation in the mix as well? As ORourke must be perfectly aware, the autism debate is seriously damaging Hanafins chances of becoming the next Tánaiste when Brian Cowen eventually moves into the top position and is doing the chances of ORourkes nephew Brian Lenihan no harm at all.

IMR BICKERSTAFFE heartily recommends that gardaí seeking tips on how to combat the wave of violent crime take a look at Florida. A driver stopped there this week for a traffic offence shot the policeman who pulled him over, mortally wounding him, before disappearing at high speed into woods. When found, the local SWAT team dispatched him with 68 bullets. Asked by the media shortly afterwards why that number of shots was fired, the officer responded, Thats all the bullets we had. Sensible man.

IFRENCH avant-garde writer / intellectual Alain Robbe-Grillet, who has died aged 85, is credited with helping establish the new novel, an experimental French genre that not only rejected plot and narrative but also paragraphs and punctuation. Judging by the literary efforts of our educated young, the old boy, pictured, was ahead of his time.

IMANDARINS in the Department of Foreign Affairs have become very excited by their Conflict Resolution Unit, the new outfit designed to spread Irish expertise in peacemaking around the world. Not everybody is so keen, though.

ISSAC BICKERSTAFFE

Addressing the J o i n t Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs this week, Israeli Ambassador Dr Zion Evrony went out of his way to mention that <u>Hamas</u> is not the IRA. Nor can he be the only one uneasy at the prospect of Martin McGuinness being flown around the world to lecture others on the peaceful resolution of differences

Load-Date: February 21, 2008



Modern love; Life

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 24, 2008 Thursday

First Edition

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Section: ESSENTIAL; Pg. 8

Length: 513 words

Byline: Keith Austin, Lenny Ann Low

Body

Big girls shouldn't cry - unless they want something from you.

He says

There is a headline on the front page of a newspaper here that says: "Rivals pounce on Clinton's tears". This is a reference to Hillary getting a bit teary-eyed on the campaign trail this month. And quite right, too. If the woman welled up because Barack Obama pipped her at the first hurdle, imagine what would happen if she became president and had to get the Israelis and *Hamas* around a table. There'd be tears before bedtime, that's for sure.

This is not the presidency of the PTA or the <u>women</u>'s institute we're talking about, it's an application for the job of Most Powerful Person In The World. And while getting touch with your emotions and hugging is all very well in men's groups, it is not something we want to see in someone with their finger on The Trigger.

Talking of arsenals, this crying lark has been a weapon of choice for <u>women</u> for aeons. You argue, they cry, you're buggered. And it's been pretty effective, until recently. <u>Women</u> who are normally strong and independent professionals still fall apart at the merest hint of a dodgy performance review.

Hillary would be no good to Team America if the waterworks started at the first sight of Kim Jong-II feeding United Nations weapons inspectors to his pet sharks, sponsoring terrorists to bomb the Panama Canal, singing I'm So Ronery, and attempting to assassinate world leaders in Pyongyang.

You won't find Condoleezza Rice blubbing over her Bible, or Iraq for that matter. So get it together, girls. Dry your eyes, stop snivelling and step up to the plate.

Keith Austin

She says

Frankly, I don't have room. This column is not big enough to allow me to list the reasons why it is OK for a very important person to cry in public. Why shedding a few tears does not mean they are only an embroidered hanky away from emotional collapse and total loss of all cogent thought.

Yes, I know we are specifically talking about a crying woman this week but, as I said, space precludes me beginning an argument that delves into the very nature of crying and public appearance and <u>women</u> and men, and

Modern love Life

strength and politics. I understand that someone veering off into full-blown tears every 20 minutes or so while they're trying to oversee the signing of a peace treaty between warring factions in Iraq could get annoying. And, certainly, whenever I've cried, one of my first realisations is that I should not immediately commence talks with North Korea over their plans for national security. Well, not until I've dried my eyes and wiped away the wet stuff running out of my nose. Timing is everything.

Why does a crying woman freak people out so much? Well, they say yawning can be contagious and a smile infectious so, understandably, catching someone else's weeping is less than appreciated. Anyway, if my esteemed colleague believes <u>women</u> always get what they want when they blub-up, surely that means <u>female</u> politicians, or anyone holding an important position, should weep copiously. Cut up a few onions and we could have world peace by Christmas.

Lenny Ann Low

Load-Date: January 23, 2008



Bush takes personal pitch for reform to wary Mideast

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 9, 2008 Wednesday

THIRD EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A3

Length: 499 words

Byline: By Deb Riechmann THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

For years, President George W. Bush has eagerly waved a flag for democracy in the Middle East from afar. This week, he steps gingerly into the troubled region where his freedom agenda is stalled.

Bush proclaimed in his second inaugural address that the U.S. would work for democratic reform in every nation and culture "with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world."

Now, in the final months of his presidency, he is off to sell democratic ideals to wary Middle Eastern leaders who have turned their focus to who will succeed Bush and how political turmoil will play out in Pakistan.

Bush was leaving late Tuesday on the eight-day trip.

The assassination of Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto on Dec. 27 has cast a shadow over Bush's trip to Israel, the West Bank, Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

"It is very much on the minds of everyone in the region and particularly on the minds of the authoritarian Arab rulers in Riyadh, Cairo, Amman and the Gulf States," said Bruce Riedel, a Brookings Institution analyst who advised Bush on the Middle East.

They see embattled Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf as one of them, Riedel said. "They see his political problems as evocative of what happens when the word democracy is uttered in a Muslim state, and they fear very much that this strong ally of theirs is going to be deposed in 2008."

During his trip, Bush will nudge the Israelis and Palestinians toward a peace pact, get an update on Iraq and work to counter Iran's quest for greater influence in the region. But Bush's freedom agenda in the region will be an overarching theme.

In a speech Sunday in the United Arab Emirates, Bush will highlight political change that has occurred in places such as Bahrain and how regional security is important not only for democracy but for economic growth. On Saturday, he'll host a round-table session about democracy with Kuwaiti <u>women</u>, who were excluded from political life until recently.

Bush takes personal pitch for reform to wary Mideast

Bush has said repeatedly that he never expected "Jeffersonian democracy to break out instantly" across the Middle East. That's a reality readily acknowledged by National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley, who, in previewing Bush's trip, ticked off democratic reforms that have taken place in the region during the past few years, then lamented the sluggish progress.

Hadley noted that:

- The first woman was elected to parliament in Bahrain the first ever in any Gulf Arab state.
- Kuwait allowed women to vote and run for office for the first time.
- Egypt held its first multiparty elections.
- Saudi Arabia held municipal council elections, and King Abdullah has started a national dialogue to address reform, including **women**'s rights and relations with non-Muslims.

"I think it is fair to say that this rate of progress has not continued in the way we would have hoped," Hadley said, adding that the democracy agenda suffered a setback when the militant Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> swept Palestinian parliamentary elections in 2006.

Graphic

PHOTO; MAP

PHOTO - Demonstrators display Israeli flags during a protest by Jewish settlers and their supporters around east Jerusalem's Old City on Tuesday. They protested any partition of Jerusalem in a future peace pact with the Palestinians. The Associated Press MAP - Bush's Middle East tour AP

Load-Date: January 9, 2008



U.S. pulls UN draft; Disliked by Israel

Windsor Star (Ontario)

December 1, 2007 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. C9

Length: 506 words

Byline: Patrick Worsnip, Reuters

Dateline: UNITED NATIONS

Body

UNITED NATIONS - The United States withdrew on Friday a draft UN resolution endorsing action agreed at this week's Annapolis Middle East peace conference, a document Israeli officials said they felt was inappropriate.

Israeli diplomats at the United Nations said they did not object to the Security Council backing the outcome of Tuesday's meeting but did not consider a resolution the right means. Both they and Palestinian officials indicated they had not been consulted in advance on the draft the United States put to the council on Thursday.

After council discussions on the issue, U.S. envoy Alejandro Wolff told reporters Washington's "intensive consultations" had led it to conclude there was "some unease with that type of product" -- a resolution.

"In respect to both parties (Israelis and Palestinians) in terms of what they thought would be most helpful, we reached the conclusion that it would be best simply to withdraw it," he said, adding that the focus should be on Annapolis.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas agreed at the meeting in Annapolis, Md., hosted by U.S. President George W. Bush, to try to reach by the end of 2008 a peace treaty creating a Palestinian state. Israeli deputy UN representative Daniel Carmon told reporters Israel welcomed council support for Annapolis, but added, "We feel that the appreciation of the council has other means of being represented and reflected than resolutions."

The brief draft resolution, made available to journalists, would have endorsed actions agreed at Annapolis and called on all states to support them as well as to aid the struggling Palestinian economy.

Although Israel apparently had no problems with the uncontroversial text, analysts suggested it was worried a formal resolution would get the United Nations too involved in Middle East peace efforts. Israel and the United States often complain of bias in the world body against the Jewish state.

Asked in Washington about the resolution, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said, "You know, you take time to consider things, and you take a look at all the positive effects that have come out of Annapolis, and I'm not sure that we saw the need to add anything else to the conversation."

U.S. pulls UN draft; Disliked by Israel

Instead of the resolution, the current council president, Marty Natalegawa of Indonesia, made an oral statement to journalists summarizing the feeling of the meeting -- the lowest grade of council utterance.

"We as president of the council detect and identify an overwhelming sense of welcome to what has happened in Annapolis ... (members) see the need to encourage the parties concerned to follow diligently the joint understanding that was reached," he said.

Carmon said Israel understood from the United States that the Palestinians were also unhappy about the resolution.

However, Abbas told a news conference in Tunis on Friday that the U.S. draft was "among the signals about the U.S. seriousness" to help forge a Middle East deal, although he said he had no details of the draft.

Graphic

Photo: Said Khatib, Agence France-Presse; PROTEST: Palestinian <u>women</u> chant slogans during a demonstration by <u>Hamas</u> near the Rafah border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip on Friday. Palestinians rallied to protest against the closure of the Rafah border crossing and called for the end of Israeli sanctions on the Gaza Strip.;

Load-Date: December 1, 2007



The end of peaceful Islam

University Wire
October 18, 2007 Thursday

Copyright 2007 The Good Five Cent Cigar via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 564 words

Byline: By Ryan Bilodeau, The Good Five Cent Cigar; SOURCE: U. Rhode Island

Dateline: KINGSTON, R.I.

Body

Islam is the submission of oneself to the will of Allah. The problem with that is, in fundamental terms (as subscribed to by Jihadists and fascists), the entirety of Islam was "revealed" to only one man, sixth-century prophet (and warlord) Mohammed, and no other. Quite convenient.

Mohammed wrote the Koran and Hadith, the two most important texts of Islam. They were written, one could say, for a much earlier and far different time than we are now living in. The problem with that is, fundamentalist Muslims don't agree. They think it's just fine to interpret it word for word, even today.

Admittedly, some of Mohammed's earlier teachings were what could be considered peaceful, written when he was relatively powerless and had few followers. What followed in later years -- and texts -- were ever-increasing espousals of and incitements to extreme violence, war, ethnic cleansing, foreign population subjugation and enslavement, and the extreme maltreatment of **women**, Jews, Christians and Zoroastrian Persians.

Fundamentalists subscribe to these later teachings written when the prophet Mohammed was more emperor and warlord than anything resembling a roving, peaceful teacher.

Today, we see the forced submission of others to the "will of Allah" all too frequently. In what were once heavily Christian and Jewish areas of the Middle East, including Jordan, Syria and especially Lebanon, we see today the increasing encroachment and spread of not "just" Islam, but of extremely radical and dogmatic Islam, the kind espoused by Hezbollah, *Hamas* and the PLO.

It is the kind that motivates ignorant, indoctrinated youth to launch rockets into Israel and to detonate themselves in marketplaces where <u>women</u> are buying food for dinner.

Islamic-fascism is rearing its ugly head on the battlefield of ideas on America's campuses as well. Through "political correctness," censorship of free speech, and even lawsuits, Islamists are fighting the West by using our freedoms against us, and by appealing to kind-hearted, yet foolhardy progressive liberals.

This past summer Robert Spencer, the author of "The Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam," was scheduled to speak at a conference held by the Young America's Foundation, a group that works to bring the conservative message to campuses across the country.

The end of peaceful Islam

In response, the supposed "civil rights" group the Council for American Islamic Relations sent a letter to YAF threatening to "pursue every appropriate legal remedy" if Spencer was not struck from the conference agenda. That is correct, a "civil rights" group was threatening to censor an individual whose political point of view they did not agree with.

CAIR's actions were but another example of an attempt at the forced submission of others to Islamic fundamentalist views. Their technique is lifted directly from the dogmatic teachings of the Koran and Hadith. They are also a reminder that the war against America, in which the left and Islam have unwittingly -- or from the Islamist viewpoint, quite wittingly -- teamed up, is fought on many battlefields.

Come and see Robert Spencer, the man CAIR threatened to censor, speak about "Islamofascism." He will be speaking next Oct. 24, at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Union Ballroom at the University of Rhode Island. It will surely open your eyes to the threat Islamic fundamentalism poses to us all.

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Load-Date: October 18, 2007



letters@independent.co.uk; Work 'success' at the expense of child care

The Independent (London)
September 24, 2008 Wednesday
First Edition

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Section: COMMENT; Pg. 28

Length: 2074 words

Body

The Equal Opportunities Commission (before it was merged into the new equality body) analysed the pay gap and found that the unequal sharing of caring for children was the biggest cause of the pay gap between <u>women</u> and men ("Sexism = success", 23 September).

If you care for a child then you have to compromise at work - at the beginning when the baby is born, a lot before the child goes to school, when the child needs to be taken to and fetched from school, and then throughout the rest of the child's life in case of sickness, emergencies, homework and important events in the child's life. Such compromises differentiate an employee from one who can guarantee never to compromise, for example, in a family where one parent does all the earning and one parent does all the caring. It is no surprise, therefore, that when parents want the father to share in caring and domestic responsibilities, he should also experience lower status at work and lower pay. This phenomenon creates a powerful economic incentive on parents to split roles so that one parent sustains an uncompromised working role.

The same theory explains why the current leave entitlement, which gave fathers only two weeks, when mothers were given 52, is immediately driving up the gender pay gap. By creating the biggest difference in entitlements between <u>women</u> and men in any country in the world, the law sends a clear signal that <u>women</u> will compromise work for caring responsibilities and men will be driven deeper into the exclusive earning role - something the title of your article dubiously terms "success".

Duncan Fisher

CEO, The Fatherhood Institute, Abergavenny

Methane threat to the climate

In the article "The methane time bomb" (23 September), the common misconception is reiterated that methane is "a greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide". In fact the situation is worse than this, and methane is actually around 100 times more potent than CO2.

If equal masses, say one tonne each, of CH4 and CO2 were emitted simultaneously into the atmosphere, over 100 years the effect of methane would be 20 times that of CO2, 60 times over 20 years but 100 times when their

letters@independent.co.uk Work 'success' at the expense of child care

warming potential is compared directly. If both methane and CO2 are being emitted continually, rather than as one-off events, the factor of 100 is the more salient.

Thus, alarming though the tale of the melting permafrost is, as told, its consequences may prove far worse. Runaway melting of permafrost will almost certainly cause a steady or accelerated release of methane over decades, and so climate models will need to be compensated.

Professor Chris Rhodes

Caversham, Berkshire

The populations of organisms in our biosphere go through phases of growth and decline as resources are used up, and our species is not exempt. If we do not find a way to curb our explosive population growth and prevent further environmental destruction, then nature will, and the price in human suffering does not bear thinking about.

The economic rumblings around the world are a mere prelude, a warning of the catastrophes which eventually must come. The state of third-world countries such as Zimbabwe should teach us how fragile our society is, and how much we take for granted.

Daniel Emlyn-Jones

Oxford

So long as life is tickety-boo mankind generally blathers around in a dream world, ignoring realities; it is only when the solids hit the air-con that the reality bites and we actually do something.

I fear that global warming, like the great depression, the Second World War, the current financial crisis et al, will fall into this category. Apparently we need to halve CO2 output within 10 years to just keep global temperatures where they are now. Who (sceptic or believer) seriously believes that this will happen? (Short of economic collapse which, I admit, is being seriously investigated.)

We may as well keep pumping, halve fuel duty and find out definitively whether the sceptics or believers are right.

Rob Dobson

Tenterden, Kent

On 27 June, science editor Steve Connor published an article entitled, "Scientists warn that there may be no ice at the north pole this summer". The article indicated that such an event would be unprecedented in human history and would be "one of the most dramatic and worrying examples of the impact of global warming".

Summer has come and gone (nearly) and the ice cycle has reached its minimum for the year. Science is all about predictions so, how did Connor's prediction pan out? Data can be found on the web site for the Nation Snow and Ice Data Center. As I interpret these data, the "minimum ice extent" for 2008 was slightly greater than that of 2007. Furthermore, 2007 had more ice than 2006 which appears to have had the least ice for any year since 1979, where the presented data set starts.

Sam Murray

Los Angeles

Amid chaos, the payouts go on

The Bush administration needs to explain how it can find \$700bn to help its banker friends when there is never any money for health, education, infrastructure programmes etc etc. At the same time it is immoral and unreal that CEOs still expect and are getting multi-million pay-outs when thousands of employees are being laid off and millions are losing their homes.

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Now that the financial sector is almost nationalised, will bankers be paid according to government worker levels? Will they reduce expenses such as luxury cars, first-class hotels, restaurants and travel? At least any profits should be kept by the Government until the debts have been paid off.

It is astonishing that Barclays can be so insensitive to public opinion and employees as to announce that it is handing out millions to top Lehman execs for no reason. Barclays can buy the company without being so generous to the people who are responsible for bringing their house down in the first place.

So why don't the institutional shareholders voice their discontent. It smacks of jobs for the boys and protecting buddies in the cosy club of high finance. Governments should either bring pressure to bear or curb the payouts by bringing in 100 per cent tax.

Peter Fieldman

Paris

Gordon Brown may think he is the best man to solve the financial crisis. Everyone I have spoken to has agreed that the best man for this task is, without doubt, Dr Vincent Cable.

Michael J Mumford

LANCASTER

One state for Jews and Arabs

In dismissing the possibility of a bi-national state in Israel/ Palestine (Opinion, 22 September) Johann Hari ignores the constitutions of states such as Belgium, Switzerland and Canada, and the power-sharing solutions to the conflicts in Bosnia and Northern Ireland.

A bi-national state would recognise the national/collective rights of both Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews, so a Jewish national presence would continue to exist in the Jewish homeland - which is surely what Zionism is all about. Jews would in fact be able to live across the whole land, so a bi-national state would fulfil Zionist aspirations more than a state confined to the 1967 borders. Bi-nationalism would also fulfil the Zionist aspiration to create a just and equal society in the Jewish holy land - an aspiration which is certainly not fulfilled at present.

Many South African whites were terrified of being "swamped" by the majority black population, but in the end realised the irrationality of their fears. It is at least possible that in time Israeli Jews - who would be much more equal in numbers to Palestinian Arabs - will do the same.

Deborah Maccoby

LONDON E5

While I agree with Johann Hari about the seriousness of the demographic threat to Israel's existence as a sovereign Jewish state, he fails to mention the elephant in the room: <u>Hamas</u>. Mr Hari speaks of "Palestinian nationalists" only, but the democratically elected <u>Hamas</u> is a religious group that views Israel as an Islamic waqf and therefore inalienable Muslim land.

While Jewish nationalists have given up the dream of a greater Israel that includes the West Bank, an Israeli withdrawal from that area will only transfer the <u>Hamas</u> rockets, currently hitting less populated Israeli towns, to Tel Aviv, so destroying the Israeli economy as well as many more Israeli lives.

Richard Millett

London NW4

No creationism in science lessons

In the fuss about whether science should embrace creationism in the classroom, many people ignore or misunderstand the real problem. Professor Reiss highlighted that some children are so indoctrinated at home with fundamentalist religious beliefs that when they go to school to learn about the wider world, they are so intolerant of alternative (scientific) views, that even considering them is a turn-off. They already possess the answer to the mystery of the universe, namely that "God did it".

These children will return at the end of the day to homes where the religious version is reinforced and all alternatives summarily dismissed. They are hardly likely to change their view after one or two science lessons.

Why should science teachers waste the time of other pupils in the class eager to approach the subject with open minds? If some children are lost to science because of religious fundamentalism in the home, it is not the fault of scientists refusing to discuss myth and legend in schools, nor is it the job of school science teachers to win converts from religious fundamentalism.

Alistair McBay

National Secular Society

London WC1

When some of my science students got quite excited about evidence of the remains of Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat, I gave them the homework task of designing a boat 300 cubits long, which could house all six species of rhinoceros (male and *female*), 60 species of rodent, 2,000 species of snake etc. They also had to work out how the poor penguins managed to waddle up the entire length of Africa to make it to the boat on time.

David Simmonds

Epping, Essex

Jane McNabb is quoted ("Creationist Britain", 19 September) as saying: "If God is God and truly God, and worthy to be worshipped, then He's not truly worth it if He couldn't do creation - He'd be a weak and inadequate God."

But hang on a moment - how come it took him six whole days? And why would this guy need to rest? Resting is for wimps, humans and other animals. Physics and evolution, on the other hand, never rest.

Dr Brian Robinson

Milton Keynes, Bucks

The fact that creationists and their fellow travellers, the "intelligent designers", seek to give their arguments the same status as scientific theories indicates that they have no confidence in faith alone to provide the truth. This is the position of most atheists.

M A Timms

Iver, Buckinghamshire

Briefly...

Colourful future

Thank you for the all-colour Independent. However I think you could go further. Could I be the first to have my letter printed in a different colour? A blue for preference.

David R Pollard

Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire

Living myths

Tom Lubbock (Great Works, 19 September) states that our delight in "old art" is based on a delusion, since what we see is something other than what was intended. Imagine a world in which we could only appreciate the art of the past with the eyes of the past: it would have no meaning for us now. Art's delight is its capacity to transcend the intention of the artist and the time in which it was made. Great works of art are like living, functioning myths, alive to new needs and meanings.

Christopher clack

London SE15

Disintegrating sharks

Richard Ingrams (20 September) asks the question: "Why do these multimillionaires vie with one another as to who can spend the most on something that may very possibly have a limited lifespan - one of Hirst's sharks has already started to disintegrate - and which in a few years' time is likely to be worth nothing at all in the art market?" Surely its value will increase extraordinarily. What we all thought was a dead shark is in fact a disintegrating shark. This is much more fascinating and a worthy artistic reflection of our times.

Dr Nick Maurice

Marlborough, Wiltshire

Traffic in sin

I was outraged to read about Jacqui Smith's standing ovation at the Labour conference for proposing that men who have sex with trafficked <u>women</u> should be criminalised, while nothing new is being done to stop the trafficking, which is a far worse offence. The ordinary sinner is to get the blame, because it is cheaper to do it that way.

Dr Tim Lawson

Cheam, Surrey

Risky idea

You report that teachers "are being urged to take risks" (22 September). Surely only after completing the requisite risk assessment forms in triplicate?

Zoe Yacoub

Brighton

Load-Date: September 23, 2008



Experiencing two absolutes; Writers rejecting political correctness may dredge up truth about their society and country

The Star (South Africa)

June 04, 2008 Wednesday

e1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 1326 words

Byline: NADINE GORDIMER

Body

'The moment when I am no longer more than a writer, I shall cease to write."

The little strip of planet Earth where two peoples of common ancient origin, Israelis and Palestinians, contest to live - but not together.

I went there not at the invitation of the Israeli government. I was invited by Israeli writers to an international festival of writers. I accepted because the quotation above, by Albert Camus, is my credo.

I believe that the writer within integrity to his/her creativity has a responsibility as a human being for recognition of oppression perpetrated against people, whoever they are, in the society in which the writer has his/her being.

Just as the opera singer has particular qualities of the vocal chords, the writer has an insight bringing the responsibility to bear particular witness to the writer's time and place.

I want to testify that writers, rejecting political correctness and using the gifts of insight witness, may dredge up some of the truth, beyond the surface of information, about their society and country.

"Witness: The Inward Testimony" was the subject of the address I gave. It had, of course, particular reference and relevance to the place, Israel, and the Israeli writers among those present.

In the depths of profound confusion, while peace talks as the foundation of justice for both peoples flounder and revive, I found there are two absolutes: for Israelis, the right of Israel to exist, denied by <u>Hamas</u> and jihad Palestinians; and the return of the occupied territories to Palestine.

Among Israeli writers, including the vociferous Amos Oz, renowned internationally for his brilliant novels and bold, critical publication of possible solutions for two-state justice, every Israeli writer I met was against the occupied territories and the harsh measures used against the Palestinian inhabitants.

I was informed by people at conference sessions that the majority of Israelis are against their government's policies of occupation. A minority spoke to me in defence of the occupied territories as acquisitions of the 1967 changes to partition lines in divine accord with biblical prophecy.

Experiencing two absolutes Writers rejecting political correctness may dredge up truth about their society and country

I had made arrangements before leaving South Africa to visit East Jerusalem, the Palestinian sector. A car from the Palestinian Authority picked me up at a curiously named no-man's-land, the "American Colony Hotel". I was received by Professor Sari Nusseibe, a fellow writer whose work I know. I talked with a gathering of students, many of them aspirant writers, answering their questions about the pressures of political conflict on the freedom of expression.

But literature did not turn out to be the portent of this occasion for me. I was taken to the faculty which houses a unique documentation, for which "museum" is not the right word. The smiling director was himself a prisoner for 17 years of Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Not only had he assembled the minute scraps of testimony scribbled on shreds of paper or cloth that were smuggled out of prison, and photographs of men under merciless interrogation. He has a library of written accounts by ex-prisoners whom he seeks out to set down living memories of pain and humiliation under interrogation. No doubt there are the same kind of memories of suffering among Israeli prisoners interrogated by Palestinians.

The inhumanity of humans towards humans knows no boundaries.

Al Quds University is close to what is referred to as the Jerusalem suburb, Abu Dib, through which the wall that divides Palestine from Israel has part of its monumental path. The wall defies any conventional image. I stood beside one of its gigantic convolutions across streets and houses.

It is as high as a wall from floor to ceiling in a one-storey house. I was with a doctor at the entrance to his home. The wall slices toweringly across his and a neighbour's garden and their street. His clinic is a few blocks away, on the other side of the wall. He has to drive (I was with him) several kilometres to the nearest gate and checkpoint to cross and reach his clinic back near the very point he set out from.

He told of critically ill patients on the east side of the wall whose life-saving treatment was available only at a specialised hospital on the west side, on occasion someone dying while guards delayed perusal of medical documents that authorised the crossing. In Israel, I was told by friends that nevertheless there are times when the "unconscious" patient and the attending "doctor" are let through. They are suicide bombers coming to explode murder among the Israeli men, <u>women</u> and children in public places.

Meanwhile, I watched children coming through the gate from their school on one side of the wall to reach their homes on the other side. The everyday disruption of Palestinian lives is inconceivable, even as you experience some small part of it.

Through my friendship with the late Edward Said, a leading intellectual and exponent of Palestine complete with just borders, and Miriam Said, I was enabled to be received in what is known as the heart and mind of the occupied West Bank, Ramallah. Despite my participation in the International Festival of Writers, boycotted by Palestine, I was warmly welcomed by Dr Mustafa Barghouti, the secretary of Al Mubadara, "the Palestine national initiative for the realisation of Palestinian national rights and creation of a just, durable peace" - a group whose members were assembled.

They drove me about Ramallah, informing me of what I was seeing again as the results of occupation. Around a table for lunch at Al Mubadara, I learnt first-hand about the political standpoint, tactics and work of the Palestine Initiative. They reject the <u>Hamas</u> denial of the right of Israel to exist, while pursuing a non-violent but inexorable struggle against the present and ongoing occupation of Palestine.

Dr Barghouti is a member of the Palestine parliament who achieved second place behind Mahmoud Abbas in the 2005 elections, focusing major attention on the demand to end further construction of Israel's wall and the dismantling of its existence.

He talked about customary rhetoric in political leaders, encouraging colleagues to speak. I heard how the Palestine Initiative, while ineluctably dedicated to a Palestinian state on acceptable, just frontiers, is also concerned with internal Palestinian divisions. ("Just" being under endless disagreement, where both Israel and Palestine each

Experiencing two absolutes Writers rejecting political correctness may dredge up truth about their society and country

believe they have an ancient right to the entire territory, even while bitterly recognising, force majeur of the contemporary world, that would only be achieved by unspeakable bloodshed in a horrific war.)

I left for the Other Side with a huge poster: "40 years under occupation", reproducing coloured maps, green for Palestine splattered with red spots indicating Israeli "colonies", incredible rearrangements, swops of bitterly disputed territory, from 1948 to present - with a final blank map for the future, bearing only a question mark.

There are some extraordinary responses to the blank map of the future. Returning from occupied territory to the conference in Jerusalem, the car in which I was transported plunged into a deep, long tunnel off the highway,

My Palestinian escort told this was one of those envisaged by Israel to connect, along 1967 lines, the far-flung pieces of Palestine that Israel recognises, without using the highways that lead through Israeli territory.

The question mark remains.

It hangs over peace negotiations - that vital base for the answer an outsider who believes in justice surely must support: two fully independent states on agreed, realistic frontiers.

Israeli and Palestinian poets and fiction writers bear their particular responsibility of inward witness, not for the television and newsprint immediacy of the day, but in lasting works that bring up from beneath the news something of the contradictions of the human condition, enduring, living in hope, a time and place.

n Christine Qunta's column will appear tomorrow.

Load-Date: June 3, 2008



New Israeli leader must hurry to form coalition

Ottawa Citizen
September 19, 2008 Friday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 548 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, Canwest News Service

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM - With only six weeks to forge a new coalition in Israel or face national elections, Tzipi Livni will have little time to savour winning the Kadima leadership early yesterday.

To succeed the disgraced Ehud Olmert and become Israel's 13th prime minister, the former secret agent, lawyer and serving foreign minister must win over 32 members of Israel's incredibly Byzantine Knesset in order to form a coalition with Kadima's 29 deputies.

"The national mission we have is to quickly create stability," Ms. Livni told reporters in Tel Aviv before returning to Jerusalem. "This responsibility is not just mine, but inside Kadima and members of the Knesset."

The process of wooing potential coalition partners and millions of Israeli voters began within hours of the official announcement of her narrow victory.

Whether she is successful at building a coalition or not, at some point between February and 2010, she must face an election against Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of Likud and a hardliner who has very different views about the peace process between Israel and Palestine.

"It should not be left up to registered Kadima voters alone" to decide who the next prime minister is, Mr. Netanyahu said yesterday in demanding that Ms. Livni call a snap election. "The people should decide who will lead them. Anyone who fears the people's choice is not fit to lead."

No matter what Mr. Netanyahu wants, it is extremely unlikely that Ms. Livni will go to the polls for at least several months, if she can avoid doing so by forming a new coalition.

The Fatah-led Palestinian Authority, which has been discussing a U.S.-backed peace deal with Ms. Livni since last fall, had little to say about the Kadima leadership race throughout the campaign.

"At the end of the day, we want to make peace with all Israelis, not with this party or that party or that person or this person," chief negotiator Sayed Erekat told the BBC yesterday. "I hope that once the dust settles down in Israel, whether they are going to form a government of national unity, a new one or have early elections, that we will stay the course of peace and negotiation."

New Israeli leader must hurry to form coalition

A greater Israel from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River is an ideology that Ms. Livni imbibed as the daughter of Zionist parents who fought the British to create the Jewish state. But a few years ago she did an about-face. Staring at a rapidly growing Palestinian population living within Israel and the territories, she became a believer in a two-state solution.

But her position on Iran, <u>Hamas</u>, Gaza and the peace talks are not why she was elected as the new leader of Kadima. Nor was it because she closely identified herself with <u>women</u>'s issues as U.S. presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton did. The fact that she is a woman barely figured in her leadership campaign.

Kadima members backed the stylish, modestly dressed 50-year-old mother of two because she is squeaky clean in a political culture that has become the subject of derision. Serious allegations, charges and convictions have been levied against a string of major political figures, including former president Moshe Katsav, former prime minister Ariel Sharon and the incumbent, Mr. Olmert, who, police have alleged, received hundreds of thousands of dollars in illegal campaign donations.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Agence France-Presse, Getty Images; Tzipi Livni meets with the media yesterday after narrowly winning leadership of Israel's ruling Kadima party. She then began talks on forming a new coalition government in her bid to become prime minister.;

Load-Date: September 19, 2008



World - Truce brings no relief for Gaza; Ann Douglas on the continuing suffering caused by Israel's siege

Morning Star September 6, 2008 Saturday

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Length: 589 words

Body

Exercising total control over Gaza's borders, airspace, territorial waters, population registry, tax system and supply of goods and fuel, Israel has managed to maintain its blockade of the territory's 1.5 million civilians.

The declared aim of the siege is to force the population to withdraw support for the democratically elected *Hamas*.

Increased restrictions on the movement of money, goods, services and people via Gaza crossings and the closure of the Rafah crossing into Egypt since June 2007 have led to a steep decline in vital welfare services.

The health-care system has been decimated.

The Egyptian-brokered truce that came into force on June 19 was supposed to see the lifting of restrictions. But there has been no significant progress.

According to a Gaza Health Ministry official, 46 patients, including 10 children and 14 **women**, have died since the truce was declared.

"The siege has emptied Gaza hospital and medical centres of basic medical supplies and equipment," the official explained.

The result has been a sharp increase in the number of patients referred to medical centres in Israel, the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Jordan via the Israeli-controlled Eretz crossing.

The proportion of patients denied exit permits has risen from 10 per cent in the first half of 2007 to 35 per cent in the first half of this year.

Many patients are barred from leaving the Gaza Strip for medical treatment elsewhere.

On August 22, Ministry of Health sources in Gaza reported the death of a two-year-old after his parents were prevented from leaving to seek treatment for him.

Hundreds more patients in Gaza are liable to die in the short term without immediate life-saving treatment.

Since the siege began, 241 patients have died for lack of proper care.

A report by Physicians for Human Rights-Israel last month criticised the Israeli security service's total control over the procedure of patients leaving for medical treatment.

Patients are regularly held for interrogation at the Erez crossing.

World - Truce brings no relief for Gaza Ann Douglas on the continuing suffering caused by Israel 's siege

They are requested to provide information or to act as collaborators as a condition for permission to exit Gaza.

In the past year, over 30 patients gave testimonies to PHR-Israel corroborating this practice.

Dr Bob Brecher of Brighton University wrote in his formal ethical opinion on the report that the conduct of Israel and the security service "raises serious ethical, as well as legal, issues in respect of the state of Israel's international obligations."

The report concluded that certain acts of the security service constitute inhumane and degrading treatment and, in some cases, amount to torture.

Meanwhile, raw and partially treated sewage continues to pour into the Mediterranean from Gaza, according to the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility.

The worst-hit areas are the Swedish Village, near Rafah in the south, the area north of Wadi Gaza, south of Gaza City, where raw sewage blackens the sea for at least a mile inshore, and all the beaches around Gaza City.

The utility estimates that 70 million litres of sewage enter the sea from Gaza City, Rafah and Wadi Gaza.

Most of Gaza's coastal water is discoloured, ranging from black to murky green.

Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions director Jeff Halper told the Electronic Intifada website this week: "We have an occupation, we have siege, we have sanctions, we have closure and, therefore, we are the strong party, we are the oppressors. The Palestinians aren't occupying Tel Aviv."

He said that it is up to Israel "to end the occupation and to bring an end to the conflict."

Load-Date: September 8, 2008



The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

May 12, 2008 Monday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; Letters; Pg. 10

Length: 2075 words

Body

ISRAEL AND MALCOLM FRASER

A voice of vision and conscience

IN HIS support for a reasoned, just approach to the Palestine/Israel question, Malcolm Fraser (Comment & Debate, 10/5) will no doubt receive fierce criticism from people who are fearful that if you don't support Israel, right or wrong, you are anti-Semitic. Such critics forget that Israel is a state, not a religion, and is as likely to be as flawed as any other state. Within Israel itself there is trenchant criticism of politicians and policies.

Apartheid South Africa didn't reverse its policies until its friends in the world stood up and criticised it. Today, friends of Israel, such as Malcolm Fraser and Jimmy Carter, show vision and conscience in alerting Israel to the fact that it has lost its way when the oppression and suffering of Palestinians continue after 60 years.

Susan Day, Viewbank

Blaming the victims

MALCOLM Fraser believes that if only <u>Hamas</u> were incorporated into the democratic process and asked to change a number of its policies, then it would have "an alternative to violence". However, those policies are explicitly and unashamedly genocidal. Its raison d'etre is the religiously inspired notion of killing every Jewish man, woman and child in the region. Its territorial aim is the utter destruction of Israel, irrespective of where its borders might lie. Yet Mr Fraser puts the blame (again) at the feet of those who are targeted for genocide rather than those attempting to perpetrate it.

Perhaps in urging dialogue with <u>Hamas</u>, Mr Fraser might suggest that the Israelis entertain a <u>Hamas</u> opening gambit of murdering only 80% of Jews. From there, they might be negotiated down to 60% or perhaps into removing preschool children from their murderous agenda to allow the building of mutual trust. Shame, Malcolm.

Michael Harari, South Caulfield

Speaking in friendship

ED O'LOUGHLIN'S clear-sighted and courageous analysis of the situation in the Middle East will be sorely missed, his reports from the front line repeatedly giving the lie to the insupportable prejudices so often dished up by armchair pundits. Meanwhile, Malcolm Fraser continues to show how friendship with Israel is in no way

incompatible with criticism of its policies and techniques, and of the deep flaws at the heart of its world view. Well might we wish he had achieved that balance when he was in a position to act upon it.

Michael Stevens, Hawthorn

This is no game, Mr Fraser

FOR a former prime minister, Malcolm Fraser demonstrates a remarkable lack of political insight. He argues for an even-handed approach to the Middle East conflict, yet fails to acknowledge that the Palestinians can have their state any time they want if only they would allow the Israelis to have theirs. He also somehow implies that the incessant Palestinian violence against Israel should be discounted because the casualty rate is not even.

It's not a football game, Mr Fraser, and the only reason more Israelis are not killed by suicide bombers and rocket attacks is precisely because of their vigilance in preventing these attacks in the first place.

I'll bet the Anzac diggers are glad Mr Fraser wasn't leading Australia during WWII. He might have advocated that we open a dialogue with Hitler's Nazis and the Japanese in order to resolve the conflict.

Alan Freedman, East St Kilda

Pick on someone else, Mr Swan

I EARN a bit above the average wage, but worked extremely hard to achieve this. I don't have a problem with paying my fair share of tax, and believe that I do. But I find it insulting to be labelled wealthy simply because I earn above a certain dollar amount or can afford a nicer car than the next person.

Like many families, my partner and I both work and we must carefully watch our money from week to week. We are hit just as badly by interest rate hikes. Yet because I worked hard to get a better job and am - or at least was - slightly better off, I don't fall into Wayne Swan's idea of a working family. In other words, I'm rolling in cash and fair game for tax-gouging.

Drawing a line in the sand and saying if you earn above \$X you're wealthy is unproductive and un-Australian. It's quite saddening to think that this is how Australia is governed.

David Reimers, St Georges, SA

Baby bonus blues

NINE months ago I received more than \$4000 from the Government as a congratulatory prize for 24 hours of hard labour. My partner and I immediately bought a top washing machine (to save water and wash nappies) and then set about wondering how we'd dispose of the rest. In the end, we decided to frame and hang all the artwork we'd collected on our previous tours of Asia. Other mums in my neighbourhood bought plasma screen TVs. Taxpayers' money well spent?

Mr Swan, get rid of the baby bonus. The architects of this particularly cynical piece of middle-class welfare are gone, and so too should be free baby money. First, it's a distraction from the real issue of reconciling <u>women</u>'s desire for fulfilling careers and their social obligation to reproduce the nation. Flexible workplaces, sufficient child care, paid maternity/paternity leave.

Second, why are we encouraging population growth when overpopulation is so deeply implicated in our current environmental and social woes? Surely there are more sustainable ways of managing an ageing population.

Third, money spent on the baby bonus would be better spent on the hospitals our children are born in, the schools they will attend and repairing the damage to the environment they will inherit.

Emily Sims, Yarraville

Ump in arms

IT IS truly disheartening to see that umpires for Saturday's Hall of Fame tribute match were fitted with video cameras. As a Diamond Valley/Northern Football League umpire of six years, I would hate to have every move, vision and decision I made accessible to the umpire's coach, commentary and the media.

Sure, this new idea is good for the general public to get a feel for what goes on from the umpire's perspective, but it also leaves many more avenues for us already over-scrutinised umpires to be subject to a new and heightened level of abuse if we make a genuine mistake. Do not forget that umpires are humans, the same type of humans who make mistakes every day.

Tim Fitzpatrick, St Helena

Tough principals

"POACHING principals is good policy" (Letters, 10/5) contains a couple of serious flaws that need addressing. Given that private schools are havens of selected students and where expulsion is preferred to counselling for poor behaviour, it would seem reasonable to assume that their principals would lack the ticker to handle the state school omnibus down the street.

Contrary to the notion of "scant understanding of present trends in pedagogical research", state principals undergo a rigorous examination of their modernity during their selection process. Many of them could claim a major role in the development of the VCE, which private principals still find difficult to come to terms with.

Graeme Lee (retired principal), Fitzroy

Zoned out on a pointless policy

MELBOURNE is facing costly complications and long delays with the delivery of a new ticketing system. Does the zoning system on a suburban rail network serve any useful purpose at all? The costs to the provider, Connex, are not related to the distances travelled by passengers other than providing the whole service in the first place.

Where people get on and off is irrelevant to costing and charging for the service. Furthermore, passengers who travel the longest distances are least likely to be able to afford it and are even subsidising those living closer in. Why have zones at all?

Lisle Rudolph, Mount Waverley

Standing room only

SO, METLINK chief Bernie Carolan thinks those who get a seat on trains are the "lucky ones" (The Age, 9/5). With an attitude like that, he's a lucky one to retain his job! Maybe he could replace the current carriages with cattle vans and the whole problem could disappear.

No one expects that every passenger will get a seat during peak hour travel, but viewing those who do as "lucky" shows a contempt for the travelling public and a total lack of understanding. Harvey Cowan, Cheltenham

Seeing double

WHILE we know most good things come from Victoria, occasionally it pays to look north. If we need every train to carry more people, it's time once again to consider double-decker eight-car trains.

Between 1991 and 2002, a Goninan-built double-decker, made in Newcastle, ran on the Melbourne system in a trial capacity. While the import was considered unsuitable for our system and unreliable, now is almost certainly time to reconsider the idea on at least some of our crowded lines.

Malcolm Pacey, Richmond

A gift, but not for life

BILL Chandler (Letters, 10/5) comments on the sacrifice and love of a wife giving her husband a kidney. And so it is. And it perpetuated the myth that a kidney transplant is a cure for life. And it isn't. More and more donations are needed to give people a chance at a life free from dialysis. All governments, including the deaf State Government, need to understand the desperate need for more dialysis units for those who can't have a transplant and those who need to dialyse to live.

Paul Kehoe, Chirnside Park

Paying for others a point of principle

TRACEE, Tracee, Tracee (Hutchison, Comment & Debate, 10/5), it's like this, you are part of a community. If we are employed we pay taxes. Our taxes go towards things we may never utilise, such as the income of the unemployed. I have private health cover, but I have to pay for people who don't. My children go to a private school, but my taxes go towards those who don't. I may never need to live in a nursing home, but my taxes will nevertheless go towards the care of people who do.

I have four children and I did not get maternity leave for any of them. However, to give the <u>women</u> of the future in this country the chance I didn't have - to maintain their employment status and move forward in their career after the birth of their children - I am more than happy to contribute to a maternity leave payment. You see, it's a matter of principle.

Lee Stapleton, Kew

The duty of citizens

WHEN I was a single childless taxpayer, I didn't feel put upon because of tax breaks given to families. Tracee Hutchinson can whinge all she likes, but children are an investment in the future of a society. I'd much rather contribute to new families than to the military budget. But as a taxpayer I contribute to both. It's part of your responsibility as a citizen.

I can understand objections to the form of some tax breaks for families. Why is a one-off baby bonus preferable to a yearly tax deduction for children? That's a more reasonable response to helping with the cost of raising children.

Tanya Hunter, North Fitzroy

Choking on suburbia

NO, REMY Favre (Letters, 10/5), government and planners should not be asking you what you want and doing it, they should be telling you how ruinously costly ongoing suburbanisation is and finding alternatives for us to choose before they are imposed on us. Just as Victorians have an unsustainable ecological footprint, so suburban sprawl was always going to result in unliveable gridlock.

Aspirations are not legitimate rights. Apart from good space to raise children, the suburban backyard is a costly indulgence we do not need for a liveable home. Suburbia has always lived on borrowed time, borrowed money and borrowed oil. Now urban obesity has resulted in clogged arteries. This city either transforms to something more compact or it becomes an unliveable mess, choked to death on its own motor vehicles.

Kris Hansen, Ringwood

The tried and true

THERE is nothing new in the "explicit teaching" method that principal John Fleming is using to teach young students (The Age, 10/5). In fact we were using it 50 years ago. Now it is critical to use both inquiry-based teaching and the explicit method. There are still only so many ways of instilling knowledge and a love of learning into

children, while maintaining the ability to use every teaching method tried and tested to match each child in the classroom.

It is a pity, however, that this inspirational principal has been lured to the private school system when the disadvantaged students at the Bellfield Primary School could benefit so much more than the Haileybury students. While the students of Haileybury will no doubt gain, it is certainly a loss to the state system when we lose a principal of John Fleming's calibre.

Annie Young, Bendigo

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Graphic

CARTOON BY PETTY

Load-Date: May 11, 2008



Nurturing SA and African cinema

Cape Argus (South Africa)
July 17, 2008 Thursday
e1 Edition

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Section: ENTERTAINMENT; Pg. 4

Length: 600 words

Body

The recent and horrific xenophobic attacks that swept across the country, and made world headlines, were the catalyst in the Love Film, Hate Xenophobia theme at this year's Durban International Film Festival (Diff).

Nashen Moodley, the festival manager, explains: "Many South Africans involved in the film industry were at the Cannes Film Festival during the outbreak of the xenophobic attacks, and it was extremely disturbing, depressing and embarrassing for us, as it was for many people here.

"This highlighted for us that the underlying motive of all film festivals, Diff included, is to promote tolerance and under-standing of different cultures through the medium of film.

"We thought it appropriate to highlight this aspect through the chosen theme."

On a more encouraging note, there is a strong presence of local offerings, which is evident with Jerusalema, the opening film which is directed by Ralph Ziman. It captures the rise of a Johannesburg gangster in gritty splendour.

Moodley explains: "One of the key objectives is the promotion of South African and African cinema, so it's great that we will, for the second year running, open with a South African film.

"Last year, it was Darrell James Roodt's Meisie.

"Jerusalema is a really energetic and exciting gangster film set on the mean streets of Johannesburg."

On the surge in local submissions, he offers: "While funding remains a big problem, there are nevertheless a large number of South African films this year - this is certainly reflective of the tenacity of filmmakers, who are just getting out there and making films with small budgets.

"(Locally) Diff has 10 feature films, 29 documentaries and 32 short films. The highlights are premieres of John Kani's Nothing but the Truth, Mlandu Sikwebu's uMalusi and Claire Angelique's My Black Little Heart."

Shamim Sarif's The World Unseen, Meg Rickard's Land of Thirst, Michael Rix's satirical animation, Tengers, and Michael Raeburn's controversial cinematic adaptation of Triomf, wraps up the home-grown features.

With political conflicts monopolising headlines around the globe, documentaries such as A Jihad for Love, Black Business, The City the Kills Somalians, Inside *Hamas* and Dar Fur - War for Water will make for interesting viewing.

Nurturing SA and African cinema

Diff's other focus areas are divided between The New German Cinema, Indian Cinema, Wavescapes Surf Film Festival, Music on Film ... Films on Music, Focus on Italian Film, *Women*'s Month and European Union Film Focus.

Given the vastness of the line-up, whittling down the different genres and languages was no easy feat.

"We have selection committees and committees of advisors, comprised of people who are passionate about cinema, to come up with a final selection.

"While we do try to present a solid geographical representation, ultimately we just want to present great films, regardless of language or genre," he explains.

Moodley elaborates: "It's not enough for film festivals to just screen films. For us, it has always been extremely important for Diff to have a significant training component and that the festival films and filmmakers inspire a new generation of South African filmmakers.

"This year, we added the Talent Campus Durban, which brings together 40 young filmmakers from all over the African continent for an intensive five-day programme of workshops and seminars."

With over 200 films from over 95 countries on offer and around 100 filmmakers in attendance, moviegoers get to feast their eyes on a smorgasbord of thought-provoking and compelling releases, from July 23 to August 3, and interact with the visionaries behind the offerings.

Load-Date: July 16, 2008



Canada strengthening its links with Israel; Tories abandon 'middle stance' of Liberals

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

May 3, 2008 Saturday

National Edition

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Section: ISRAEL AT 60; Pg. A16

Length: 2026 words

Byline: John Ivison, National Post

Body

Tal Pichovich runs a restaurant in the Israeli town of Sderot, which borders the Gaza Strip and is subject to incessant Qassam rocket attacks. She was in Ottawa this month to explain to Canadians how hard it is to bake bread when you have to run to the bomb shelter every 20 minutes, hands covered in dough.

Ms. Pichovich was accompanied by George Adjedj, who laments that his grandchildren have to play indoors at all times, and Eeki Elner, who tells a story about the day his house was hit by a rocket while he made his way to his morning shower. "I shook for two days. We feel abandoned -- there are lots of stories about the Palestinians but nothing about us."

The three Sderot residents were trying to change that by sharing their stories with Maxime Bernier, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who earlier this month issued a strongly worded diplomatic caution to Israel because of retaliation to the Qassam attacks on Sderot that killed Palestinian civilians.

They say they were given a sympathetic hearing by a government that has increasingly strong links with the Israeli regime.

More starkly than any of its predecessors, Stephen Harper's Conservative government has supported Israel when it has come under attack from <u>Hamas</u> or Hezbollah, considered by Canada to be terrorist organizations. Since it came to power, the Harper government has gone out of its way to make the point that when it comes to conflict between Israel and a terrorist organization, Canada is not neutral.

In the wake of Hezbollah's attacks and the subsequent Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 2006, the Prime Minister told a B'nai Brith dinner, "The fact is this: Those who attacked Israel and those who sponsor such attacks don't seek merely to gain some leverage, alter some boundary or to right some wrong. They seek what they and those like them have always sought -- the destruction of Israel and the destruction of all Jewish people."

When then-Liberal leadership candidate Michael Ignatieff

condemned Israel's strike on the Lebanese village of Qana that killed 28 people as a "war crime," Mr. Harper was much more circumspect, describing the Israeli response as "measured" and accusing the Liberal Party of "an anti-Israeli bias."

Canada was the first country to withdraw financial aid from the <u>Hamas</u>-led Palestinian government and, at a meeting of la Francophonie in Bucharest, Mr. Harper blocked a resolution that would only have recognized Lebanese suffering in the conflict.

Critics suggested that the Canadian government had abandoned its traditional role as an "honest broker" in the region and was doing so merely in order to woo Jewish voters in some key ridings in Toronto and Montreal.

Electoral politics may have played a role, but the more pro-Israeli position reflected Mr. Harper's desire to have a much more muscular foreign policy, backed by enhanced military spending. "My own assessment of Canada's role in the Middle East in the past decade or so is that we have been completely absent," he said.

That message was reinforced by then-Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay last year when he visited the region and defended a boycott of *Hamas*, saying Canada is a friend of Israel and was merely "standing up to terrorism." Earlier this month, Canada was the only voice of dissent to a UN Human Rights Council resolution that accused Israel of war crimes in its ongoing battle against Palestinian militants in Gaza.

Alan Baker, the Israeli ambassador in Ottawa, said the Harper government has been far more prepared to abandon the "middle stance" traditionally assumed by Liberal governments.

But, this being the Middle East, nothing is ever straightforward. While the Harper government has undeniably moved closer to Israel, it has not abandoned the Palestinians entirely. Funding to the Palestinian Authority was restored last summer after the government said it was encouraged by the efforts of its president, Mahmoud Abbas, to revive the peace process. Canada has since committed \$300-million over five years in support of the peace process and is a vocal proponent of a "two-state solution."

Neither is the relationship between Canada and Israel without its disagreements. Canada is still officially opposed to the establishment of settlements in the West Bank, even if Mr. Bernier was silent on the issue during a recent visit to Ramallah when he was asked if he approved of Har Homa, a settlement under construction that even the United States has condemned.

Then there was the recent tiff when the Foreign Minister scolded Israel for the military operation in Gaza. Mr. Baker, the Israeli ambassador, rejected what he called Mr. Bernier's "irresponsible allegations," saying, "Israel is duty bound to protect its citizens and will do so as it considers necessary to put an end to the bombings."

Rather than being a departure from previous policy, Shimon Fogel, chief executive of the Canada-Israel Committee, said that the Conservative government's stance is merely a progression from where Paul Martin's Liberals were already heading.

"It was under the Martin government that a recalibration took place -- it's not something exclusive to the Harper government," he said. "There are not huge gaps between where Canadian policy was and where Canadian thinking is now."

He said much more important than the change of government was the context in which policy was being decided. "A lot has changed over the past decade, in terms of ... the rise of radical Islam, its entrenchment throughout the region and so on. I make a distinction between tone and how that translates into policy. This government is pretty consistent with what the other parties would do. But in terms of warmth and the expression of friendship, they have ratcheted it up a notch."

For that, Mr. Elner and his colleagues from Sderot are grateful. "We feel our story is not told often enough," he said. "But the Canadian government is willing to listen and see the faces behind the news. They are not giving everyone that time [with the minister] and we are very appreciative of this."

--

David Azrieli

Acclaimed architect

Among Canada's most notable architects, Mr. Azrieli is also the father of Israel's modern skyline. After escaping Poland ahead of the Nazi invasion, he fought in Israel's 1948 War of Independence. In 1954, he settled in Montreal and began his career in building design. He has built several prominent Israeli complexes, including the country's first enclosed shopping centre, its largest centre, the Malha Shopping Mall, and Tel Aviv's Azrieli Center, encompassing a shopping complex and three distinct skyscrapers. He has established numerous endowments for Israeli and Canadian universities. In 1998, he received the Israel Prime Minister's Jubilee Award for contributions to the Israeli economy, and is also a Member of the Order of Canada.

Sidney Greenberg

Chairman, Israel Ice Hockey Federation

The 70-year-old, vice president with Canada's Astral Media Inc., chairs Israel's Ice Hockey Federation from his Toronto home. Israel's men's hockey team is ranked 34th in the world by the International Ice Hockey Federation, an improvement he credits to summer camps organized by former NHL coach Roger Nielson until his death in 2003. Last year, Israel hosted the first Jewish World Hockey Championship on the hockey rink in Metula, Israel's Canada Centre. Mr. Greenberg, credited with negotiating the Soviet Union's participation at the 1989 Maccabi Games, was named to Israel's Sports Hall of Fame.

Benny Landa

Inventor, Indigo Print Systems

He has been called Israel's most prolific inventor, creating the world's first Digital Offset Colour printing press. Mr. Landa was born in Poland following the Second World War and, after living for years in a German refugee camp, his family moved to a poor but warm home in Canada. As an adult, he immigrated to Israel and began working with machines. He holds 500 patents worldwide for advancements in the printing industry, and was recently presented with an honorary doctorate from Ben Gurion University. After selling his company Indigo to Hewlett-Packard in 2001, Mr. Landa became a strategic advisor to HP and chairman of Jerusalem's HumanEyes Technologies. He established the Landa Foundation to support equality and opportunity in education.

Moshe Safdie

Architect and urban designer

Mr. Safdie was born in the town of Haifa, Israel, before moving to Montreal as a teenager. After studying architecture at McGill University his master's thesis for a cellular habitat that could be lifted into place was selected to be part of Montreal's Expo compound in 1967. The same year, he returned to Israel and joined a team refurbishing Old Jerusalem. Mr. Safdie, who also holds U.S. citizenship became a professor at Harvard University from 1976 to 1984. He currently runs an urban design company with offices in Boston, Toronto and Jerusalem. His other works in Israel include the city plan for Modi'in, Jerusalem's Hebrew Union College, and the grave site of former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and his wife Leah.

Benjamin Dunkelman

Commander, Israeli Defence Force

(1913 - June 11, 1997) Mr. Dunkelman was a Canadian soldier during the Second World War. The Toronto-born Jew joined the Israeli army to fight in the War of Independence. He was made commander of an armored brigade. During the summer offensive, he led the 7th Brigade to capture the town of Nazareth. After some resistance, the town leaders agreed to a ceasefire and surrender in exchange for written guarantee that no harm would come to the town's Arab residents. In his book, Dual Allegiance, he wrote that he soon received orders to expel civilians

from town, which he refused to follow based on the promises he made as a representative of the Israeli army. His refusal forced the general to seek sanctions from a higher level. Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion vetoed the order, and the town of Nazareth was never forced to evacuate.

Faigie Zimmerman

Founder, Israel International Women's Forum

Ms. Zimmerman was born, educated and married in Montreal before moving to Israel in 1980. She has become a champion of woman's rights in Israel, founding Israel's International <u>Women</u>'s Forum and acting as an executive member of the Organization for the Advancement of <u>Women</u> in Politics in Israel. The mother of four, and grandmother of six, also founded the early child development program Equal Opportunity and chairs the Israel Vocal Arts Institute and was the international chairman of the Lion of Judah for about ten years.

Charles Bronfman

Co-founder, Birthright Israel

Mr. Bronfman made his mark in Canada as co-chairman of the Seagram Company Ltd., and as principal owner of the Montreal Expos Baseball Club. He was also Chairman of Koor Industries Ltd., one of Israel's leading investment holding companies. One of Canada's richest men, with a net worth of \$2.2 billion. Mr. Bronfman now uses his wealth to finance The Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies Inc., a family of charitable foundations operating to help strengthen the unity of the Jewish People in Israel, Canada and the U.S. He also co-founded Birthright Israel, a program aimed at providing young Jewish people with the chance to visit and learn about Israel. His numerous honours include an honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and in 2002 was made an honorary member of the City of Jerusalem, with his wife Andrea Morrison.

Leon Koffler

CEO, Israeli drugstore chain SuperPharm

Mr. Koffler has been praised for revolutionizing Israel's shopping habits, after building his SuperPharm store into a national chain. The Kofflerfamily launched Israel's largest chain of drugstores in the 1970s, after Leon's father Murray built the Shoppers Drug Mart chain into a Canada staple. SuperPharm has more than 120 locations across Israel and annual sales of about \$500 million. He was named International Mass Market Retailer of the Year, for bringing North American-style chain drug retailing to Israel. Mr. Koffler has also brought North America's Office Depot, Tower Records and Blockbuster Video to the country.

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Graphic

Color Photo: Ronen Zvulun, Reuters; Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier views pictures of Jews killed during the Holocaust during a visit to Jerusalem in January. The Conservatives under Stephen Harper have supported Israel more than any of their predecessors.;

Load-Date: May 3, 2008



Taliban support probed

Pretoria News (South Africa)
July 09, 2008 Wednesday
e1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 8 Length: 631 words

Body

Kabul - A suicide blast on the Indian embassy in Kabul could not have been carried out without the "full support of foreign intelligence", according to an Afghan security report made public yesterday. The report, delivered at an Afghan cabinet meeting after Monday's attack, did not name a foreign intelligence service, but Afghanistan regularly accuses circles in Pakistan of supporting the Taliban.

Jerusalem - Israel yesterday reopened its border crossings with the Gaza Strip in response to an Egyptian request, reversing an earlier decision to close them after a Palestinian mortar attack. "In response to a special request by the Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, Defence Minister Ehud Barak agreed to open the crossings at noon," a Defence Ministry statement said.

Nairobi - A law banning smoking in public places and regulating tobacco products in Kenya came into effect yesterday, spelling the end of a convoluted legal tussle between the government and tobacco firms. The Tobacco Control Act, passed last year, provides a legal framework to control the manufacture, sale, advertising and use of tobacco products.

Jakarta - Saudi Arabian families were abusing <u>female</u> migrant workers to the point of slavery, and Riyadh needed to respond with sweeping labour and justice reforms, a major rights group said yesterday. US-based Human Rights Watch said in a report released in Indonesia that many Saudis believed they "owned" their foreign domestic workers, and treated them like slaves.

Sydney - Australia's top Catholic cleric yesterday denied trying to cover up allegations of sex abuse against a priest, but admitted a letter he wrote to a victim was "badly worded and a mistake". Sydney Archbishop Cardinal George Pell acknowledged the latest scandal was an embarrassment ahead of Pope Benedict's visit to Sydney next week, during which the pontiff might apologise to victims.

Mexico City - The Mexican government yesterday said the UN's World Heritage Committee had added a Monarch butterfly reserve in southern Mexico to its list of World Heritage sites. According to Mexico's Foreign Relations Department, the reserve, located in the states of Mexico and Michoacan, was declared a natural heritage site at a heritage committee meeting in Quebec City.

Tokyo - A Japanese woman and her six-month-old baby have escaped unhurt from a knife-wielding thief after the mother calmed him down with a cup of tea and a chat. The man spent 20 minutes telling her about his life. The 30-year-old woman was walking in a corridor in her apartment building with her daughter on Monday, when the knife-wielding man demanded money.

Taliban support probed

Las Vegas - MGM Mirage officials are investigating the death of a dolphin at an aquatic habitat at the Mirage on the Las Vegas Strip. Company spokesperson Gordon Absher said animal care officials were trying to determine why Sage, the 11-year-old dolphin, died on Saturday. He said 13 dolphins had died at Siegfried & Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat since 1990.

Nablus - Israeli forces yesterday raided a popular shopping mall in the occupied West Bank, ordering its closure for two years because of its owner's alleged links to <u>Hamas</u>. Palestinian shoppers defied the Arabic-language order, left at the complex and signed by an Israeli general, by flocking to the five-storey complex in the centre of the city of Nablus, which is surrounded by the Israeli army.

Tehran - Iran yesterday warned it would "set fire" to Israel and US forces in response to any attack over its nuclear drive, as the world's leading industrial powers meeting in Japan told Tehran to freeze uranium enrichment. While issuing the warning, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad downplayed the threat of an attack, saying it would be "political suicide" for President George Bush.

Load-Date: July 8, 2008



Middle Eastern TV soap opera clashes with conservative ideals

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

July 28, 2008 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: ENTERTAINMENT; Pg. 14

Length: 582 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank

Body

Every evening for the past four months, a tall young man with soulful blue eyes has been stealing hearts across the Middle East, from the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip to the gated mansions of Riyadh.

But it's not just the striking good looks of Mohannad, hero of the hugely popular Turkish TV soap "Noor," that appeal to <u>female</u> viewers. He's romantic, attentive to his wife, Noor, supportive of her independence and ambitions as a fashion designer -- in short, a rare gem for <u>women</u> in conservative, male-dominated surroundings.

"Noor" delivers an idealized portrayal of modern married life as equal partnership -- clashing with the norms of traditional Middle Eastern societies where elders often have the final word on whom a woman should marry and many are still confined to the role of wife and mother.

Some Muslim preachers in the West Bank and Saudi Arabia have taken notice, saying the show is un-Islamic and urging the faithful to change channels. But all the same, the show may be planting seeds of change.

"I told my husband, 'learn from him (Mohannad) how he treats her, how he loves her, how he cares about her," said Heba Hamdan, 24, a housewife visiting the West Bank from Amman, Jordan. Married straight out of college, she said the show inspired her to go out and look for a job.

"Noor" seems particularly effective in changing attitudes because it offers new content in a familiar setting: Turkey is a Muslim country, inviting stronger viewer identification than western TV imports. The characters in "Noor" observe the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, and Mohannad and Noor were married in a match arranged by his grandfather.

But it also upholds secular liberties: Protagonists have a drink with dinner and sex outside marriage. Mohannad, while faithful to Noor, had a child with a former girlfriend, and a cousin underwent an abortion.

The nightly soap opera "shows that there are Muslims who live differently," said Islah Jad, a professor of <u>women's</u> studies at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University.

The show's Turkish producer, Kemal Uzun, added: "We are a little more open, not as conservative as some of these countries, and I think this might have some appeal for the audience."

Middle Eastern TV soap opera clashes with conservative ideals

Even though some of the racier scenes are sanitized for Arab consumption, clerics have been sermonizing against "Noor." "This series collides with our Islamic religion, values and traditions," warned Hamed Bitawi, a legislator of the Islamic militant <u>Hamas</u> and preacher in the West Bank city of Nablus.

But the purists seem powerless to halt the "Noor" craze.

In Saudi Arabia, the only country with ratings, about three to four million people watch daily, out of a population of nearly 28 million, according to MBC, the Saudi-owned satellite channel that airs the show dubbed into Arabic for Middle East audiences.

In the West Bank and Gaza, streets are deserted during show time and socializing is timed around it. In Riyadh, the Saudi capital, and in Hebron, the West Bank's most conservative city, maternity wards report a rise in babies named Noor and Mohannad. A West Bank poster vendor has ditched Yasser Arafat and Saddam Hussein for Noor and Mohannad.

Jaro's Clothing Store in Gaza City is doing brisk business in copies of blouses seen on the show, including a sleeveless metallic number adapted.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, civil servant Mohammed Daraghmeh said he had MBC blocked at home so his kids couldn't watch, but the family vowed to watch it at an uncle's house and he backed down.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Associated Press; A Palestinian vendor displays a poster depicting the lead characters of the Turkish soap opera Noor in the West Bank town of Nablus.;

Load-Date: July 28, 2008



Letters to the Editor

The Capital (Annapolis, MD)

June 21, 2008 Saturday

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Section: RECORD; Pg. A6

Length: 643 words

Body

Disabilities act

July marks the anniversary of the signing of the Americans With Disabilities Act, the civil rights law that says it is illegal to discriminate against handicapped persons, just as it is illegal to discriminate against other minorities.

Let's celebrate this law, which affords equal access to persons with disabilities, not just <u>women</u>, minorities and religious groups.

CINDY BOHER

Annapolis

Middle East

A recent guest column by George Gorayeb on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (The Sunday Capital, June 15) was replete with historical errors, omissions, contradictions and misrepresentations.

Consequently, the column read like a cliche-ridden polemic rather than the kind of informed analysis required to shed light on the conflict's extraordinary complexities.

Most disingenuously, it dismissed two realities obvious to even a casual observer:

Palestinians and others in the Arab world are fed a daily diet of hatred of Israel and Jews. For proof, read their schoolbooks and official media.

Powerful Arab leaders still do not acknowledge Israel's right to exist, as guaranteed by international law. These include the leaders of the Palestinian group *Hamas*, not to mention those of non-Arab Iran.

These actions fuel the conflict as much as anything.

The writer also revealed his prejudices through his unwillingness to acknowledge that the Jewish historical connection to Israel-Palestine predates the modern era.

In fact, the connection predates any Arab claims by 1,500 years or more. Moreover, cutting-edge genetic testing links contemporary Jews - despite their ethnic and racial diversity - to the ancient Israelites.

Letters to the Editor

The writer's misrepresentation of history is a thinly veiled attempt to deny Israel's legitimacy as a modern nation and to undercut Jewish claims to their historical homeland. It's an old Arab tactic, exemplified by Yasser Arafat's confounding insistence that ancient Jewish temples never existed in Jerusalem.

The writer claims to speak in the name of justice for Palestinians. But manipulating historical facts for political gain not only reeks of injustice but also makes an already-elusive solution to the conflict even more difficult.

The courage of honest discourse is the first requirement for Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs to establish a workable peace process.

IRA RIFKIN

Annapolis

Lopez column

In the column headlined "Abortion disqualifies Obama" (The Capital, June 11), Kathryn Lopez wrote that, given the pro-choice position of Sen. Barack Obama, D-III., she cannot see how a Catholic can vote for him for president.

The headline should have included some indication that Ms. Lopez was talking about Catholics, because, after all, not everyone agrees that abortion is "a betrayal of the most innocent human life."

Ms. Lopez wrote that no other position on any issue she can think of would mitigate a pro-choice candidate's platform so as to permit a Catholic's support. Yet the current pope, Benedict XVI, when he was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, wrote:

"A Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in evil, and so unworthy to present himself for Holy Communion, if he were to deliberately vote for a candidate precisely because of the candidate's permissive stand on abortion ... (or) euthanasia.

"When a Catholic does not share a candidate's stand in favor of abortion ... (or) euthanasia, but votes for that candidate for other reasons, it is considered remote material cooperation, which can be permitted in the presence of proportionate reasons."

We have had seven years of an administration that supports anti-choice legislation while promoting military solutions to international problems.

Tens of thousands of people have died in a war we started in Iraq; millions have become refugees. Our policies of imprisonment and torture have brought us disgrace. This is reason enough to vote for Mr. Obama!

NELSON GOODMAN

Annapolis

Load-Date: June 23, 2008



'Zohan': The knee-slapping side of terrorism

The Philadelphia Daily News
June 6, 2008 Friday
FINAL Edition

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Section: FEATURES; DN Yo! Features; Pg. 44

Length: 568 words

Byline: By GARY THOMPSON

thompsg@phillynews.com 215-854-5992

Body

"Munich."

"Austin Powers."

"Shampoo."

I'll admit I didn't readily detect a connection there, but after watching "You Don't Mess With the Zohan," I now see that, yes, you can make a movie about an Israeli counterterrorist legend (with an outrageously bad accent and haircut) who slips away to live peacefully in New York, where he finds employment as a stylist and man-ho for a clientele of elderly Jewish **women**.

The fellow's name is Zohan, he's played by Adam Sandler, and there are those who will turn away reflexively at the mention of Sandler's name, convinced that the movie is a parade of nonstop juvenilia.

Which it sort of is. If you are not prepared to watch Sandler stick a lecherous tongue in an old woman's ear, or have a doggie-style encounter with Lainie Kazan, this movie is definitely not for you. (How many people are left out there? Three? Two?)

But to be fair, the movie isn't the Sandler, of, say, "Little Nicky." It is juvenile, but it also has a subject and, stunning as it is to report, that subject is the perpetual conflict in the Middle East.

And our very own War on Terror, something that "Zohan" worries may deteriorate into a perpetual conflict - the actual theme of this bizarre movie.

How bizarre? When an Arab cab driver (Rob Schneider!) spots the incognito Zohan in New York, he and a few colleagues decide to impress <u>Hamas</u> by forming a sympathy cell and blowing up Zohan's salon with a homemade bomb.

This errand sends them to a pharmacy for the proper off-the-shelf ingredients but, alas, an elderly counterman misinterprets Schneider's request for a nitrogen compound, and the "terrorists" end up attacking Zohan with a gooey blob of Neosporin.

'Zohan': The knee-slapping side of terrorism

If you look past the slapstick crudity of this gag, you realize that the movie has constructed a parody of how real, poorly trained, spontaneously formed sympathy cells in Europe have tended to operate.

Is this in good taste? Certainly not, and somewhere, in the Department of Homeland Security's Ministry of the Straight Face, there's someone reminding us that terrorism is no laughing matter. Ever.

Still, after seven years of handing your shoes to a guy at the airport on the grounds that they might possibly be explosives, it's really hard not to raise your own personal level of snickering to orange, perhaps red.

At some point, the fundamental American urge to make an irresponsible joke can no longer be beaten back or suppressed. "Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo" removed the Do Not Open band from the jar of Terror jokes, and "Zohan" reaches in with greedy hands, adding Arab-Israeli jokes as well.

John Turturro turns up as The Phantom, Zohan's Arab nemesis, who comes out of retirement (he's leveraged his terrorist brand to finance the Middle East's No. 1 chain of falafel joints) for a final showdown with Zohan.

It occurs on the Lower East Side, with Zohan backed by Israeli appliance salesmen and The Phantom backed by a corresponding army of cabbies.

It goes too far to say that cooler heads prevail, but the finale does make a plea for an America that welcomes all, on the condition that they check their hatreds at the door.

In this country, when you find yourself in a lather, you simply rinse and repeat. *

Produced by Jack Giarraputo and Adam Sandler, directed by Dennis Dugan, written by Adam Sandler, Robert Smigel and Judd Apatow, music by Rupert Gregson-Williams, distributed by Columbia Pictures.

Graphic

Photograph by: Feed Loader

Load-Date: June 6, 2008



No one has more at stake in this summit than Tony Blair

The Evening Standard (London)

November 26, 2007 Monday

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Section: A; Pg. 30

Length: 1239 words

Byline: ANNE MCELVOY

Body

AS THE "Mission Impossible"summit convenes tomorrow, a familiar figure will be there in the pleasant Maryland seaboard town of Annapolis rubbing shoulders with George Bush, Condoleezza Rice and a clutch of stonyfaced Middle Eastern leaders who have reluctantly made the journey.

Noticeably thinner than he was when he said his emotional goodbye at Westminster and, thanks to a lucrative book deal and speaking engagements, considerably richer Tony Blair is back on the international stage and in the spotlight he has always relishes.

While his successor contends with domestic disasters and dizzying falls in the opinion polls at home, he is in the midst of a strained attempt to edge the Palestinians and Israelis back towards peace.

That's a tall order at the best of times, now fearsomely complicated by the election of <u>Hamas</u> in the Palestinian elections, an outcome which neither Washington nor Israel accept because of its refusal to recognise the Israeli state.

The question on the minds of all participants is what can be done at all at Annapolis and whether the trip of sulky participants is worth the air miles.

A rather forced picture of the former PM visiting a West Bank refugee camp at the end of last week to announce a multi-million dollar package intended to improve the employment and trade prospects of desperate Palestinians was optimistically, but vaguely, described as "designed to give some sense that things can change on the ground", by a spokesman for the former PM. How important is this to him? "Hugely," says one official involved in the summit. "It is his first big job after Downing Street.

Syria agrees to join Mid East peace talks SYRIA has finally agreed to attend a peace conference called by US president George Bush to restart talks to resolve conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

However, expectations for the summit remain low after the Israeli and Palestinian leaders came to Washington without agreeing on basic terms for their negotiations. Mr Bush invited both sides to separate meetings at the White House today to prepare for an all-day session tomorrow in Annapolis, Maryland. It is to be the only time that Mr Bush, Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas meet together, and their three-way handshake is expected to be a symbolic high point.

Syria, which borders Israel and has no diplomatic relations with the Jewish state, agreed to send a lower-level envoy to the session. Other major Arab states whose participation was considered essential had decided on Friday to send their top diplomats..

Tony doesn't like to do things badly." Faith in the mission is not entirely shared by his old team. Another former insider raises his eyebrow: "Oh, you mean his plan to save the world? Well obviously he'll have that done by next Wednesday ..." Mr Blair wants to be back on the world map as a major player: not least to prove that he will be remembered far more in his Middle East dealings than the Iraq war. Paving the way to an elusive peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians would not erase the Coalition's mistakes in the aftermath of the invasion.

It would, however, remind liberal opinion, which has been most hostile to his foreign policy, that his initial view of a more democratic and peaceful Middle East was based, not only on driving out Saddam and aiding the US in the war on terror, but on a better deal for the embattled and impoverished Palestinians.

Statesman Blair also needs to show that he can still help bring about achievements which are more than dining off the cold leftovers of his premiership. His speech in China, which netted more than £240,000 for a single appearance but went down so badly that even the local Chinese press took violently against it, is an example of how badly Mr Blair does things when he is only half engaged with them.

He is no more relaxed for leaving his day job, even if he confesses now to finally sleeping more than six hours a night when he is not travelling. "He's terrified of doing nothing," says one <u>female</u> friend. "Tony can't just sit in a room quietly.

He has to channel his energy." He is playing tennis regularly again, runs on a treadmill at home and will start work on his memoirs (he refuses a ghost writer) in earnest when the summit ends.

How much the "money machine" allegations bother him is hard to say. The elaborate changes being made to his Connaught Square house, plus viewings of other lavish properties, suggest that being "seriously relaxed about people getting filthy rich," as Peter Mandelson once put it, also applies to him.

Mr Blair was a controversial choice when appointed as the envoy of the "quartet" of leading diplomatic powers at Mr Bush's personal behest. Some who have witnessed the style of his operation have doubts. The bill of £4 million spread between 10 member countries of the UN is far higher than that of his predecessor in the job.

"He is there with the biggest entourage you have ever seen," says one observer.

"They have the entire top floor of the American Colony hotel in Jerusalem and it is impossible for him to move about with any spontaneity whatsoever.

It is like he's still pretending to be in power." Added to which, Mr Blair has only a partial mandate over the Palestinian authority. Washington refuses point blank to engage with <u>Hamas</u>, a situation worsened by the organisation's violent confrontation with the PLO in Gaza.

So Mr Blair is given the task of with "rebuilding institutions" while debarred from formal contact with one of the main players.

"It's a very limited remit," says William Sieghart, the publisher turned pro-Palestinian campaigner who met Mr Blair recently, "If it goes well, I'm sure he would like to try to bring both sides together. But it is hard to make progress without all the parties at the table." Mr Blair had banked on a good personal relationship with Condoleezza Rice, the

US Secretary of State, to build up his role as a go-between. Ms Rice is credited with pushing the case for resuming talks on the Palestinian question with President Bush.

Senior diplomats who worked with the former PM say his striving for a role as "bridge-builder" between the Israelis and Palestinians in the same way he functioned as the guarantee of good faith in Northern Ireland may already have fallen short. They claim that the powerful vice-president Dick Cheney is markedly unenthusiastic about Mr Blair's involvement. "And Cheney always trumps Condi," says one.

Although Ms Rice persuaded the President to hold a summit before the end of his presidency, few think he has the commitment to attempt to bring about a peace between the Palestinians and Israel on the same level as Bill Clinton, or even his father, the first George Bush.

The focus of the final days of this Bush is the belated surge in Iraq and confronting a nuclear Iran rather than the Palestinian question.

"There's a feeling that the Americans reeled him in because it was useful to have him still in the tent," says one former ambassador. But the big decisions are now beyond his control. This week will decide whether there is a role for him to continue: or whether his dream of resurrecting the road to peace is already over before it has begun.

"It's damaging to everyone if Annapolis is a failure," said David Miliband, Mr Blair's old adviser and now Foreign Secretary.

He need hardly add that it is his old boss who will feel that most personally of all..

Graphic

Man on a mission: Blair meets a Palestinian family in the Kalandia refugee camp last week. He said during the visit that, within days, he hoped to announce projects to create jobs for tens of thousands of Palestinians

Load-Date: November 26, 2007



SIMI linked with Andhra outfit

Hindustan Times

April 19, 2008 Saturday 4:21 PM EST

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Length: 598 words

Byline: Presley Thomas Hindustan Times

Dateline: NEW DELHI, India

Body

NEW DELHI, India, April 19 -- THE BANNED Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), which intelligence agencies believe has created the country's first home-grown terror network, cooperates closely with a radical but legitimate Hyderabad-based Islamic organisation called the Darsgah Jihad-o-Shahadat, going by the confession of Amil Parvez. The police believe Parvez is a top activist of the students' group; he was arrested on March 27, alongwith 13 others.

The interrogation statement, a copy of which Hindustan Times has procured, states that Darsgah president Shaikh Mahboob Ali had invited him to undertake martial arts training at Hyderabad. "It is just the tip of the iceberg," said a police official, requesting anonymity, referring to the student group's ties with other militant groups.

When Maulana Naseeruddin, an accused in the murder of former Gujarat minister Haren Pandya, was arrested, Darsgah activists pelted stones and tried to release Naseeruddin from the police van. Darsgah activist Mujahid Saleem Islahi was killed after police opened fire to disburse the mob.

B. Prasad Rao, Hyderabad police commissioner said: "It is possible that some ex-SIMI members are part of Darsgah. But it would be speculative to comment without evidence."

When asked to respond to Parvez's confession, Darsgah president Sheikh Mahboob Ali, said: "We have 10 to 12 centres across India. We do not keep a record of who trains there. Our aim is to teach self-defence to Muslim youths." But when asked explicitly whether Darsgah cooperated with SIMI, he declined comment.

On its website, <u>www.djsindia.org</u>, Darsgah states it is an independent organisation. But it also says that those it trains have a "right to join any Muslim group... As a result, they are serving all Muslim groups..." The website also carries a photograph of a young child holding up a placard stating, "The Quran will be the Constitution of India, and I will be the soldier."

For the last 10 years, the organisation has been conducting short-term courses in self-defence for Muslim girls and <u>women</u> in Hyderabad. But what has caught investigators' attention is Darsgah's statement on its website that they have been conducting special training for some Muslim youths twice a year in suburban or outlying areas.

Parvez also said that two training camps were held in 2007, in Madhya Pradesh and Kerala. Those who attended underwent a gruelling regimen that included trekking and firearms training. Safdar and Kamruddin, who supervised the training, told Parvez that the camps were just primary and that the cream among the lot would be sent abroad for further training.

SIMI linked with Andhra outfit

Parvez's confession also alludes to possible international links. For instance, it says that Palestinian Sheikh Siam, who the police believe is an activist of the 20-year-old radical <u>Hamas</u>, which is in majority in the Palestinian legislative council, attended a meeting in Aligarh in 1997. Parvez, too, attended this meeting, which was chaired by SIMI's then president Shahid Badr Falahi, the confession stated.

Parvez's confession also described in detail how SIMI regrouped after the government banned it in 2001. Parvez credited Safdar Nagori, a fellow activist also arrested on March 27, and a man named Noman Badr with resurrecting SIMI after many of its members went into hiding or quit.

"We should not allow the movement to collapse, and should maintain our network by operating clandestinely," Nagori apparently told Parvez. "We are doing all we can to lift the ban."

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NATION

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 25, 2008 Friday

THIRD EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A3

Length: 561 words

Byline: FROM NEWS SERVICES

Body

WASHINGTON

Phone companies near immunity for wiretaps

In a victory for the administration, the Senate on Thursday blocked legislation that would have cleared the way for lawsuits against phone companies that have cooperated with a warrantless wiretapping program authorized by President George W. Bush.

The vote moves the administration closer to its goal of providing retroactive immunity to telephone companies and Internet carriers that are facing multimillion-dollar lawsuits for giving U.S. spy agencies access to international calls and messages streaming across their networks.

The issue is being considered by the Senate this week as part of the latest effort to overhaul a 1978 law that governs U.S. intelligence agencies' ability to intercept electronic communications around the world. Congress passed a stopgap measure last summer, but it is scheduled to expire at the end of the month.

LOS ANGELES

Asteroid will pass by Earth next week

An asteroid with a diameter of at least 500 feet will make a rare close pass by Earth next week, but there is no chance of an impact, scientists reported Thursday.

The object, known as 2007 TU24, is expected to whiz by Earth on Tuesday with its closest approach at 334,000 miles.

The nighttime encounter should be bright enough for medium-sized telescopes to get a glimpse, said Don Yeomans, manager of the Near-Earth Object Program Office at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which tracks potentially dangerous space rocks.

WORLD

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

NATION

Morning-after pills will be handed out at Carnival

The northeastern city of Recife will be the first to hand out morning-after birth control pills during this year's festive Carnival, prompting condemnation from the church Thursday in the world's largest Roman Catholic country.

Pills will be given out at public health centers throughout four days of wild partying that begin Feb. 2, according to Mayor Joao Paulo Lima e Silva.

Though the pill is marketed as a contraceptive, critics say it prompts abortion. The church opposes both.

BRASILIA, BRAZIL

Newly deforested areas will get extra patrols

Brazil will combat rising deforestation in the Amazon by sending extra federal police and environmental agents to areas where illegal clearing of the rain forest jumped dramatically last year, officials said Thursday.

Authorities will monitor the areas to prevent anyone from trying to plant crops or raise cattle there, Environment Minister Marina Silva said.

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

Group fears backlash against anti-Quran film

The National Moroccan Council, a Dutch Muslim group, appealed Thursday for calm at home and abroad in reaction to an anti-Quran film a right-wing politician says he is making.

Geert Wilders, leader of the far-right Freedom Party, says his film will portray the Quran as a "fascist book" that incites violence and intolerance of <u>women</u> and homosexuals.

The Dutch director of a previous film critical of Islam was killed by a Muslim radical in Amsterdam in 2004, prompting the torching of mosques.

JERUSALEM

Palestinian intruders shot dead at seminary

Two Palestinians infiltrated a religious seminary in a West Bank settlement Thursday and attacked students before being shot dead, officials said.

Police said the attackers entered Kfar Etzion and stabbed three students before they were shot by security guards. The wounded students were taken to a hospital for treatment.

Graphic

PHOTO

PHOTO - Missile protest Mazie Chamberlain plays with red balloons Thursday in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza in New York. The Jewish Community Relations Council released what was to be 4,200 red balloons as an act of solidarity against the 4,200 Qassam missiles launched from Gaza by <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad terrorists into the Israeli town of Sderot. Stephen Chernin | The Associated Press

NATION

Load-Date: January 25, 2008



Praising Egypt, Bush avoids rights issues

The International Herald Tribune
January 17, 2008 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 635 words

Byline: Steven Lee Myers - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt

Body

President George W. Bush lavished praise Wednesday on President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, emphasizing the country's role in regional security and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process while publicly avoiding mention of the government's jailing or exiling of opposition leaders and its severe restrictions on opposition political activities.

Ending an eight-day trip through the Middle East in which he highlighted democratic reforms as the foundation for peace and security throughout the region, Bush strikingly avoided any direct criticism of Mubarak, an autocratic leader who has been in power since 1981. In the past, Bush has criticized Egypt for arrests of political dissidents.

"I appreciate very much the long and proud tradition that you've had for a vibrant civil society," said Bush, whose joint appearance with the Egyptian leader was unannounced and, according to the White House, had been uncertain until the last minute.

Bush's remarks reflected some of the contradictions evident in the issues he addressed during his trip.

He spoke passionately at times about the birth of liberty and justice in countries that restrict them and the role of **women** in societies that still largely sequester them.

And yet he avoided public disputes with monarchic leaders in the Middle East widely accused of limiting freedoms as he sought Arab support for the peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians, the war in Iraq, diplomatic efforts to isolate Iran and the strain on the American economy caused by high oil prices.

Only three days earlier, in the United Arab Emirates, Bush delivered what his aides described as the keynote address of the trip when he spoke of setbacks in democratic reforms in remarks that his aides said were aimed at Egypt, among others.

"You cannot build trust when you hold an election where opposition candidates find themselves harassed or in prison," he said in the speech. "You cannot expect people to believe in the promise of a better future when they are jailed for peacefully petitioning their government. And you cannot stand up a modern and confident nation when you do not allow people to voice their legitimate criticisms."

Bush has criticized Egypt for the arrest of Mubarak's main opponent in the presidential elections in 2005, Ayman Nour, who Bush said was "unjustly imprisoned." Bush has also met with another prominent opposition leader, Saad Eddin Ibrahim, who has since fled Egypt, fearing arrest.

Praising Egypt, Bush avoids rights issues

Bush mentioned neither man directly and included only an oblique reference to "strong civic and religious leaders who love their country and are determined to build a democratic future."

"I appreciate the example that your nation is setting," Bush said, turning to face Mubarak.

Mubarak, for his part, expressed strong support for Bush's efforts to broker a peace treaty in Israel. "We're ready, hand-in-hand with the United States of America" to support the process, Mubarak said, "for the sake of comprehensive and just peace."

Neither mentioned a main source of tension between Israel and Egypt: Egypt's control of its border with Gaza. Israel has repeatedly accused the Egyptians of laxity or complicity in smuggling weapons through underground tunnels into Gaza, now under the control of the Islamic group *Hamas*.

Bush's visit was the shortest of any during his trip, which included stops in Israel, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. He stayed only three hours, reflecting Egypt's diminished significance to the Bush administration, especially in comparison to Saudi Arabia, where he attended two dinners and a breakfast with King Abdullah, toured the royal family's ancestral home and met with young Saudi businessmen.

Mubarak noted the brevity of Bush's stop. "You need much more days," he said in English.

The New York Times

Load-Date: January 18, 2008



Nation

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 25, 2008 Friday

FIRST EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A3

Length: 552 words

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Body

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The Dutch director of a previous film critical of Islam was murdered by a Muslim radical on an Amsterdam street in 2004, prompting the torching of several mosques.

PARIS

Civil servants protest job cuts, seek pay increases

Tens of thousands of civil servants demonstrated around France on Thursday to protest job cuts and press for higher salaries in what the government dismissed as a "labor union ritual."

Teachers, hospital workers and firemen were among marchers.

Graphic

PHOTO

PHOTO - Missile Protest Mazie Chamberlain plays with red balloons Thursday in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza in New York. The Jewish Community Relations Council released what was to be 4,200 red balloons as an act of solidarity against the 4,200 Qassam missiles launched from Gaza by <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad terrorists into the Israeli town of Sderot. Stephen Chernin | The Associated Press

Load-Date: January 25, 2008



Jail for former language tutor caught with suicide vest video

Yorkshire Post December 18, 2007

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Length: 582 words

Body

A FORMER language tutor has been jailed for four years for offences under the Terrorism Act after a judge heard extremist material found in his possession included details of how to make an explosive suicide vest containing ball bearings.

Rizwan Mahmood Ditta, 29, was described as a devout Muslim from a well-respected family who taught English as a second language in Halifax.

After a search of his home in October 2006 the material was found on his laptop and on a hard drive under clothes in a wardrobe, of which 21 items "crossed the line" and contained information likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism, Jonathan Sharp, prosecuting, told Leeds Crown Court yesterday.

It included 11 video files, with one showing in detail how to make a <u>Hamas</u> suicide vest with explosives and shrapnel, which a scientist had confirmed would make a viable weapon, and another a condensed version of that.

"It was her view that there was enough information to allow anyone with access to the necessary ingredients and materials to manufacture such a device," Mr Sharp said.

Other films showed a montage of terrorist activity such as the blowing up of Jeeps and tanks; the making of a pipe bomb and its use at an election centre; the urging of a Holy War against non-Muslims; and the general support of Osama bin Laden and terrorist groups including al-Qaida.

Written tracts recovered included articles trying to justify, within the Koran, September 11 and July 7; the targeting of <u>women</u> and children when they were used as human shields; and acts of terrorism against Americans outside Iraq.

Mr Sharp said Ditta was vocal in his adherence to fundamental Islamism and while working as a tutor had put up posters and referred to Abu Hamza.

Friends described him as a strong supporter of the Taliban and he considered the Sharia law which saw the stoning to death of adulterers should be imposed in England.

A probe placed in a car used by Ditta at one stage in the investigation monitored conversations in which he said he was keen to take part in terrorist activity and defend other Muslims, adding: "My concern is to help liberate them and fight for them and sacrifice my life for them."

But Mr Sharp told the judge that there was no evidence the material he had had ever been used for terrorism or that Ditta had any close connection with those who had carried out terrorist attacks. "He is a wannabe rather than a hasdone," he said.

Jail for former language tutor caught with suicide vest video

Ditta, of Royd Terrace, Halifax, admitted two offences of possessing a record likely to be useful in terrorism.

Jailing him, Judge James Stewart QC said a substantial library of extremist material was recovered from the hard drive and his laptop, most of which was not unlawful but 21 items were.

He said the most significant were the instructions on how to make an explosive vest and ensure the maximum number of fatalities. "This is designed to teach those so minded how to kill and maim innocent members of the public. Self evidently it is likely to be of use to those committing acts of terrorism," he said.

The judge said he accepted Ditta had acted recklessly and had not looked "avidly" at the material or distributed it but there had to be a substantial sentence to deter others.

Terry Munyard, for Ditta, said he was very interested in all aspects of Islam. He had been given a hard drive with the material on and had downloaded it but had not opened the files concerned. There was an element of posturing and bravado in his talk to others.

Load-Date: December 18, 2007



4 years for Taliban fanatic from Halifax who backed July 7 bombings

Halifax Courier

December 18, 2007

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Length: 606 words

Body

A HALIFAX man with extreme Islamic beliefs has been jailed for four years.

Rizwan Mahmood Ditta, 29, of Royd Terrace, Savile Park, supported the Taliban and the July 7 London bombings, a court heard.

He admitted two offences under the Terrorism Act.

Click here for Halifax muslims and Calderdale Council reaction

Click, here to read the Courier Comment

Ditta, an English tutor for Asians in Halifax, would have been keen to take part in terrorist activity, said prosecutor Jonathan Sharp. Video footage found in his possession, showed military vehicles being blown up and audio messages encouraging terrorism.

Ditta was arrested when counter-terrorism officers raided his Halifax home in January. He was charged with two counts of having data on a computer hard drive that contained information likely to be useful to a person preparing an act of terrorism.

Judge James Stewart QC, sentencing Ditta at Leeds Crown Court, said the offending material had been hidden in a locked wardrobe under clothes.

Judge Stewart also saw additional video footage showing the manufacture of an explosive suicide vest containing ballbearings.

"Its explosive effect was up to 30 metres and showed how to ensure the maximum are killed in a bus or elsewhere."

He told Ditta: "You pleaded guilty on the basis of recklessness and your family are at a loss how you became involved with such extremist views."

But Judge Stewart said anyone convicted of terrorism offences must expect a substantial sentence. He accepted there was no evidence that Ditta's material had been used for terrorism purposes.

Mr Sharp, prosecuting, described material that included military vehicles being blown up and images, in particular a blazing cross, supporting a holy war against non-believers.

"The soundtrack on videos have become associated with the terrorists' cause," said Mr Sharp, referring to Arabic speeches.

4 years for Taliban fanatic from Halifax who backed July 7 bombings

He also referred to a *Hamas* bomb video.

"There is enough information on the video to allow access to materials to manufacture such a device," he said.

Mr Sharp said the authors of documents found sought to give religious justification for action which was forbidden in mainstream Islam, such as the killing of **women** and children.

Ditta had been vocal in his adherance to a fundamentalist version of Islam.

At work where he taught he had given cause for concern, the court heard.

"It was noted he put up Islamic posters publicising his views," said Mr Sharp.

"A friend said his views were strongly fundamental, with support of the Taliban and 7/7."

Mr Sharp said Ditta supported stoning to death adulterers in England.

An examination of his car revealed a keenness to take part in terrorist activity if he knew how.

"I describe him as a 'wannabe' rather than a 'has been'," said Mr Sharp.

Terry Munyard, mitigating, said the case effectively involved one collection of material.

It was a minute selection of what was stored on computer files and there was no evidence Ditta had opened those files.

"He accepts an interest in many aspects of Islam," said Mr Munyard.

He acquired a computer hard drive with a great deal of Islamic interests on it and transferred material from what was a faulty drive on to a new one.

"That is where these files came from," said Mr Munyard. "He knew there might be material that crossed the line and for that reason he pleaded guilty."

The court heard Ditta came from a respectable family. He has parents, three sisters working and one brother studying.

"He left his job in 2006 because he was going to Pakistan to find a wife. Three potential wives were found but he decided against them," said Mr Munyard. "When he came back, he did a lot of charity work."

Load-Date: December 18, 2007



The New York Times
June 22, 2008 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 1461 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL

SEOUL TO ACCEPT

U.S. Beef, With Limits

More than 10,000 people rallied in Seoul to protest beef imports from the United States, despite an announcement hours earlier that Seoul and Washington had agreed to restrict the shipments to allay South Koreans' concerns about mad cow disease. Prior to banning such imports in 2003, the country was the third largest overseas market for U.S. beef. PAGE 8

INTERNATIONAL

A STAREDOWN IN TURKEY

A 160-page indictment of Turkey's governing party has left the country's politics paralyzed for months. The indictment accuses the party of trying to turn Turkey, a secular democracy, into an Islamic state. The governing party has come close to breaking the grip of the secular establishment on power. Many see the case as the last stand by Turkey's secular old guard. PAGE 6

COSTS OF AIRLINE BOOM

Business is booming for low-cost airlines who fly to Spanish destinations like Murcia -- a trip from British cities is often less than the cost of a train ticket. But the European Environment Agency says the competitive market is also pumping a huge amount of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. PAGE 6

NATIONAL

HEALTH CARDS CALLED

Risk for ID Theft

Officials at the Social Security Administration are concerned about the risk of identity theft, and are calling for immediate action to remove Social Security numbers from the Medicare cards used by millions of Americans. But Medicare officials have resisted the proposal, saying it would be costly and impractical. PAGE 15

SAME ONLY ON SURFACE

Both Senator John McCain and Bob Dole are war heroes known for their hurricane tempers and biting wit, and both were among the oldest men to seek the presidency. And while Democrats hope that Mr. McCain's presidential bid echoes Mr. Dole's 1996 campaign, the surface similarities between the two Republicans can be misleading. PAGE 19

METRO

STATE SEVERANCE DEALS

That Required Silence

At least 19 employees who have resigned in recent years from the New York Power Authority were required to keep secret the circumstances of their departures in order to obtain severance pay or benefits. At least some of the employees clashed with Daniel Wiese, who was inspector general of the authority until last month and is being investigated by the state attorney general's office. PAGE 23

Sports

WEARING HIS EMOTIONS

On His Jacket Sleeve

The Chicago White Sox have instituted a few safeguards for their voluble manager, Ozzie Guillen. The team chaperones interviews with Mr. Guillen, who is known for his emotional outbursts, his candor with reporters and the expletives with which he decorates it. For their part, the players often come to the ballpark bearing incense, which Mr. Guillen swears has a calming effect. PAGE 2

WHO GETS THE BLAME?

Willie Randolph, a son of Brooklyn who played professional ball in the Bronx, inherited the gruff DNA of the Yankees, but it didn't carry over with him when he took over the Mets. As the losses mounted, he was booed more than the listless players who took the field and played poorly. "Was that Randolph's responsibility?" George Vecsey asks. "Ultimately, in the unfair ledger book of managing, yes, it was." PAGE 3

Obituaries

HENRY CHADWICK, 87

As part of the denominational reconciliation between Anglicanism and Roman Catholicism -- he once called ecumenism "a good cause to die for" -- he put forward principles his research had shown had been shared by most early Christians. The Anglican priest, professor, editor, translator and author was knighted in 1989. PAGE 28

SUNDAY STYLES

THE CONTINUING SAGA

Of the Pregnant Transman

Thomas Beatie, as anyone who has turned on a television or picked up a tabloid in the last few months is aware, is a married 34-year-old man, born a woman, who impregnated himself using frozen sperm. Partly a carnival sideshow and partly a glimpse at shifting sexual tectonics, his story exposed a realm that seemed more than passing strange to some. PAGE 1

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE BIKE

Lance Armstrong, the cycle champion and anticancer campaigner, was in New York last week, promoting a new Web venture, livestrong.com, devoted to healthy living. Also in town was the other Lance Armstrong, the tabloid darling and "notorious Texas playboy." The question arises: Which Lance is Mr. Armstrong best known for? PAGE 1

8TH-GRADE GRADUATIONS

Across the country, eighth-grade celebrations now mimic high school or even college graduations: proms, limousines, dignitaries speechifying and students in caps and gowns loping across the stage for diplomas. Does the pomp fit the circumstance? PAGE 1

Night Out: Abigail Breslin 4

SUNDAY BUSINESS

THE BOOM

In Human Billboards

Nicole Kidman sashays in ads for Chanel No. 5 perfume. Eva Longoria, the "Desperate Housewives" star, recommends L'Oreal Paris hair color. It's nearly impossible to surf the Internet, open a newspaper or magazine, or watch television without seeing a celebrity selling something. Where the star ends and the product and pitch begin is becoming less and less discernible. PAGE 1

PAYDAY FOR PAY ADVICE

The credit crisis, rising oil prices and the economy may dominate headlines, but excessive executive pay still makes shareholders boil. How might runaway pay be reined in? Attacking potential conflicts of interest among compensation consultants who design the lucrative packages. Gretchen Morgenson, Fair Game. PAGE 1

Travel

IN BASILICAS UNKNOWN, GOYA ILLUMINATES MADRID

While the paintings of Francisco Jose de Goya y Lucientes can be found in private and public collections throughout the world, most of them still reside in the Prado museum. But the best frame for his work may be the city itself. A visitor can discover some of Madrid's hidden gems by seeking out Goyas elsewhere in the city. Page 3

SPORTS IN THE MELTING POT

In New York City, food from hundreds of countries can be had, and five different languages heard in as many minutes. But sports, too, have crossed oceans. Gaelic football, the rough-and-tumble offspring of rugby and soccer, can be seen in the Bronx. Handball from Europe is played, barehanded and with gloves, in Greenwich Village. For Bengali cricket, head to Queens. Page 5

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

SMOKE, DRINK, WRITE, WOMANIZE, REPEAT.

"Mad Men," about the world of advertising on Madison Avenue in New York in the early 1960s, languished for years after being rejected by HBO and Showtime. But after AMC picked it up, the show won instant critical acclaim. How its creator, Matthew Weiner, turned early-'60s advertising culture into the smartest show on television. PAGE 32

SEA OF TRASH

The world's oceans are filling up with bottles, wrappers and other flotsam. Is there anything better to be done than picking it up off the beach, one piece at a time? PAGE 40

Questions for Charlie Crist 11

Week in Review

ISRAEL'S SEASON OF DREAD

One might have expected the start of a cease-fire with <u>Hamas</u> to be hailed in Israel as good news. Yet what was the front page headline in Maariv newspaper? "Fury and Fear." It says a great deal about the mood in Israel, where many consider the truce with <u>Hamas</u> an admission of national failure. PAGE 1

Editorial

IRAQ OIL RUSH

Deals that would bring major Western oil companies back to Iraq could rekindle understandable suspicions in the Arab world that oil was America's real reason for invading. WEEK IN REVIEW, PAGE 9

A VICTORY FOR **WOMEN**

An urgent need exists for consistent, humane policies that treat <u>women</u>'s rights as fundamental human rights. WEEK IN REVIEW, PAGE 9

Op-Ed

MAUREEN DOWD

Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, the wife of President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, is a charmer of the country's people and a former model -- but not necessarily the best model for Michelle Obama or Cindy McCain. WEEK IN REVIEW, PAGE 11

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Two years ago, President Bush declared that America was "addicted to oil." Now we have the new Bush energy plan: "Get more addicted to oil." WEEK IN REVIEW, PAGE 11

NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

The West Bank city of Hebron has 160,000 Palestinians and 800 Jewish settlers. To protect the settlement -- illegal in the eyes of many -- Israel has set up guard posts, checkpoints and road closures. The financial cost is mind-boggling, but the diplomatic toll is greater. WEEK IN REVIEW, PAGE 12

PUBLIC EDITOR

Some supporters of Hillary Rodham Clinton think that sexism colored news coverage of her presidential campaign. The Times reported in a front-page article on June 13 that many supporters are proposing boycotts of cable news networks because they perceive biased coverage. The article barely mentioned The Times's own coverage. How did it do? WEEK IN REVIEW, PAGE 10

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

PHOTOS

Load-Date: June 22, 2008



U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RACE: THIRD DISTRICT; Candidates debate how best to handle Iran's nuclear threat, support Israel; Several hundred people turned out to hear the candidates' views on foreign policy and to question the candidates.

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)
September 23, 2008 Tuesday
Metro Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 5B

Length: 621 words

Byline: MARK BRUNSWICK, STAFF WRITER

Body

The three candidates vying to succeed retiring U.S. Rep. Jim Ramstad faced intensive questioning Monday on U.S. foreign policy, particularly regarding the Middle East and Israel, at the third debate in Minnesota's Third Congressional District race.

Each sought to distinguish his position on how best to deal with the threat of Iran gaining nuclear weapons and on Arab-Israeli relations.

Republican Erik Paulsen, a seven-term member of the state House and its former majority leader, faces DFLer Ashwin Madia, an attorney and Iraq war veteran, and Independence Party candidate David Dillon, a family business owner. Madia and Dillon are first-time office-seekers.

The debate, held at Bet Shalom Congregation in Minnetonka and coordinated by the Jewish Community Relations Council, was attended by several hundred people.

Iran and issues related to the Middle East were the first topics of discussion. Paulsen characterized Iran as "a serious threat" and, as he has in the past, criticized Madia for statements the DFLer has made that Paulsen said did not sufficiently recognize the threat. Paulsen said that no strategy should be taken off the table but that economic sanctions should be explored first.

"Iran is a threat, not only to Israel, it's a threat to the United States and it's the most important threat globally," Paulsen said.

Calling Iran "a menace that needs to be dealt with," Madia said the United States should defer to Israel on the threat Iran poses to Israel, but he also advocated using "every tool in our toolbox" before exploring a military option.

"As a Marine, when someone says threat, you attack. I'm not there yet," Madia said.

Dillon said that diplomatic talks have not worked and that it is time to demand divestiture and other economic sanctions with a country "that has been doing a land-office business with other countries."

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RACE: THIRD DISTRICT Candidates debate how best to handle Iran 's nuclear threat, support Israel Several hundred people turned out to hear th....

Madia said the United States has been the only country to have credibility in Arab-Israeli relations but blamed the Bush administration for dropping the ball as Iran threatens Israel from the east, and <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah pose threats to it as well.

Paulsen pledged to be "a consistent vote for foreign aid to Israel" and said the United States should recognize that Israel has the right to decide how to defend itself.

"Israel is the one who is facing the daily rocket fire. Israel is faced by the Iranian threat. The United States must stand firm to give strong support to Israel," Paulsen said.

Dillon said some sort of Palestinian state should be recognized but in a way that both parties can find viable.

In the contest to succeed Ramstad, a Republican who is retiring after nine terms, the candidates are seeking to represent a moderate western Hennepin County district that is the most affluent of Minnesota's eight congressional districts.

The three candidates bring something unique to the field: At one time they were all Republicans. Madia acknowledges voting for George Bush in the 2000 presidential election but says he became disenchanted with how the war in Iraq was handled and voted for Democrat John Kerry in 2004. Dillon, who grew up in a DFL activist family, describes himself as a onetime Republican who now sees the two-party system as broken.

Mark Brunswick - 651-222-1636

UPCOMING THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT DEBATES AND FORUMS:

- Consortium for People with Disabilities forum; Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m., Minnetonka Community Center, Minnetonka.
- Televised debate, Oct. 17, 8 p.m., KSTP, Channel 5. Sponsored by League of *Women* Voters.
- Radio debate, Oct. 27, 11 a.m., MPR's "Midday" program.

NOTE: A Third District candidate forum sponsored by the Minnesota Senior Federation and scheduled for Wednesday morning at Plymouth Creek Center in Plymouth has been postponed.

Graphic

PHOTO

Load-Date: September 29, 2008



Damaging Iran quake

Pretoria News (South Africa)
September 11, 2008 Thursday
e1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 678 words

Body

Tehran - A powerful 6.1 earthquake struck southern Iran yesterday near Bandar Abbas, site of a major oil refinery, killing at least four people and injuring 26, officials and state media said. The state broadcaster said two of those injured were in critical condition. Among those injured were 15 on Qeshm, an island in the southern Gulf close to where the tremor struck. I

Jerusalem - Amos Gilad, Israel's key contact in indirect Egyptian-mediated talks with <u>Hamas</u>, yesterday said the group was more powerful than the Palestinian government and "is like a cancer". The Defence Ministry official said talks between Israel and Palestinians in the West Bank were set to fail until those forces retook Gaza."It's very difficult to sign an agreement with half your body," he said.

London - A Matchbox toy Ferrari racing car valued at £70 (R990). It will go under the hammer at Vectis Auctions in Thornaby, northern England, next week. The collection of Matchbox cars owned by American Dr Scott D Gillogly is valued at nearly £570 000.

Lisbon - Maria de Jesus, Europe's oldest person and the world's second oldest, celebrated her 115th birthday yesterday. Her mother, who worked in agriculture for seven decades, had always eaten "what the earth offers", said her daughter Maria Madalena, explaining Maria de Jesus' longevity. The oldest living person, American Edna Parker, is five months older than Maria de Jesus.

The Hague - A victims' fund linked to the International Criminal Court yesterday launched an appeal for e10-million (R113-million) to help 1,7-million women and girls who suffered rape and sexual violence in Africa's wars. Desmond Tutu, one of the five directors of the fund, said rape had "become, viciously, a weapon of war meant to punish communities".

Cairo - Switzerland is to return a pharaoh's "eye" stolen 36 years ago from the statue of King Amenhotep III. Egyptian Culture Minister Faruk Hosni yesterday said the eye was about 50cm long and was stolen from the statue discovered in 1970 in a Luxor temple. It was stolen in 1972 when a fire broke out around the temple and was sold to a US dealer. It ended up in a Basel museum.

Washington - Seven years after the September 11 attacks, there is no consensus outside the US that Islamist militants from al-Qaeda were responsible. A survey in 17 countries found majorities in only nine countries believed al-Qaeda was behind the attacks. On average, 46% said al-Qaeda was responsible, 15% said the US government, 7% Israel and 7% said some other perpetrator.

Damaging Iran quake

Madrid - Ingrid Betancourt, who spent six years as a hostage in Colombia's jungles, yesterday won a prestigious Prince of Asturia humanitarian award in Spain for her bravery and fight for democracy. The former Colombian presidential candidate dedicated the prize to the many other Colombians held captive by the country's rebels."I would like this prize to ease the sadness of their families," she said.

Lusaka - Zambians will go to the polls on October 13 to elect a leader to replace the late Levy Mwanawasa, Zambia's third president since independence from Britain in 1964. Vice-President Rupiah Banda has been Zambia's chief executive since Mwanawasa suffered a stroke in June and died on August 19. Mwanawasa had won praise for his high-profile anti-corruption campaign.

Jerusalem - A music festival in Jerusalem has provided two bodyguards for Daniel Barenboim, a renowned Israeli pianist and conductor, after right-wing activists threatened to harm him. Early this year, Barenboim - a critic of Israel's occupation of the West Bank - was awarded Palestinian citizenship in recognition of his promotion of contact between young Arab and Israeli musicians.

Moscow - A military museum in Moscow yesterday displayed the Russian army's trophies from last month's war against Georgia. Families walked past captured rifles and uniforms from Georgia and studied photos of dead Georgian soldiers and victorious Russian tanks. One series showed Georgian missiles soaring through the air, another series the destroyed buildings in the city of Tskhinvali.

Load-Date: September 10, 2008



Val kicks up high heels among her new friends

The Cairns Post (Australia)

June 28, 2008 Saturday

1 Edition

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Section: AGENDA; Pg. 21

Length: 587 words

Byline: kingg@tcp.newsltd.com.au

Body

WHEN Val Schier won the top job as Cairns mayor nearly 100 days ago, a chorus of jubilant and slightly delusional supporters rejoiced.

Every tree-hugger, tomato juice-drinking hippy and left-wing nimbyist with a grudge against everything except mother nature finally had a kindred soul in power.

She would be a breath of fresh air, they cooed as they sipped their chai lattes. Developers could go and get stuffed.

Things should be rosier than the coloured glasses her supporters wear.

But they're not, because pressure can do strange things to a person.

I fear the heat of battle and a string of stuff-ups is eating away at the very core of Aunty Val.

But I never thought it would come to this.

As I sat at a table at The Cairns Post's Property Spectacular last Saturday night and looked over to the dance floor, I could hardly believe my eyes.

Under a big top at the Esplanade, the event was jam packed with the types of people Aunty Val and her followers have long despised.

Yet right there for all to see, with her red dress flowing and that unmistakable mop of silver hair shimmying, Aunty Val was kicking her high heels up with a bevy of rabid capitalists.

I nearly spat a gobful of red wine all over my dinner companions. Was I hallucinating? Had someone spiked my wine with a tab of high-powered lysergic acid?

I put my left hand in front of my face and counted my fingers. Only five of them. I wasn't seeing things.

Yes, there she was, fraternising with developers, real estate agents and builders, and having a riot of a time doing it.

Val kicks up high heels among her new friends

And good on her, because it takes a lot of guts to turn up to an event overflowing with people from an industry you've spent years fighting against.

Bloody hell, I thought. If she can do the foxtrot and fandango with a group of developers, even I could smoke the proverbial peace pipe with her.

So when she finally finished cavorting with rich men in suits, I went over to say hello and offer up an olive branch of reconciliation.

If Israel and Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> can agree on a ceasefire in Gaza, a similar truce between the pair of us should be easy.

But it wasn't. It was very, very far from easy.

Indeed, our conversation was over quicker than the time it took her to backflip on election promises, and that's very quick indeed.

KING: Hi Val.

SCHIER: Hello.

KING: Umm, how are you?

SCHIER: It's a bit too loud to talk.

And that was it. Admittedly, the place was louder than an alley full of cats fornicating in the still of night but the silence between us was deeper than an intergalactic black hole.

I've had my fair share of rejections from women, but this was the swiftest and sharpest of them all.

All I could do was watch as Aunty Val continued to dance the night away in the arms of all those evil entrepreneurs and greedy businessmen.

I was reeling in disappointment at my humiliating rebuff, then, just when I thought my night couldn't get any worse, my boss Nick Trompf appeared on stage in black leather pants.

Then he took his shirt off to the rhythm of a Robbie Williams song.

Had the whole world gone mad? Had someone tied a freakin' blue ribbon in my hair and pushed me down the rabbit hole into an adults only version of Alice in Wonderland?

Aunty Val's fans may be able to stomach a double-digit rates rise, but this would surely be too much.

Dancing with developers? To Val's crowd it's like driving a car without hybrid technology or refusing to dry hump a tree every morning.

Either way, my opinion of her has changed for the better.

Good on you Aunty Val, and welcome to the real world.

Load-Date: July 2, 2008



Nurturing SA and African cinema

Daily News (South Africa)
July 17, 2008 Thursday
e1 Edition

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Section: ENTERTAINMENT; Pg. 4

Length: 672 words

Body

The recent and horrific xenophobic attacks that swept across the country, and made world headlines, were the catalyst in the Love Film, Hate Xenophobia theme at this year's Durban International Film Festival (Diff).

Nashen Moodley, the festival manager, explains: "Many South Africans involved in the film industry were at the Cannes Film Festival during the outbreak of the xenophobic attacks, and it was extremely disturbing, depressing and embarrassing for us, as it was for many people here.

"This highlighted for us that the underlying motive of all film festivals, Diff included, is to promote tolerance and under-standing of different cultures through the medium of film.

"We thought it appropriate to highlight this aspect through the chosen theme."

On a more encouraging note, there is a strong presence of local offerings, which is evident with Jerusalema, the opening film which is directed by Ralph Ziman. It captures the rise of a Johannesburg gangster in gritty splendour.

Moodley explains: "One of the key objectives is the promotion of South African and African cinema, so it's great that we will, for the second year running, open with a South African film.

"Last year, it was Darrell James Roodt's Meisie.

"Jerusalema is a really energetic and exciting gangster film set on the mean streets of Johannesburg."

On the surge in local submissions, he offers: "While funding remains a big problem, there are nevertheless a large number of South African films this year - this is certainly reflective of the tenacity of filmmakers, who are just getting out there and making films with small budgets.

"(Locally) Diff has 10 feature films, 29 documentaries and 32 short films. The highlights are premieres of John Kani's Nothing but the Truth, Mlandu Sikwebu's uMalusi and Claire Angelique's My Black Little Heart."

Shamim Sarif's The World Unseen, Meg Rickard's Land of Thirst, Michael Rix's satirical animation, Tengers, and Michael Raeburn's controversial cinematic adaptation of Triomf, wraps up the home-grown features.

With political conflicts monopolising headlines around the globe, documentaries such as A Jihad for Love, Black Business, The City the Kills Somalians, Inside *Hamas* and Dar Fur - War for Water will make for interesting viewing.

Nurturing SA and African cinema

Diff's other focus areas are divided between The New German Cinema, Indian Cinema, Wavescapes Surf Film Festival, Music on Film ... Films on Music, Focus on Italian Film, <u>Women</u>'s Month and European Union Film Focus.

Given the vastness of the line-up, whittling down the different genres and languages was no easy feat.

"We have selection committees and committees of advisors, comprised of people who are passionate about cinema, to come up with a final selection.

"While we do try to present a solid geographical representation, ultimately we just want to present great films, regardless of language or genre," he explains.

Moodley elaborates: "It's not enough for film festivals to just screen films. For us, it has always been extremely important for Diff to have a significant training component and that the festival films and filmmakers inspire a new generation of South African filmmakers.

"This year, we added the Talent Campus Durban, which brings together 40 young filmmakers from all over the African continent for an intensive five-day programme of workshops and seminars."

With over 200 films from over 95 countries on offer and around 100 filmmakers in attendance, moviegoers get to feast their eyes on a smorgasbord of thought-provoking and compelling releases, from July 23 to August 3, and interact with the visionaries behind the offerings.

nThe principal screening venues for DIFF 2008 are: Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre; Nu-Metro Cinecentre, Suncoast; Ster-Kinekor Musgrave, Cinema Nouveau, Gateway; Ekhaya Multi-Arts Centre, KwaMashu; KwaSuka Theatre and the BAT Centre. Programme booklets with the full screening schedule and movie synopses of all films are available free at cinemas, Computicket and other outlets. Call 031 260 2506/1650 or log on to: www.cca.ukzn.ac.za

Load-Date: July 16, 2008



Pelosi: Israel 'bears the brunt' of Iranian threat, but it's the world's problem

The Jerusalem Post July 15, 2008 Tuesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 649 words

Byline: JUDY SIEGEL, Jerusalem Post correspondent

Body

LOS ANGELES - The Iranian regime threatens not only Israel and the Middle East but the entire world, said US Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi (D- California), who spoke Sunday night at the opening of the three-day 94th national conference of the Hadassah Zionist <u>Women</u>'s Organization in Los Angeles's Westin Bonaventure Hotel.

"Israel bears the brunt of that threat... and the safety not only of Israel but of the entire world depends on forcing Iran to give up its nuclear capability," she said, calling for stronger sanctions against the rogue Muslim state.

Pelosi, who visited Israel last May and toured the Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, appeared along with Knesset Speaker Dalia Itzik, who had flown in specially for the 2,000-delegate event.

Both the first <u>women</u> to become speakers of the legislatures in their countries and, standing at either side of the dais, they were described with a smile by Hadassah national president Nancy Falchuk as "stereo speakers" who had done much for the empowerment of <u>women</u> in the two countries.

Pelosi told the delegates representing the 96-year-old organization's 300,000 members that she always carried with her replicas of the "dog tags" of Hizbullah's prisoners, kidnapped soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev given to her by Goldwasser's wife Karnit - and shows them at every opportunity in Washington to demonstrate Congress's commitment to their return, as well as to the release of Gilad Schalit from the hands of *Hamas* in Gaza.

Pelosi praised Hadassah for its political activism in the US, which helped bring about the passing of a law that guarantees privacy and protection from discrimination on the basis of genetic tests, its efforts for health care for all of America's children and embryonic stem cell research, which has the potential to eventually reverse various chronic diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and type 1 diabetes.

Pelosi, herself a mother of five with seven grandchildren, noted with frustration that US President George W. Bush had repeatedly vetoed bills that had been passed by Congress. Bush, she said, opposes a law to provide universal health care to children because "he says it would cost too much, but [the costs of keeping US soldiers] only 40 days in Iraq will provide care for 10 million children."

She noted that although cancer had hit virtually every American family, killing 550,000 Americans per year, Bush also defeated an initiative to increase research funding for the US National Cancer Institute. But, the Democratic congresswoman added, "January is only a few months away," referring to the month when a new president will take over.

Pelosi: Israel 'bears the brunt' of Iranian threat, but it's the world's problem

She had been impressed during her visit to the Hadassah hospital that its staff "treat everyone not because they [the patients] are Jewish, but because you [the supporters and staff] are Jewish."

Itzik, who was warmly received at the convention, noted that 60 years ago, Israel had been home to only three percent of world Jewry, but today the figure had risen to 43%. She also praised the Hadassah initiative to teach Hebrew to members around the US.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who himself visited Israel only a few weeks ago, said that Israel's enemies wanted to "exterminate" the Jewish state, but that America would always stand behind Israel. During his visit, he had signed an agreement that would bring Israeli airport security experts to the US to help make Los Angeles's international airport safer, he said.

The ceremony began with rousing versions of both countries' national anthems. The convention organizers committed themselves to making it an "environmentally friendly" affair - giving out cloth bags rather than paper-filled plastic cases to delegates and replacing the traditional daily "newspaper" reporting the events with an Internet site to disseminate stories, videos and photos.

Graphic

Photo: NANCY PELOSI, Speaker for the US House of Representatives, says that Israel bears the brunt of the Iranian threat. (Credit: AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Pirates snatch tourists

The Star (South Africa)

June 25, 2008 Wednesday

e2 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4 Length: 677 words

Body

Mogadishu - Pirates have kidnapped four foreign tourists, including a woman and a child, sailing off the coast of Somalia's northern Puntland region. A Somali official said the foreigners were taking pictures from their small yacht when the pirates snatched them, took them ashore and spirited them away into the nearby mountains. The nationalities of the four was not known.

London - Britain's top military officer yesterday described Afghanistan as "medieval". Air Chief Marshall Jock Stirrup said it would be 15 years at current growth rates before Afghanistan reached the level of Bangladesh. The major threat was not necessarily the Taliban or al-Qaeda, but building up a level of governance that allowed the country to function properly.

New York - The foot of a living Trichobatrachus robustus frog, one of the 11 species of African frogs, shows the white bony claws protruding from the tips of the toes. African frogs carry a built-in concealed weapon - they can sprout claws on demand to fight off attackers, US researchers reported this week.

Kuala Lumpur - Authorities in a northern Malaysian city are calling on Muslim <u>women</u> not to wear bright lipstick and noisy high-heel shoes if they want to follow the "Islamic way". The city council in Kota Baru, run by an Islamic party, is distributing pamphlets advising <u>women</u> to refrain from wearing heavy make-up, including bright lipstick, and high-heel shoes to work.

Singapore - A pensioner who took his son's passport by mistake checked in at Tiger Airways, got through security at Changi Airport and flew to Vietnam - only realising during the flight that he was carrying the wrong document. Ang Heng Soon headed directly to immigration authorities at Ho Chi Minh City Airport, where they put him on the same plane back to Singapore.

Bangui - A civil servant in the Central African Republic who forged the president's signature to fraudulently award qualifications to more than 40 candidates has been jailed for three years. The state employee forged the signature of President Francois Bozize on a presidential directive giving the baccalaureat qualification. The candidates were members of the president's party.

Stockholm - Sweden's first woman rabbi has been chosen to run one of three synagogues in Stockholm. "We did not make our choice based on gender. She was the best of all candidates," a Jewish community spokesperson said yesterday. Chava Koster (46), who has headed a New York Reform synagogue, could however be barred from carrying out certain rituals because of her sex.

Pirates snatch tourists

Dakar - The World Health Organisation has pressed for fast action to decontaminate a Senegalese town where lead pulled from car batteries is thought to have killed 18 children and exposed nearly 1 000 people to risky levels of the metal. The breaking down of car batteries to resell the lead is common in developing countries, where many without electricity use the batteries to power lights and TVs.

Tokyo - Thousands of peaches - popular as good luck gifts for newlyweds - have been stolen from an orchard near Tokyo. About 5 000 of the so-called "bride" peaches disappeared from an orchard overnight. The fruit has been known to retail in Japan for as much as \$820 (R6 355) each. Peaches, cherries and melons are considered luxury items and are pricey.

Jerusalem - Major world powers yesterday called for calm after a Gaza truce was shaken by rocket fire into southern Israel and the killing of Palestinians in the West Bank. No one was hurt in the rocket attack from Gaza, which was preceded by a pre-dawn Israeli troop raid that killed two Palestinians in Nablus in the West Bank. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the rocket fire. *Hamas* urged restraint.

London - Foodmaker Heinz Co has pulled a British TV advertisement showing two men kissing, after some viewers complained. The ad for Heinz Deli Mayo depicts a family kitchen scene involving two children, a father and a male deli cook with a New York accent whom the children address as "Mum". At the end of the ad, the cook kisses the father as he leaves for work.

Load-Date: June 25, 2008



Taliban support probed

The Star (South Africa)

July 09, 2008 Wednesday

e1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4 **Length:** 672 words

Body

Kabul - A suicide blast on the Indian embassy in Kabul could not have been carried out without the "full support of foreign intelligence", according to an Afghan security report made public yesterday. The report, delivered at an Afghan cabinet meeting after Monday's attack, did not name a foreign intelligence service, but Afghanistan regularly accuses circles in Pakistan of supporting the Taliban.

Jerusalem - Israel yesterday reopened its border crossings with the Gaza Strip in response to an Egyptian request, reversing an earlier decision to close them after a Palestinian mortar attack. "In response to a special request by the Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, Defence Minister Ehud Barak agreed to open the crossings at noon," a Defence Ministry statement said.

Maseru - Britain's Prince Harry supervises the rebuilding of a school for disabled children in Butha-Buthe, Lesotho, yesterday. The project is sponsored by the prince's Sentebale charity and his Household Cavalry Regiment's Burnaby Blue Foundation.

Nairobi - A law banning smoking in public places and regulating tobacco products in Kenya came into effect yesterday, spelling the end of a convoluted legal tussle between the government and tobacco firms. The Tobacco Control Act, passed last year, provides a legal framework to control the manufacture, sale, advertising and use of tobacco products.

Jakarta - Saudi Arabian families were abusing <u>female</u> migrant workers to the point of slavery, and Riyadh needed to respond with sweeping labour and justice reforms, a major rights group said yesterday. US-based Human Rights Watch said in a report released in Indonesia that many Saudis believed they "owned" their foreign domestic workers, and treated them like slaves.

Sydney - Australia's top Catholic cleric yesterday denied trying to cover up allegations of sex abuse against a priest, but admitted a letter he wrote to a victim was "badly worded and a mistake". Sydney Archbishop Cardinal George Pell acknowledged the latest scandal was an embarrassment ahead of Pope Benedict's visit to Sydney next week, during which the pontiff might apologise to victims.

Mexico City - The Mexican government yesterday said the UN's World Heritage Committee had added a Monarch butterfly reserve in southern Mexico to its list of World Heritage sites. According to Mexico's Foreign Relations Department, the reserve, located in the states of Mexico and Michoacan, was declared a natural heritage site at a heritage committee meeting in Quebec City.

Taliban support probed

Tokyo - A Japanese woman and her six-month-old baby have escaped unhurt from a knife-wielding thief after the mother calmed him down with a cup of tea and a chat. The man spent 20 minutes telling her about his life. The 30-year-old woman was walking in a corridor in her apartment building with her daughter on Monday, when the knife-wielding man demanded money.

Las Vegas - MGM Mirage officials are investigating the death of a dolphin at an aquatic habitat at the Mirage on the Las Vegas Strip. Company spokesperson Gordon Absher said animal care officials were trying to determine why Sage, the 11-year-old dolphin, died on Saturday. He said 13 dolphins had died at Siegfried & Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat since 1990.

Nablus - Israeli forces yesterday raided a popular shopping mall in the occupied West Bank, ordering its closure for two years because of its owner's alleged links to <u>Hamas</u>. Palestinian shoppers defied the Arabic-language order, left at the complex and signed by an Israeli general, by flocking to the five-storey complex in the centre of the city of Nablus, which is surrounded by the Israeli army.

Tehran - Iran yesterday warned it would "set fire" to Israel and US forces in response to any attack over its nuclear drive, as the world's leading industrial powers meeting in Japan told Tehran to freeze uranium enrichment. While issuing the warning, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad downplayed the threat of an attack, saying it would be "political suicide" for President George Bush.

Load-Date: July 8, 2008



HOLDING HANDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST; THE PRESIDENT SHEATHES HIS SWORD; AND TRIES TO RESCUE HIS LEGACY BY LIVING IT UP ON A TOUR OF ARABIA

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

January 17, 2008 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. B-7

Length: 1406 words

Byline: MAUREEN DOWD

Body

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"It's not allowed for ladies to use the gym," the Marriott desk clerk told me, an American woman in an American franchise traveling with an American president.

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Saudis and Palestinians grumbled that they find it hard to listen to the president's high-flown paeans to democracy when he only acknowledges his brand of democracy. When <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah and the Muslim Brotherhood won elections, W. sought to undermine them. The results of the elections were certainly troubling, but is democratization supposed to be about outcomes?

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Notes

Maureen Dowd is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times.

Load-Date: January 18, 2008



LTTE targeting impoverished Lankans - British Magazine

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

July 2, 2008 Wednesday 3:43 PM EST

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Length: 626 words

Byline: Daily News Sri Lanka

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, July 2 - The widely circulated Observer magazine distributed with the Observer newspaper in a four page in-depth article said by targeting innocent civilians the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are fast losing whatever sympathies they had earlier.

The magazine in an article entitled, 'Lost in Paradise' said the Tigers "are going for the softest targets of all, the impoverished working people of Sri Lanka."

Referring to Sri Lanka's North, the magazine said: "Here are not only the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) but their offshoot, the Black Tigers, the suicide squads. According to Jane's information Group, between 1980-2000 the Tigers had carried out a total of 168 suicide attacks on civilian and military targets, easily exceeding those in the same period by Hezbollah and *Hamas* combined.

And now today, thwarted on their attacks on the government and the military, they are going for the softest targets of all, the impoverished working people of Sri Lanka.

"For all those decades of suicide practice, you'd think they might be getting the hang of it by now. But in Colombo's Fort Railway Station, a few weeks before my visit, it all went wrong again.

A <u>female</u> suicide bomber coming off a train from the South was spotted acting oddly by police-too many clothes for the cloying heat - and fled from the turnstile back into the station. By platform three she sat down and exploded. She took 11 others with her....The 11 dead included half a high school baseball team, and 92 were injured," wrote Observer staffer, Euan Ferguson.

Founded in 1791, the Liberal Democratic leaning left of center publication with a circulation of 455,000 also referred to an incident where the Tigers were not that successful in blowing up the impoverished working civilians: "One passenger, Indrani Fernando, saw a suspicious bag left under a seat near the back. 'When no one claimed it I told the crew and shouted at people to get off,' she says.

The bus halted in a middle of a junction and everyone filed off and began walking away, rather quickly and the police were called. Twenty seconds after the driver and conductor had climbed off, the bomb exploded.

Ten passers-by were injured, among them children. Indrani later took a congratulatory call from, President Mahinda Rajapaksa, thanking her for her vigilance. I go to see the bus, towed two miles away. The carcass is eviscerated, skeletal: no one would have survived."

LTTE targeting impoverished Lankans - British Magazine

How the Tigers have increasingly started targeting unarmed civilians Ferguson further wrote: "Just before I arrived in Sri Lanka, another bus had been blown up a couple of kilometers outside Dambulla, an ancient holy rest stop on the journey to the East.

The 18 killed were almost all pilgrims and included children. In the remote Southern town of Buttala the rebels had recently failed to kill most of the passengers on a bus with a simple bomb; so they gunned down 32 of them as they fled, in flames."

"Desperate tactics have been adopted by the Tigers, but there are increasing signs that by targeting innocent civilians they are fast losing whatever sympathies they once had within the majority Sinhalese population."

The writer who has returned to the country after the devastating Boxing Day tsunami calls Sri Lanka one of the most kind places on earth despite the violence:

"This is one of the kindest countries on earth. Smiles, genuine, empathetic, as natural as waterfall.

Even when I was here following the tsunami, I was struck repeatedly by the welcomes from those who had nothing, both the majority Sinhalese and Tamils. And, still you can head south from Colombo without a care in the world, take a breezy taxi to the beaches and beauty of Galle."

Report from Daily News Sri Lanka brought to you by HT Syndication.

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Load-Date: September 16, 2008



Faith, freedom and bling

The International Herald Tribune
January 17, 2008 Thursday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 9

Length: 1445 words

Byline: Maureen Dowd - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: RIYADH

Body

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Load-Date: January 18, 2008



Faith, Freedom and Bling in the Middle East

The New York Times

January 16, 2008 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Editorial Desk; Pg. 23; OP-ED COLUMNIST

Length: 1449 words

Byline: By MAUREEN DOWD

Dateline: RIYADH, Saudi Arabia

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Arab TV offered an uncomfortable juxtaposition: Al Arabiya running the wretched saga of Gaza children suffering from a lack of food and medicine during the Israeli blockade, blending into the wretched excess scenes of W. being festooned with rapper-level bling from royal hosts flush with gazillions from gouging us on oil.

W.'s 11th-hour bid to save his legacy from being a shattered Iraq -- even as the Iraqi defense minister admitted that American troops would be needed to help with internal security until at least 2012 and border defense until at least 2018 -- recalled MTV's "Cribs."

At a dinner last night in the king's tentlike retreat, where the 8-foot flat-screen TV in the middle of the room flashed Arab news, the president and his advisers Elliott Abrams and Josh Bolten went native, lounging in floor-length, furlined robes, as if they were Peter O'Toole and Omar Sharif.

In Abu Dhabi, Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan gave the president -- dubbed "the Wolf of the Desert" by a Kuwaiti poet -- a gigantic necklace made of gold, diamonds, rubies and emeralds, so gaudy and cumbersome that even the Secret Service agent carrying it seemed nonplussed. Here in Saudi Arabia, the king draped W. with an emerald-and-ruby necklace that could have come from Ali Baba's cave.

Time's Massimo Calabresi described the Kuwaiti emir's residence where W. dined Friday as "crass class": "Loud paintings of harems and the ruling Sabah clan hang near Louis XVI enameled clocks and candlesticks in the long hallways."

In Abu Dhabi, the president made a less-than-rousing speech about democracy while staying in the less-than-democratic Emirates Palace hotel's basketball-court-size Ruler's Suite -- an honor reserved for royalty and W. and denied to Elton John, who is coming later this month to play the Palace.

The president's grandiose room included a ballroom, in case Mr. Bush wanted to practice the tribal sword dancing he has been rather sheepishly doing with some of his hosts, something between Zorba and Zorro. The \$3 billion, seven-star, 84,114-square-foot pink marble hotel -- said to be the most expensive ever built -- would make Trump blush. It glistens with 64,000 square feet of 22-carat gold leaf, 1,000 chandeliers, 20,000 roses changed every day, 200 fountains, a dome higher than St. Peter's, an archway larger than the Arc de Triomphe, a beach with white sand shipped in from Algeria and a private heliport. The rooms, scattered with rose petals, range from \$1,598 to \$12,251.

Puddle jumping through Arabia, the president saw his share of falcons in little leather hoods -- presumably not a Gitmo reference -- and Arabian stallions, including one retired stud from Texas -- presumably not a W. reference. But there was a distinct dearth of wives and dissidents.

It does not bode well for the president's ability to push the Israelis and Palestinians that he has done so little to push Musharraf on catching Osama, despite our \$10 billion endowment, or the Saudis on <u>women</u>'s rights and human rights, even with the \$20 billion arms package.

At a press conference last night, the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, was asked what the president and king had discussed about human rights.

"About what?" the prince repeated flatly.

"Human rights," Condi prompted.

"Human rights?" the stately prince pondered, before shimmying out of the question.

Though W. has made the issue of the progress of <u>women</u> in the Middle East a central part of "the freedom agenda" -- he had a roundtable over the weekend with Kuwaiti <u>women</u> on democracy and development -- he doesn't seem bothered that 17 years after his father protected the Saudis when Saddam invaded Kuwait, Saudi

Faith, Freedom and Bling in the Middle East

<u>women</u> still can't drive or publicly display hair or skin and still get beheaded and lashed because of archaic laws. Neither does the <u>female</u> secretary of state of the United States.

"It's not allowed for ladies to use the gym," the Marriott desk clerk told me, an American woman in an American franchise traveling with an American president.

W. was strangely upbeat throughout the trip -- "Dates put you in a good mood, right?" he joked to reporters yesterday, specifying that he meant the fruit -- even though back home the Republican candidates were running from him and clinging to Reagan.

The Saudi big shots I talked to were intrigued that W. is now more in the sway of Condi than Bombs Away Cheney. They admire his intention about making peace, even though they're skeptical that he has the time or competence to do it; and they're sure that the Israelis need more of a shove than a nudge.

They are also dubious about his attempts to demonize and isolate Iran.

"We don't need America to dictate our enemies to us, especially when it's our neighbor," said an insider at the Saudi royal court. The Saudis invited the Iranian president, I'm-a-Dinner-Jacket, to their hajj pilgrimage last month.

Saudis and Palestinians grumbled that they find it hard to listen to the president's high-flown paeans to democracy when he only acknowledges his brand of democracy. When <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah and the Muslim Brotherhood won elections, W. sought to undermine them. The results of the elections were certainly troubling, but is democratization supposed to be about outcomes?

They also think W.'s plan cancels itself out. The Israelis don't have to stop settlements if rockets are coming in from Gaza, and Abbas, the Palestinian president, can't stop rockets from going out of an area he does not control.

The president who described himself at Galilee as "a pilgrim" makes peace sound as easy as three faiths sharing, when history has shown that the hardest thing on earth is three faiths sharing.

Asked by ABC's Terry Moran what he was thinking when he stood on the site where Jesus performed miracles at the Sea of Galilee, W. replied: "I reflected on the story in the New Testament about the calm and the rough seas, because it was on those very seas that the Lord was in the boat with the disciples, and they were worried about the waves and the wind, and the sea calmed. That's what I reflected on: the calm you can find in putting your faith in a higher power."

Clearly, the man believes in miracles.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: January 16, 2008



Overseas briefing

The Times Higher Education Supplement
June 19, 2008

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 15; No. 1850

Length: 682 words

Body

Gaza

Israel lets 7 scholars leave for US

A bar on a group of Palestinian students leaving Gaza to study in the US has been lifted. The seven students faced having their Fulbright fellowships withdrawn, but Israel has now agreed to facilitate special exit permits to allow them to travel. However, hundreds of other Palestinian students who have won foreign scholarships remain trapped in Gaza by the Israeli blockade, The New York Times reported. An Israeli official said that a limited number of permits would be granted, but it is estimated that about 600 students with scholarships may be prevented from leaving. The ban is part of an economic blockade imposed on the civilian population of Gaza in response to *Hamas* rule and rocket attacks on Israel.

Australia

Academics back beleaguered v-c

Alan Pettigrew, vice-chancellor of the University of New England in New South Wales, received a vote of confidence from the institution's association of professors after the university's chancellor John Cassidy reportedly told him to "move on" by the end of July. The pair have been in conflict after Professor Pettigrew objected to the pace of changes being driven through by the chancellor, The Australian reported. As well as voicing support for Professor Pettigrew the professoriat also passed a vote of no confidence in the chancellor by 319 to one. Mr Cassidy recently riled academics when he said in an interview: "Whether you're selling fish and chips, construction or education, the business is the same."

United States

\$350K fine for murder cover-up

A university that covered up details of the rape and murder of a student in her campus lodgings has been hit with a record fine. When 22-year-old Laura Dickinson was found dead in her room at Eastern Michigan University in December 2006, officials told her parents and the media that she had died of asphyxiation and that there was no sign of foul play, despite evidence to the contrary. A police investigation followed, and a 21-year- old man was convicted of murder and jailed for life. Now the university has been fined \$350,000 (£ 178,000) by the Department of Education for violating a federal law requiring accurate disclosure of campus safety information. The university's president and safety director have been fired.

Overseas briefing

China

Institutions target alumni pockets

Elite Chinese universities are turning to alumni for donations for the first time, reports suggest. Institutions that have in the past relied solely on public funding and tuition fees are now seeking to develop a "donation culture", Forbes.com reports. Fudan University, which receives about 5 per cent of its income from alumni, has 15,000 former students living in the US, where higher education philanthropy is strongest.

India

IITs plan institute for women

Plans have been tabled for the first <u>women</u>-only Indian Institute of Technology. The IITs are part of a drive to expand the country's skills base in areas such as engineering, with eight new institutes in the pipeline, which will bring the total number to 16. Technology is still a largely male-dominated area in India, and only about 10 per cent of students at the existing seven institutes are <u>women</u>, Business Standard reported. A professor at IIT-Kanpur told the newspaper: "As there have always been a limited number of girls pursuing engineering, setting up an all-girl IIT may encourage more girls to pursue engineering as a career."

United States

Lecturer fired over liaison

An academic suspended after a <u>female</u> student died at his home has lost his job for having a relationship with a student. As Times Higher Education reported last month, Michael Todd, a psychology lecturer at Paradise Valley Community College in Arizona, was put on administrative leave after 19-year-old Andria Ziegler died at his home. Now an Arizona medical examiner has ruled that she died from an accidental cocaine overdose, and police have ruled that Mr Todd was not involved in her death. However, he was sacked by the governing board for breaking rules prohibiting "amorous relationships" with students, the East Valley Tribune reported.

Load-Date: June 20, 2008



Letters:

The Philadelphia Inquirer
May 18, 2008 Sunday
CITY-D Edition

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Section: CURRENTS; Inq Currents; Pg. C04

Length: 686 words

Body

A healthy startFormer U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona is right to exhort us to reduce costs and improve life by preventing and better managing chronic diseases (Commentary, May 12). Skyrocketing rates of obesity and diabetes alone drain our resources and sap our health.

Prevention of obesity and diabetes can begin in the very first hour of life. How? Breastfeeding. Studies defining breastfeeding most clearly, without including babies who barely breastfeed with those who had mother's milk exclusively, show the greatest gains in illness prevention by breastfeeding.

To promote breastfeeding, we need to make a few changes. <u>Women</u> need to be taught about breastfeeding during pregnancy. Hospitals need to stop giving new mothers "free" formula-containing discharge bags. Families need access to lactation professionals who help mothers and babies get off to a good start and problem-solve when needed. Communities must welcome nursing mothers and babies and support employment practices that allow for nursing or pumping breaks.

Preventing chronic illness will enhance life and decrease health-care costs. It starts on day one.

Debi FerrarelloAbingtonDangers of coalThe price of coal has doubled and wages to miners in Western Pennsylvania are at an all-time high ("In the black," May 11).

Mining coal is dangerous work and burning it pollutes our atmosphere, causing global warming and illnesses like asthma. But now burning coal and other fossil fuels is causing energy prices to skyrocket to levels that consumers cannot afford. High coal prices mean high electricity prices. Our economy and environment are now endangered by coal.

We must transition to a clean-energy economy. Rather than send the next generation of workers into dangerous mine shafts, let's teach them to build wind turbines and solar panels. That way, their kids will grow up in a safe and healthy world.

Joy BergeyFlourtownTerror is terrorWhen discussing the stalemate in Israel and Palestine, we must be careful in our use of labels, especially when using the word *terrorist*. For example, John R. Cohn says a two-state solution could place "Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in rocket range of a terrorist-ruled Palestine" ("The threat to Israel," May 9).

It is true that the firing of rockets causes terror. But terror occurs whether the rockets are fired from a <u>Hamas</u> rocket launcher or from an Israeli tank. To label all Palestinians as "terrorists," while labeling similar Israeli actions as self-defense, is inconsistent, disingenuous and harmful.

Letters:

As people of faith, Jews, Christians and Muslims are called to advocate for all victims of terror. Our faith demands that we stand up to governments and groups that sponsor terror, regardless of what "side" we are on.

Terror is terror no matter who experiences it.

Christoph Schmidt

Philadelphiacschmidt@ltsp.edu

The science debateThanks for Darlene Cavalier's column "A debate that wasn't says much about science in U.S." (Inquirer, May 11), on the missed opportunity for a presidential candidate science debate in Philadelphia. The science and technology policies of the next president will affect health care, our environment, breakthroughs in communications and education, and much more.

That the debate did not happen is a true loss. It is inappropriate, however, to blame the promoters, ScienceDebate 2008, for not doing enough to include "the public." Although the idea was alive on the Internet, I don't believe it received much coverage elsewhere. With more in the news, we may yet see a science debate this year.

Nicholas SandersPhiladelphiaPlaying to fearslt may take two generations to undo the damage President Bush has done with his politics of fear and destruction ("Bush 'appeasement' remark in Israel draws Obama's fire," May 16). When Bush ties appeasers of the Nazis to those who would negotiate with terrorists and radicals, I think about the many innocent Iraqis who lost all they had, including their families, to Bush's radical decision to bomb their country. In Israel, Bush was appeasing the Jewish people while reinforcing his warmongering base.

Monique Frugier Ardmore

Load-Date: May 18, 2008



<u>Palestine is all ours, cry schoolchildren on 'Nakba Day'. 'They took my father</u> and destroyed my house,' youngsters chant at Ramallah anti-Israel rally

The Jerusalem Post May 16, 2008 Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 7

Length: 669 words

Byline: KHALED ABU TOAMEH, Jerusalem Post staff **Highlight:** Box at end of text by Jerusalem Post staff

Body

RAMALLAH - Chanting "We will return!" thousands of Palestinian school children marched here Thursday as part of Nakba (catastrophe) Day, the anniversary of the birth of Israel.

In Lebanon, only a few hundred Palestinians took part in a march toward the border with Israel. The Palestinians were hoping that some 100,000 refugees would show up. The organizers claimed that Lebanese army checkpoints prevented thousands of refugees from approaching the border.

In the Gaza Strip, two Palestinians were wounded in clashes with IDF soldiers near the Erez checkpoint, Palestinian medical sources reported. They said hundreds of <u>Hamas</u> supporters tried to march toward the checkpoint to mark Nakba Day.

The rally here was not different from other anti- Israel protests that take place almost on a daily basis in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It began shortly before noon when sirens were sounded in large parts of the city, sending thousands of schoolchildren toward the Mukata compound. Many were carrying placards with the names of former Arab villages inside Israel.

Both the demonstrators and the speakers took parts in launching scathing attacks on Israel, using almost every available term, including "Apartheid State," "State of Terror" and "State of Nazism."

There was no mention at all of the peace process, coexistence or even the two-state solution.

On the contrary - many of the participants chanted slogans in which they expressed support for the armed struggle against Israel, while others said the Jews had no right whatsoever to the land.

"Palestine is all ours," a group of high school students shouted. "We were here before the Jews who came from Europe, Russia and Ethiopia."

Another group of male students dressed in black T- shirts with the writing 1948 marched in Manara Square in the center of the city chanting slogans praising Fatah's armed wing, the Aksa Martyrs Brigades.

Palestine is all ours, cry schoolchildren on 'Nakba Day'. 'They took my father and destroyed my house,' youngsters chant at Ramallah anti- Israel rally

"Israel, be aware, the Aksa Martyrs Brigades will strike tonight," they chanted as some of them released black balloons into the sky. "The Aksa Brigades will liberate every inch of Palestine."

A group of sixth-grade girls, flanked by three <u>female</u> teachers carrying Palestinian flags, chanted, "They took my father and destroyed my house, They beat my mother and spilled the [olive] oil, They uprooted the tree and killed the cow, They kicked us out of our homes and forced us to sleep outside."

A few teenagers chanted slogans against the Arab leaders whom they accused of failing to support the Palestinians. "Let's spit on the Arab leaders twice," they said. "And let the first ones be [Jordan's] King Abdullah and [Egyptian President Hosni] Mubarak."

Speakers at the event declared that the Palestinians would never surrender the "right of return" for all refugees.

"Sixty years later, the nakba of the Palestinians is still continuing," said schoolteacher Amjad Tawil. "This year we decided to focus on the young people so that they would continue to carry our message, namely that we will never abandon the right of return."

In a televised speech, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said it was high time to end the "disgraceful nakba." He added: "Our hands, which struggled over the past 60 years, are still extended for peace. Sixty years have passed and our people are still dreaming of freedom. Sixty years have passed and our people are still hoping to return and end the occupation of their lands."

Abbas said that Israel's security was linked to the independence of the Palestinians and the end of their "nakba."

(Box) E. Jerusalem marks the 'catastrophe'

Left-wing activists and east Jerusalem residents demonstrated outside the Damascus Gate to Jerusalem's Old City on Thursday to mark Nakba (catastrophe) Day, the 60th anniversary, on the Gregorian calendar, of Israeli independence. Police said the protest dispersed voluntarily and without incident.

In addition, store owners throughout the Muslim and Christian quarters of the Old City, and throughout east Jerusalem, held a partial strike to commemorate the day.

Graphic

Photo: BOYS HOLD wooden guns during an Islamic Jihad demonstration marking 'Nakba' Day in Gaza City yesterday. (Credit: Adel Hana/AP)

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



THE LAST DEBATE; CHURCHILL FACES OFF AGAINST SKELETOR

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

May 22, 2008 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2008 P.G. Publishing Co. **Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. B-7

Length: 569 words

Byline: Maureen Dowd

Body

What do you want? Please, Sweetie, would you just tell me what you want?"

"Don't Sweetie me, Twiggy. You know what I want."

"Besides that, Hillary. Seriously, you don't want your delusion to put John McCain in the White House. Or maybe you do. You have no shot. I'm 60 delegates away from nomination nirvana. If you show a shred of common sense and take a powder now, the party will put you on a pedestal."

"Pedestals are for losers. You're on a pedestal. I've never been a loser. I refuse to lose. I won the West Virginia and Kentucky derbies, and I'm not going to end up like Eight Belles."

"Hillary, you've been a great candidate, better than your train-wreck campaign. You're Churchillian in your indomitable tenacity. You've inspired <u>women</u> all over the country. In fact, you've inspired some of them to hate me. But now it's time for you to try to muster a gracious exit."

"Forget it, Bones. Once Harold Ickes works his dark magic on the delegate rules to count Michigan and Florida, I'll have the popular vote. And then the superdelegates will grovel back. They don't want to go on a blind date with a guy who's going to be BFF with Cuba, *Hamas*, Iran and retired Weathermen. You can bet your white turban that I'm not raising the white flag."

"Like hell you aren't, sister."

"Sexist!"

"Racist!"

"Speaking of whites, you can't win without them. And if you think your Secretary of Hairdressing, John Edwards, is going to help, you're more delusional than I am."

"Hillary, when are you going to realize that these whites you consider your pawns are so sick of the Republicans that they're going to vote for anybody who has the 'D' next to their name, and it's going to be me. So cool it with the White Fright. Now what do you want? Debt relief?"

THE LAST DEBATE CHURCHILL FACES OFF AGAINST SKELETOR

"Bill and I don't need your Netroots arugula moolah. We don't need your stinking \$20 donors. We've got Burkle, the Saudis, the Kuwaitis and Kazakh uranium loot on tap."

"Settle down, Hillary. What if I let you write the health care plank in the party platform?"

"Wow, you're so-o-o generous. Can I also write the plank on switchgrass?"

"Fine, you can have the 3 a.m. shift on the White House switchboard."

"Oh, you're so witty with all your stupid rallies with 75,000 people and spending \$100 million on ads to promote one puny word: Change. While you've been fake-eating and losing weight, I've had to stuff myself with all that greasy working-class junk food and chase it with boilermakers."

"What about me? I've come from nowhere, with a single mother on food stamps and a funny name."

"Oh, you're so inspiring. For the first time in my adult lifetime, I'm really proud of my country."

"Don't mock Michelle. Hillary, look, the Senate is a wonderful place. I enjoyed my two months there. You've never made the most of the experience because you were so busy using it as a launching pad."

"Back at ya, Skeletor."

"Can you stop talking, Hillary? Is that even possible?"

"No, I won't, Mr. Never-Convened-Your-European-Affairs-Subcommittee. I don't want to go back. It's boring. And why should I work with all those self-hating, so-called feminists who stabbed me in the back, like Claire McCaskill and Amy Klobuchar?"

"Look, Hillary, a few years back in the Senate helping me move my world-changing agenda will help you repair some of those relationships."

"Hey, Senor Appeaser, there's another primary in 2012. Bill and I are already gearing up for it."

"You're not likeable enough, Hillary."

Notes

Maureen Dowd is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times.

Load-Date: May 22, 2008



Column: The Maverick in the arena

University Wire
May 19, 2008 Monday

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Length: 667 words

Byline: By BRIAN J. BOLDUC, Harvard Crimson; SOURCE: Harvard

Dateline: CAMBRIDGE, Mass.

Body

Sen. John McCain is in the arena, his face marred by dust, sweat and bloodâ€"and that's just on the Right. Two-fifths of Republicans are voting for him this November because they can't stand the other guy, according to a recent Hotline poll. And one tenth of them are voting for the Democrat.

"I was a foot soldier in the Reagan Revolution,†McCain protests, brandishing his American Conservative Union lifetime rating of 83 percent, compared to eight percent for Sen. Barack Obama. Still, conservatives charge insubordination: The maverick pulls his punches with his Democratic opponents, yet pummels his Republican allies. To win the Right's trust, he must fight for it, not against it. Courting moderates, McCain likens himself to Teddy Roosevelt, the Bull Moose who bucked both political parties. True, the maverick clips Republicans often: He called Donald Rumsfeld one of the worst defense secretaries in history, dubbed the federal response to Hurricane Katrina "disgraceful,†and slammed President Bush for "shirking†his duty to combat climate change. Yet McCain's wrists go limp when he's dueling Democrats. The maverick labeled Obama's plan to raise taxes "out of touch.†He called the Democratic frontrunner's pledge to keep troops in Iraq to attack al Qaeda, after vowing to withdraw them immediately, "remarkable.†And when Ahmed Yousef, a member of Hamas, effectively endorsed Obama, McCain bellowed, "l think people can make judgments accordingly.â€ Unlike the maverick, liberals fight dirty. Distorting McCain's remarks at a town hall meeting in New Hampshire, Obama declared, "John McCain wants to continue a war in Iraq perhaps as long as 100 years,†which the non-partisan watchdog, Factcheck.org, says is a "rank falsehood.†Taking a cheap shot at his opponent's age, the Illinois Democrat recently accused McCain of "losing his bearings.†And it's only May. The muckrakersâ€"McCain's supposed palsâ€"aren't jumping to his defense; they're adding to the body pile. In February, The New York Times, which endorsed him over his more conservative rivals in the primary, published a story suggesting he had a tryst with a *female* lobbyist. His response? He was "disappointed†in the paper. To quote Bob Dole, where's the outrage? Conservatives don't just feel underappreciated; they worry the maverick's unrequited love has pushed him leftward. In March, McCain was hands-off the housing market, asserting, "[I]t is not the duty of government to bail out and reward those who act irresponsibly, whether they are big banks or small borrowers.†Two weeks later, he was hands-on, insisting, "We will combine the power of government and the private sector to find immediate solutions for deserving American homeowners.â€ And last week, McCain announced he would bring most of the troops in Iraq home by 2013. During the Florida primary, however, he chided Gov. Mitt Romney for saying the President and his generals should have private "timetables†to measure progress. Romney didn't offer a public date for withdrawal, yet McCain accused him of wanting to "wave the white flag.†So what's he doing? McCain should stop trumpeting the issues on which he leans leftward, because liberals are still going to vote for the Democrat. Why pick Teddy when you can have Franklin? Instead, McCain should persuade voters that his deal is squarer than his opponent's. His

Column: The Maverick in the arena

rhetoric needn't be ugly, only firm. He also should remind conservatives why he's worth the voteâ€"he'll need every one of them in November. I know McCain stands for victory in Iraq, smaller, better government, and traditional values. But I want him to fight vigorously for those beliefs in the arena. For now, I'm sitting on the sidelines, shouting my two words of advice to the maverick for the fall: Aim left. Brian J. Bolduc '10, a Crimson editorial editor, is an economics concentrator in Winthrop House. (C) 2008 Harvard Crimson via UWIRE

Load-Date: May 20, 2008



Bush opens visit to mark Israel's 60th; Outlook for progress on peace called slim

The International Herald Tribune
May 15, 2008 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 623 words

Byline: Sheryl Gay Stolberg - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A rocket launched Wednesday from Gaza struck a shopping mall in southern Israel, hours before President George W. Bush, here on a visit to mark the 60th anniversary of Israel's founding, was to address a major peace conference called "Facing Tomorrow."

At least three people, two <u>women</u> and a girl, were seriously wounded, rescue officials said, according to The Associated Press. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

Ashkelon, a city of 120,000 people about 16 kilometers, or 10 miles, north of the Gaza Strip, was struck by at least 20 foreign-made, Katyusha-type rockets in late February and early March, and Israel responded with an air and ground campaign left more than 120 Palestinians, including many civilians, and 2 Israeli soldiers dead in Gaza.

Bush's visit here, his first stop on a five-day, three country Middle East tour, began with a greeting at the airport in Tel Aviv by a 50-person military orchestra and a large entourage of Israeli dignitaries, including President Shimon Peres and the Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert.

Like Bush, both spoke of the longstanding ties between Israel and the United States.

But Olmert, who is the subject of a corruption investigation that could cost him his job, was also caught on microphone giving apparent reassurance about his future to Bush's national security adviser, Stephen Hadley.

"Holding on, holding on," Olmert was overheard telling Hadley. "Don't worry."

After the arrival ceremony, Bush headed to Jerusalem for back-to-back meetings with Peres and Olmert. But he will not see the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, until later in the week, at an economic forum in Sharm el Sheik, Egypt.

The trip is Bush's second to the region in five months, and his second to Israel as president. On Thursday he will deliver a speech to the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament.

For the White House, the timing of the trip - long-planned to coincide with Israel's 60th birthday - is difficult. Most analysts say that the prospects for significant progress toward peace are slim, and that Bush, who has eight months left in office, is unlikely to achieve a major breakthrough while he is here.

Bush opens visit to mark Israel 's 60th Outlook for progress on peace called slim

But in a series of interviews before leaving Washington, Bush said he remained confident that Abbas and Olmert, who committed themselves to peace talks at a White House sponsored-conference in Annapolis, Maryland, in November, would be able to come to terms on the broad contours of a Palestinian state.

"I think there's a good chance," he told CBS Radio on Monday, adding, "I think we can get a state defined by the time I leave office."

After leaving Israel on Friday, Bush will visit Saudi Arabia, where the price of oil is expected to be a major topic.

The trip will conclude at the economic forum in Egypt, where Bush will meet, along with Abbas, other leaders in the region, including Iraqi officials and President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan.

On Tuesday, Bush used his interviews to criticize <u>Hamas</u>, the militant Palestinian faction that controls Gaza and opposes recognition of Israel as a country.

"Their vision is to destroy Israel," Bush told Israeli television reporters in an interview at the White House on Tuesday. "How about a vision that says we want to coexist with Israel so we can raise our children in peace? Now, I'm sure, people say, 'Bush, oh man, he sounds hopelessly idealistic.' But the truth of the matter is, in order for peace to be secure, it's that kind of idealism that has got to prevail."

Independent analysts do not share the president's idealism. Jon Alterman, director of the Middle East program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said last week he could hardly think of a "less auspicious" time to pursue the peace talks.

Load-Date: May 15, 2008



US troops in shock - report

The Star (South Africa)
April 18, 2008 Friday
e2 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4 Length: 691 words

Body

Washington - About 300 000 US troops are suffering from major depression or post-traumatic stress from serving in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and 320 000 received brain injuries, a new study estimates. Only about half sought help. Researchers found 19% of service members experienced traumatic brain injuries, ranging from mild concussions to severe head wounds.

Washington - Israel's fight with the Palestinians has reduced Gaza to the world's largest open-air prison and residents have no choice but to revolt, just as the Jews in Warsaw fought the Nazis in World War 2. "Resistance remains our only option," Mahmoud al-Zahar, a founder of *Hamas*, wrote in The Washington Post yesterday. His son was killed in an Israeli airstrike three months ago.

Zurich - A Hublot watch specially designed for referees officiating at the Euro 2008 soccer championships to be held in Switzerland and Austria in June. The watch's movement has been specially adapted to the time of a soccer match. The dial displays 45 minutes, plus 15 minutes of extra play, while time can be read from the centre of the dial.

Berlin - Germany's Constitutional Court yesterday rejected an alimony claim by a mother of five children because she had left "an intact marriage" to live with another woman. It found that partners who decided unilaterally to end a healthy marriage and give the "help and care owing to their spouse" to a third party violated the principle of solidarity in marriage and lost their right to alimony.

Stockholm - The world's oldest living tree on record is a nearly 10 000-year-old spruce discovered in central Sweden, Umeaa University said yesterday. The spruce, with genetic material dating back 9 550 years, was found on the Fulu mountain in Dalarna, north-west Sweden. Scientists previously believed the world's oldest trees were 4 000 to 5 000-year-old pine trees found in North America.

Bucharest - A Romanian man has been fined for making 6 442 phone calls to an emergency number just to swear at operators. The 24-year-old man, who lives in a village in southern Romania, was fined e140 (R1 735) this month after a check-up showed he was mentally sound. The well-digger used a cellphone, which made it difficult for police to trace the caller.

Madrid - Spaniard Jose Luis Iborte Baque (82)|has spent his life studying, earning 13 university degrees - including three doctorates - between the ages of 19 and 82. A philosophy graduate at 19, he earned his most recent degree, in the humanities, a month ago. He studied medicine at 73 when a doctor told him not to comment on a diagnosis until he had graduated in medicine himself.

US troops in shock - report

Canberra - So where the "bloody hell" have all the tourists gone? Australia. The controversial and recently axed "Where The Bloody Hell Are You?" tourism drive seems to have paid off, with Australia posting its strongest tourist spending in close to a decade. Holidaymakers injected \$80US-billion (R630-billion) into the economy in 2006-2007, with overseas visitors accounting for \$23-billion of that.

Columbia - A bill now awaiting the South Carolina governor's signature would require abortion providers to ask <u>women</u> if they want to see ultrasound images of their foetuses before going ahead with the procedure. A legislative compromise yesterday said <u>women</u> must wait at least an hour after seeing the ultrasound to have an abortion, giving them time to rethink any decision.

Ottawa - Most Canadians believed their country was too accommodating when it came to "visible minorities". A poll yesterday found that a hefty 61% thought Canada did too much for the visible or non-white minorities. In mostly French-speaking Quebec province the figure soared to 72%. In 2006, Canada's "visible minorities" topped |5-million,or just over 16% of the population.

New York - An Orthodox Jewish passenger who left his seat to pray in the back of a plane and ignored orders to return was removed by an airport security guard before the plane took off. Two friends tried to tell the attendants that the man could not stop until his prayers were over - in about two minutes, They explained that "once you start praying you can't stop".

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The New York Times
May 20, 2008 Tuesday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 2309 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL

IRAQI RAID UNEARTHS CACHE OF ARMS

In Mosque Northwest of Sadr City

Iraqi troops uncovered a large cache of arms in a raid on a Baghdad mosque amid signs that Shiite militants had stepped up their attacks outside Sadr City. "The size of the cache in such an obvious place says that this group was not afraid of the Iraqi security forces in their area," said Maj. Brian North, who leads the American military team advising the Iraqi Army's 42nd Brigade. PAGE A15

FRANCE CONFIRMS *HAMAS* CONTACTS

France confirmed that it had been engaged in contacts with the leaders of <u>Hamas</u>, the radical Islamic group that is running Gaza, to try to better understand its positions. The Bush administration, which recently likened talks with <u>Hamas</u> to appearement of the Nazis, quickly criticized the French. There was no immediate comment from the Palestinian president. PAGE A6

U.S. INTRUSION ON VENEZUELAN AIR

The Venezuelan defense minister said that an American fighter plane violated Venezuelan airspace over the weekend, prompting the government in Caracas to summon the United States ambassador to explain the incident. "We believe this action to be deliberate on the part of the North America Navy," the Venezuelan defense minister said. A State Department spokesman said the incident was a navigational error. PAGE A6

MOMENT OF SILENCE AFTER PANIC

China observed an official period of silence to mourn the tens of thousands of earthquake victims. The silence followed a night of panic as thousands of people trying to evacuate the capital city of Sichuan Province by car became mired in gridlock after provincial television issued a warning of the possibility of a severe aftershock. Others gathered blankets and rushed outside to sleep on the street or in parks. PAGE A12

MYANMAR AGREES TO SOME AID

Myanmar agreed to let its Southeast Asian neighbors help coordinate foreign relief assistance for cyclone victims, bending somewhat to international pressure to allow more outside aid, Singapore's foreign minister said. But the supply of aid and the entry of relief workers from countries outside the Southeast Asian bloc would continue to be limited. "We will establish a mechanism so that aid from all over the world can flow into Myanmar," Singapore's foreign minister said. PAGE A10

NATIONAL

PHILADELPHIA TO FIRE OFFICERS

Involved in Taped Beating

Four Philadelphia police officers will be fired after they were caught on video beating suspects in a drug-related triple shooting, and three others will be suspended. The city's police commissioner said he did not know why the officers responded the way they did, but said that emotions were running high after the shooting death of a police sergeant two days earlier. The men who were beaten are in custody on attempted murder, assault and firearms charges. PAGE A16

A NEW LIST OF ENDANGERED SITES

The Statler Hilton Hotel in Dallas was a massive emblem of architectural imagination and a booming postwar economy. It is empty now, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a private nonprofit organization, plans to add it to its latest list of the country's most endangered historic places. The list includes the Lower East Side in New York, whose historic character is being threatened by development, and the Sumner School in Topeka, Kan., the all-white school that excluded a black student, leading to the Brown v. Board of Education decision. PAGE A18

A NEW LOOK AT 'CRISIS FOR BOYS'

In 1992, the American Association of University <u>Women</u> issued a report that said that girls were shortchanged in classroom, which set off a national debate over sex equity. The same group is now focusing on the "boys' crisis," or what they say is the lack thereof. In a new report, the organization says that girls' gains in the classroom have not come at the expense of boys, and that the largest disparities in educational achievement are not between boys and girls, but between those of different races, ethnicities and income levels. PAGE A17

G.O.P. LAWMAKERS RECAST PITCH

Following a string of election defeats, conservative Republicans in the House are trying to get off the defensive by issuing a seven-point plan intended to present a fresh message to voters. The proposal includes calling for a constitutional limit on federal spending, a simplified income tax alternative and a proposal to require recipients of food stamps or housing aid to meet work requirements. "We have to get back to our core identity," one Republican lawmaker said. "Cleary there is work to be done." PAGE A21

Science Times

THE NEURONS ARE ALIVE

With the Sound of Music

Dr. Claudius Conrad believes so much in the power of music as a healing tool that he recently published a provocative paper that said music may exert healing and sedative effects by stimulating a growth hormone generally associated with stress. That led him to wonder if Mozart, who was always battling one ailment or another, composed soothing music in part to make himself feel better. PAGE D1

OF RHESUS AND REESE'S CUPS

A laboratory full of rhesus monkeys found that <u>females</u> lower in the pecking order eat less than their social superiors. (Scientists think it's because of stress.) But when given a banana-flavored pellet -- the monkey equivalent of a pint of Haagen-Dazs ice cream -- the normally less-hungry <u>females</u> kept going back for more, while their social superiors did not. "Essentially, eating high-calorie foods becomes a coping strategy to deal with daily life events for an individual in a difficult social situation," one researcher said. PAGE D1

A TENSE FEW MINUTES FOR NASA

NASA's Phoenix Lander was launched in August of last year, and has traveled 422 million miles to its final destination. The space agency expects it to touch down Sunday in the unexplored northern regions of Mars. There is, however, the not-insignificant issue of actually landing the craft in one piece: it will hit the Martian atmosphere at 12,750 miles an hour, with friction heating its shield to 2,600 Fahrenheit. PAGE D3

RETHINKING THE SENIOR MOMENT

When older people forget the name of a person they met at a party, it often gets chalked up to the mental decline that attends aging. But several studies suggest that the older brain is actually reconfiguring itself to process new information more efficiently. "It may be that distractibility is not, in fact, a bad thing," a psychology researcher said. "It may increase the amount of information available to the conscious mind." PAGE D5

Business

WHEN GOING TO THE MAILBOX

Is Just Too Taxing

Netflix, the company that popularized DVD rentals by mail, is teaming with a start-up company in California called Roku to begin marketing a \$99 device that will allow the service's subscribers to play movies and shows on their televisions instantly, for no charge beyond their monthly subscription fee. The device has hurdles, including limited selection and competition from cable and satellite companies. PAGE C3

TROUBLE IN HIGH PLACES

DayJet, a company that used small jets for short-haul, on-demand service, was poised to expand. Then the credit crisis hit, expansion was put off, and the company laid off 100 of its 260 workers. "All of the metrics are wonderful," the company's founder said. "We're getting repeat buys. We're getting people buying at the price points we want. But we haven't been able to raise the capital." PAGE C1

BUFFETT'S EUROPEAN SHOPPING SPREE

Warren E. Buffett, the investor whose words are treated by Wall Street like revealed truth, announced in Frankfurt that he was headed to Europe to buy some family-owned business. Two hundred reporters showed up, wondering in which countries he was looking. He said that he wished the dollar was stronger against the euro, before adding "you want to fish in a pond where the fish are, and Europe is a much better pond." PAGE C3

QUIET PLEASE. WE'RE BRITISH.

Britain's Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice, which lays down the rules for the advertising industry, adopted a new rule that said television commercials should not be "excessively noisy or strident." In theory, violators could be sanctioned by the country's media regulators, but that rarely happens. There's always the mute button. PAGE C7

NEW YORK REPORT

COMPANY TO SALVAGE PLAN

To Develop West Side Railyards

Less than two weeks after the collapse of a billion-dollar deal to develop the railyards on Manhattan's Far West Side, a new developer, Related Companies, has agreed to salvage the plan. The chief executive of the company signed an agreement with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to develop 12 million square feet of office towers, apartment buildings and parks over the 26-acre railyards. PAGE C10

UNIQUE TEST FOR BUILDING INSPECTORS

When Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg took office, he promised to reform the Department of Buildings, a 116-year-old institution plagued by corruption and accused of incompetence. Despite some progress, a recent spate of fatal construction accidents led to the resignation of the buildings commissioner. The Bloomberg administration has now pledged to hire 63 more building inspectors, who face prodigious challenges. PAGE C11

OBITUARIES

WILLIS E. LAMB JR., 94

His discovery of a minor discrepancy in quantum theory helped earn him a share of the 1955 Nobel Prize, and led to the rethinking of quantum mechanics. The discrepancy -- which became known as the Lamb shift -- was one of the first direct experimental signs that empty space is not empty. PAGE C13

SPORTS

MAYBE THIRD AND TWO

Really Is Rocket Science

Chuck Bower is an astrophysicist at the University of Indiana who has spent years developing a football coach's personnel decisions and close calls. The program costs "in the six figures," but so far he and his partners have found no takers. "I think a lot of these teams and coaches form opinions based on memories that statistically are not significant," he said. Easy for him to say: he doesn't have to answer to fans or team owners if a call backfires. PAGE C14

FROM LEGEND TO GROWN-UP

Lamar Odom was once considered New York's best homegrown basketball talent since Lew Alcindor. But his career has been marked by assorted misfortunes and scandals, including allegations that he took money from college recruiters and the death of his infant son. But Odom, whose story is part cautionary, part inspirational, has had a breakthrough year with the Los Angeles Lakers. "From now on," he said, "every game is the biggest game of my life." PAGE C14

RUNNER GETS ANOTHER CHANCE

Oscar Pistorius was denied a chance to run in the coming Olympic Summer Games after an athletic governing body ruled that he had an advantage: his artificial curved feet. But an arbitration panel overturned the ban, saying that the governing body had not sufficiently proved its case. "It feels better to be on the side of hope and opportunity -- particularly since the three-person arbitration team backed it up, unanimously," George Vecsey writes. PAGE C15

Culture

SIX YEARS LATER,

R. Kelly Trial to Begin

Remember the R. Kelly criminal trial? The trial over the R&B singer's alleged videotaping of himself having had sex with a 13-year-old girl has been delayed almost six years, giving Mr. Kelly ample time to tour and write a bizarre, sprawling 18-part (so far) opus about unfaithful lovers. But the trial itself has its own oddities, including the

fact that the girl who is reported to be on the video is now an adult, and maintains that she is not on the tape. PAGE B1

TOUGH STUFF FOR DAD TO CHEW ON

The western is nearly as old as the medium of film, and had already been through several cycles of boom and bust by the time "The Big Trail," the visionary movie starring John Wayne, made its debut in 1930. Just in time for Father's Day, movie studios are releasing DVDs of some classic westerns (and others less so) that trace the arc of the western through the '50s, the genre's aesthetic and cultural height. PAGE B4

NOT LETTING HIM DISAPPEAR

Carl Brenner was dying of cancer, and when he died he wanted to vanish without a trace. He rid himself of all his possessions and attempted to trash any personal effects. But his sister, Marie Brenner, wrote a memoir of his life nonetheless, and recounts not just the life of her maddening, obsessive-compulsive brother but the lives of her uncommon family. Michiko Kakutani says it is "a book that explores the difficult algebra of familial love and the possibility of its renewal in the face of impending loss." PAGE E1

EDITORIAL

MR. BUSH'S GRIM ITINERARY

President Bush's visit to the Middle East last week offered a graphic primer on his failed policies -- and the many dangers his successor will face. PAGE A22

CONCERNS ABOUT BPA PLASTIC

Anyone worried about their very young children drinking out of plastic bottles and cups should take note: the Canadian government has decided to restrict the use of certain hardened plastics -- the ones with No. 7 on the bottom. PAGE A22

A SECOND CHANCE

With prison costs soaring, many states are desperate for ways to cut recidivism. A fully financed Second Chance Act would help states develop much needed re-entry programs. PAGE A22

OP-ED

DAVID BROOKS

Barack Obama talks about taking on the special interests. The \$307 billion farm bill that rolled through Congress this month would have been a perfect opportunity for him to do so. But Obama supported the bill, just as he supported the 2005 energy bill that was a Christmas tree for the oil and gas industries. PAGE A23

BOB HERBERT

In a year in which voters are demanding change, the candidates could oblige by lifting their campaigns to a higher plane and being scrupulously serious for a change. PAGE A23

http://www.nytimes.com

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A wait to climb Everest

The Star (South Africa)

March 12, 2008 Wednesday

e4 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4 Length: 677 words

Body

Beijing - China has closed the north face of Mount Everest to expeditions until after the Olympic torch ascends its peak, according to Mounteverest.net, prompting protests from groups advocating Tibetan autonomy. "Concern over heavy climbing activities, crowded climbing routes and increasing environmental pressures will cause potential safety problems in (Everest) areas," said the notice.

Sydney - Australian authorities have welcomed the arrest in the US of a doctor linked to the deaths of 17 patients. The Queensland state Council for Civil Liberties said surgeon Jayant Patel had received publicity comparable to OJ Simpson in Australia, where he has been dubbed "Dr Death" by local media. Patel was arrested yesterday after Australian authorities laid a range of charges against him.

Canberra - This irreverent portrait of Denmark's young royals has won an Australian award for satirical paintings. It reflects the Australian obsession with the Danish royal family after a Tasmanian estate agent - now Princess Mary - married Crown Prince Frederick in 2004.

Tulkarm - Israeli troops fired at a Palestinian militant belonging to the Islamic Jihad group near the West Bank city of Tulkarm today and appeared to have killed him, a witness said. The shooting could complicate Egyptian efforts to mediate a ceasefire between Israel and militant groups in the Gaza Strip, including Islamic Jihad and *Hamas*, which controls the coastal territory.

Kandahar - A suicide car bomber hit a Nato-led convoy in Afghanistan's southern city of Kandahar today, but it was not immediately clear if there were any casualties, witnesses said. At least one vehicle was destroyed in the attack, which targeted Canadian troops, they said. Nato soldiers cordoned off the site of the attack and smoke could be seen rising from a house located nearby.

Tokyo - Authorities in Osaka have arrested two sisters for allegedly hiding large sums of cash to evade taxes, officials said today. Investigators found about 5,8-billion yen (about R455-million) in cash in Hatsue Shimizu's (64) garage, the official said, adding some money was also found in Yoshiko Ishii's (55) home. The <u>women</u> are suspected of evading about 2,86-billion yen in inheritance taxes.

Canberra - Australia's environment minister Peter Garrett has defended plans to slaughter 400 kangaroos in the national capital because their numbers had grown too large and they were grazing themselves out of a habitat. He said that when there was an imbalanced system, sometimes it was necessary to carry out humane and properly administered programmes such as culling.

A wait to climb Everest

Hong Kong - A Swiss karate champion and former bodyguard to Hollywood celebrities has been found dead in a Hong Kong love hotel, a news report said today. Pierre Ingrassia (45) was found alone in a hotel in the city's Wan Chai nightclub district where he booked a room for three hours on Sunday. Police were carrying out toxicology tests to find out what killed him.

Los Angeles - The J Paul Getty Museum said yesterday it had acquired a painting by Paul Gauguin that has been publicly displayed only once since 1946. Arii Matamoe, created in 1892, shows the severed head of a Polynesian man resting on a cushion with a mourning nude woman nearby. Museum officials would not say how much was paid for the painting or who the seller was.

Sydney - Three people have been charged over Australia's fourth-largest cocaine seizure with an estimated street value of \$87A,5-million (about R650-million), police said today. The 250kg shipment of cocaine from Southeast Asia was concealed inside packets labelled as green tea in a shipping container of furniture which arrived in Sydney on March 4.

Paris - A French public prosecutor has asked judges to bring manslaughter charges against US carrier Continental Airlines over the 2000 crash of a Concord flight that killed 113 people. A French judicial investigation concluded that a piece of metal left on the runway from a Continental flight caused one of the Concorde's tires to burst on takeoff and sent debris into the engine.

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Gunman was Arab working at the school

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

March 8, 2008 Saturday

Fourth Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 19

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Byline: Ed O'Loughlin in Jerusalem

Body

THE man who shot dead eight students at a right-wing Jewish institute in Jerusalem on Thursday is believed to be a former Arab employee of the organisation who was recently held for two months by Israeli police.

Residents of the killer's neighbourhood in Arab East Jerusalem named the attacker as Alaa Abu Dheim, 20, a former driver at the Mercaz Harav yeshiva (Jewish religious school). They told journalists that the man had been arrested by police four months ago and then released two months later.

Armed with a Kalashnikov rifle and a pistol, the lone gunman burst into the school's library at 8.30 pm Thursday local time and killed eight youths and young men before he himself was shot.

While no claim of responsibility has been confirmed, Hezbollah's television station in Lebanon reported that a hitherto unknown group calling itself the "Galilee Freedom Battalions - the Martyrs of Imad Mughniyeh" said it carried out the attack.

The Galilee is a mainly Arab-populated region of northern Israel, while Imad Mughniyeh was a Hezbollah leader killed in a mysterious car bomb attack in Damascus last month.

Yesterday's attack was the biggest death toll in Israel since a suicide bomber killed 11 at a Tel Aviv falafel stand almost two years ago. It was the first major terrorist attack in Jerusalem since a suicide bomber killed seven bus passengers in February 2004.

Large numbers of police were patrolling Jerusalem last night in response to the attack. Both the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships said that it would not derail flagging peace talks.

The incident brings to at least 62 the number of civilians killed in the 10 days since Israel's assassination of five *Hamas* leaders, in response to a fatal rocket attack in the Israeli town of Sderot.

Most of those who died were Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip last weekend where, according to the United Nations and other human rights groups, 120 people were killed, at least 52 of them civilians including 27 children.

There is speculation in the Israeli media that the Mercaz Harav yeshiva was targeted because of its role as the cradle and spiritual centre of Israel's far-right religious settler movement.

Gunman was Arab working at the school

"This was not an accidental arrival at some city's commercial centre and the setting off [of] an explosive charge," wrote the Ha'aretz defence correspondent Avi Issacharoff. He continued: "The perpetrator knew where he was heading and that many armed young men would be there."

The mass daily Ma'ariv reported that "those who planned, who sent and who carried out the terror attack can say today that they succeeded in striking a harsh blow to the very place from where the occupation sprung".

The attack resembled in its execution the 1994 incident in which Baruch Goldstein, a physician and member of the religious settler movement, shot dead 29 Palestinian worshippers in a Hebron mosque before he was killed by survivors.

One student at the yeshiva claimed to have shot the attacker twice in the head with his weapon. Police say the attacker was killed by an off-duty army officer who rushed to the rescue when he heard shooting.

The incident has been widely condemned by foreign governments and by the UN secretary-general, Ban Ki Moon.

A US attempt to pass a statement condemning the shootings, together with an attack on Israeli troops in Gaza, failed after a UN Security Council member, Libya, said the resolution should also include condemnation of Israel's killings of civilians in Gaza.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said that the attack "expresses at its most deplorable the fundamentalist-extremist foundations, in the name of which Palestinian terrorism operates ... Israel expects the nations of the world to support it in its war against those who murder students, <u>women</u> and children."

The Palestinian Authority chairman, Mahmoud Abbas, also condemned the attack on the yeshiva.

Middle East carnage - Page 21

Alan Ramsey - Page 39

Graphic

PHOTO: Funeral scene ... men place a body covered in a Jewish prayer shawl next to others as Israelis gather for the funerals of the eight yeshiva students. Photo: AP/Sebastian Scheiner

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International briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

March 1, 2008 Saturday

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Body

Japan drops charges against U.S. Marine

TOKYO - A U.S. Marine who was accused of raping a 14-year-old girl in southern Japan has been released after prosecutors dropped the charges at the teenager's request, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Staff Sgt. Tyrone Luther Hadnott, 38, was arrested on Feb. 10 on suspicion of raping the girl on the southern island of Okinawa, fueling nationwide furor over crimes involving American troops in Japan.

Hadnott was released Friday night after the girl withdrew her criminal complaint against him, said Ryo Fukahori, a Foreign Ministry official in charge of Japan-U.S. security. Rape charges in Japan can be filed only with a victim's complaint.

Fukahori said the rape charges could be separately pursued by the U.S. military. Japanese police earlier said Hadnott admitted that he forced the girl down and kissed her, but that he denied raping her.

A series of criminal accusations against some of the 50,000 American troops based in Japan have inflamed anger at the U.S. military presence.

Hezbollah rejects

U.S. ship deployment

BEIRUT, Lebanon - Hez-bollah denounced the deployment of U.S. warships off Lebanon's coast and said Friday it won't be intimidated, while the U.S.-backed Lebanese government distanced itself from the military move.

"We did not request any warships from any party," U.S.-backed Prime Minister Fuad Saniora said, hours after the U.S. announced it was sending ships off Lebanon to promote regional stability.

He insisted the U.S. ships would cruise off the coast, not in Lebanese territorial waters.

Saniora, who has been accused

by the opposition of following U.S. policy, spoke in front of Arab diplomats at government headquarters in Beirut after his Hezbollah opponents called the U.S. deployment a threat to Lebanese sovereignty and independence.

Israel warns of possible offensive in Gaza

International briefs

JERUSALEM - Israel's deputy defense minister warned of disaster in the Gaza Strip after Palestinian rocket fire grew more ominous Friday with an assault on an Israeli city. Gaza's unbowed *Hamas* rulers promised to fight on.

Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilnai told Army Radio that because of the militants' attacks, Israel had "no other choice" but to launch a massive military operation in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli military has completed preparations for a major ground offensive and notified the government it is ready to move, defense officials said. An invasion is not expected for the next week or two, in part because the military prefers to wait for clearer weather, the officials said.

Body of former model found in the river

PARIS - The body of Katoucha Niane, one of the first African <u>women</u> to attain international stardom as a model and a vocal opponent of *female* genital mutilation, was found in the Seine River, police said Friday.

Known simply as Katoucha, the former top model for Yves Saint Laurent and other top designers was found Thursday near the Garigliano bridge in Paris, judicial police in Paris said.

An autopsy showed no signs of foul play, pointing to the possibility that the 47-year-old may have fallen accidentally into the river, they said.

She had been missing since January and was last seen returning home from a party. She lived in a houseboat near Paris' Alexandre III bridge, and her handbag was later found on the boat.

2 former Philippine presidents join rally

MANILA, Philippines - Two former Philippine presidents, once bitter foes, joined tens of thousands of protesters at a rally Friday to press for President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's resignation over a raging corruption scandal.

It was the largest crowd yet since Arroyo's latest crisis erupted weeks ago when the Philippine Senate heard testimony, broadcast on live television, that linked her husband to multimillion-dollar kickbacks in a government telecommunications deal.

The crowd included former opponents ex-President Corazon Aquino, who ushered in democracy when the country's first "people power" revolt ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, and former President Joseph Estrada, who was forced out over massive corruption by a second "people power" uprising in 2001.

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Israel strikes again

Pretoria News (South Africa)
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e1 Edition

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Body

Gaza City - Israeli ground forces backed by warplanes exchanged fire with <u>Hamas</u> gunmen in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday, killing a teacher and six militants in escalating violence that has hobbled peace efforts. Later yesterday, Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak vowed harsher military action if Gaza militants persist with their rocket fire at southern Israel.

London - Many police duties could be carried out just as well by civilians, according to a British report. Civilians could staff station front desks, for example, and do backroom office work, Chief Inspector of Constabulary Ronnie Flanagan said in his report. The recommendations would save up to 7-million hours a year, the equivalent of 3 500 police officers, Flanagan predicted.

Beijing - A worshipper touches a relief of a rat at the Bai Yun Guan or White Cloud Temple in Beijing on the first day of the new Chinese lunar year yesterday. The Year of the Rat began on February 7 in the lunar calendar.

Cairo - A ship's anchor severed one of the three undersea Internet cables damaged on February 1, causing outages that continue to affect business across the Middle East and South Asia. India's Flag telecom said repair work was expected to be completed by Sunday. The damage to the cables caused major disruption to Internet and phone services in Egypt, Gulf Arab states and South Asia.

London - An estate agent who took a buyer to view a house in central England found the owner hanging dead in a cupboard. It was the first viewing of the £350 000 (R5,3-million) house, which had been on the market for a week. The owner, a single man in his 40s, was hanging from a belt inside a cupboard in the main bedroom. The owner had inherited the house from his mother, who died recently.

Ankara - In a fight that has pitted the devout against the secular, the Turkish parliament looks set to lift a ban on university students wearing Islamic-style headscarves. A total of 404 deputies voted in the 550-seat parliament in favour of two constitutional changes that concern equality before the law and rights to education. The package will be voted on again tomorrow.

Chennai, India - A doctor who secretly filmed his patients and put their naked pictures on the Internet was sentenced to life in prison yesterday. A prosecutor said orthopaedic physician L Prakash was found guilty of filming his <u>women</u> patients with a hidden camera and running the videos on paid websites. He was also charged with having lured people to his farmhouse for sex.

Israel strikes again

Belgrade - A ban on grumpiness, gossiping, miniskirts and rudeness is what the doctor orders to improve patient care in Serbia's hospitals. New rules issued by the Health Ministry, posted on its website, say staff are not allowed to criticise their hospital or their superiors, and should not accept gifts for their services. Hospital staff are often bribed with cash or gifts for attention or better treatment.

New York - More than 40 photographs of influential American photographer Edward Weston will go on auction in April, where they are expected to fetch up to \$1,4-million (R10,7-million). One of his prints, of a shell, sold for \$1,1-million in October, one of the few photographs to break the \$1-million mark at auction, reflecting the growing interest in collecting photography, Sotheby's said.

Geneva - The number of cellphone users will overtake the number of non-users this year for the first time. Ownership rates in developing countries are rising fastest, with Brazil, Russia, India and China alone accounting for 1-billion subscribers last year, the United Nations International Telecommunication Union said. In 2000, only 12% of the global population had a cellphone.

London - A British travel company has paid £560 000 (R8,4-million) for the domain name cruises.co.uk, a price that is effectively R8,4-million just for the letter "S" since it already owns the address cruise.co.uk. "'Cruises' is consistently ranked first on Google, with 'cruise' just behind," the company said. "We wanted the top positions so that we are the first port of call."

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Hope for Kenya

Pretoria News (South Africa)
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Body

Nairobi - Negotiators for President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga restarted talks yesterday in a mood of national optimism that a political solution to Kenya's worst crisis since independence may be near. Both sides are said by party sources to have agreed in principle on a power-sharing deal and are now focusing on the details.

Jerusalem - Israeli leaders vowed yesterday to step up their war against <u>Hamas</u> and predicted the Islamists' grip on the Gaza Strip would end within months. Two days after a rocket from the enclave wounded an Israeli child and prompted dramatic headlines in a country grown used to daily barrages that do little damage, Defence Minister Ehud Barak pledged to step up the Israeli military campaign.

Dili - East Timor's President Jose Ramos-Horta was shot and seriously wounded yesterday by rebel soldiers in an assassination attempt that plunged the fledgling nation into a fresh crisis. The Nobel peace laureate was airlifted to Australia for emergency treatment after being shot in a dawn gunbattle at his residence in which rebel leader Alfredo Reinado was killed.

Washington - Hillary Clinton has reshuffled her campaign staff in a bid to stop Barack Obama's momentum before today's polls in the Democratic presidential race. Clinton replaced campaign manager Patti Solis Doyle with longtime aide Maggie Williams ahead of nomination races in Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC, where polls published on Sunday showed Obama leading.

Seoul - An overnight fire left one of Seoul's great landmarks in ruins yesterday, destroying the centuries-old wooden structure atop the Namdaemun gate that was deemed South Korea's chief national treasure. Officials said they suspected arson. The fire broke out on Sunday night at the 610-year-old gate that once formed part of a wall that encircled the capital.

Kampala - A strike by nearly 300 health workers demanding bonuses for working in Uganda's war-ravaged north has been blamed for the deaths of 23 patients who were left unattended. The workers in the Lira district, who have been on strike since Wednesday, say they have not received a 30% increase in their salaries that they were promised for working in the north.

Cairo - An appeal court yesterday acquitted an Al Jazeera journalist sentenced to six months over a film that highlighted torture in Egyptian police stations. The court overturned Howayda Taha's May 2007 sentence but ordered her to pay 20 000 Egyptian pounds (R28 000) for "possessing material containing untrue information" because she had filmed re-enactments of alleged torture.

Hope for Kenya

Ankara - Some <u>female</u> students in Turkey wore Islamic headscarves to their university classes yesterday, even before a bill lifting the ban on such attire has been approved by the president. The bill, which has ignited passions in predominantly Muslim but secular Turkey, was passed by parliament on Saturday. The president must still sign it into law, which he is expected to do within two weeks.

Port Harcourt, Nigeria - Unknown gunmen attacked at least two energy industry ships near Bonny Island yesterday, killing one sailor on a naval escort vessel, authorities said. It was the second wave of armed attacks on shipping in Nigeria's busiest oil and gas export hub in two months, and follows a call by the world's shipping union to declare Africa's top oil producer "a war zone".

Paris - One of the emblems of the Antarctic, the king penguin, could be driven to extinction by climate change. French researchers have found that a tiny warming of the Southern Ocean by the El Niño effect has caused a massive fall in the birds' ability to survive. If predictions by scientists of ever-higher temperatures prove true, the species faces a major risk of being wiped out, they say.

Stockholm - A Swedish court yesterday found a kennel owner who had refused to sell a puppy to a lesbian woman guilty of discrimination, slapping her with a 20 000-kronor (R24 000) fine. When Smila Bergstroem let it slip that she lived with another woman, Anette Sjoeholm reportedly made it clear she did not trust homosexuals, telling her she had read that transvestites sexually abused animals.

Load-Date: February 11, 2008



Romney throws in towel

The Star (South Africa)
February 08, 2008 Friday
e3 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4 **Length:** 677 words

Body

Washington - Republican candidate Mitt Romney dropped out of the US presidential race yesterday, making Senator John McCain the all-but-certain nominee of his party. The writing was on the wall for Romney after he lost 14 of 21 states on Tuesday, the biggest day of voting ahead of November's election. McCain romped to coast-to-coast wins and cemented his position as front-runner.

Gaza City - Israeli ground forces backed by warplanes exchanged fire with <u>Hamas</u> gunmen in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday, killing a teacher and six militants in escalating violence that has hobbled peace efforts. Later yesterday, Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak vowed harsher military action if Gaza militants persist with their rocket fire at southern Israel.

Beijing - A worshipper touches a relief of a rat at the Bai Yun Guan or White Cloud Temple in Beijing on the first day of the new Chinese lunar year yesterday. The Year of the Rat began on February 7 in the lunar calendar.

Paris - President Nicolas Sarkozy is suing a French news website for reporting he sent a text message to his exwife Cécilia offering to call off his wedding to Carla Bruni if she took him back, his lawyer said. The nouvelobs.com website claimed that Sarkozy wrote to Cécilia eight days before his marriage to the former supermodel on Saturday. "If you come back, I'll call it all off," he reportedly wrote.

London - An estate agent who took a buyer to view a house in central England found the owner hanging dead in a cupboard. It was the first viewing of the £350 000 (R5,3-million) house, which had been on the market for a week. The owner, a single man in his 40s, was hanging from a belt inside a cupboard in the main bedroom. The owner had inherited the house from his mother, who died recently.

Ankara - In a fight that has pitted the devout against the secular, the Turkish parliament looks set to lift a ban on university students wearing Islamic-style headscarves. A total of 404 deputies voted in the 550-seat parliament in favour of two constitutional changes that concern equality before the law and rights to education. The package will be voted on again tomorrow.

Chennai, India - A doctor who secretly filmed his patients and put their naked pictures on the Internet was sentenced to life in prison yesterday. A prosecutor said orthopaedic physician L Prakash was found guilty of filming his <u>women</u> patients with a hidden camera and running the videos on paid websites. He was also charged with having lured people to his farmhouse for sex.

Romney throws in towel

Geneva - The number of cellphone users will overtake the number of non-users this year for the first time. Ownership rates in developing countries are rising fastest, with Brazil, Russia, India and China alone accounting for 1-billion subscribers last year, the United Nations International Telecommunication Union said yesterday. In 2000, only 12% of the global population had a cellphone.

London - A British travel company has paid £560 000 (R8,4-million) for the domain name cruises.co.uk, a price that is effectively R8,4-million just for the letter "S" since it already owns the address cruise.co.uk. "'Cruises' is consistently ranked first on Google, with 'cruise' just behind," the company said. "We wanted the top positions so that we are the first port of call."

London - Many police duties could be carried out just as well by civilians, according to a British report. Civilians could staff station front desks, for example, and do backroom office work, Chief Inspector of Constabulary Ronnie Flanagan said in his report. The recommendations would save up to 7-million hours a year, the equivalent of 3 500 police officers, Flanagan predicted.

Cape Canaveral, Florida - The US space shuttle Atlantis lifted off yesterday on a mission to deliver Europe's first permanent space laboratory to the International Space Station. The launch finally put the Columbus laboratory into orbit after delays dating back to 2002 - first because of Russian delays in launching a service module and then by the destruction of shuttle Columbia in 2003.

Load-Date: February 8, 2008



Israeli siege blocks medicine supply; MIDEAST: No Rights, Little Mercy

IPS (Latin America)

January 22, 2008 Tuesday

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Length: 656 words

Byline: Mohammed Omer

Body

Seventy-six-year-old Mustapha al-Jamal goes door to door, looking for help in finding medicines for his son.

At home, the 53-year-old son Yahya al-Jamal lies back, staring at the ceiling. By his side, an oxygen cylinder keeps him going for now.

'My son's condition continues to worsen,' Mustapha says. 'We've been waiting two months for the medicines.'

Last year Mustapaha's 44-year-old daughter, a mother of six, died of breast cancer. She had been recovering, but the Israeli siege blocked supply of medicines, and no one could then save her.

Mustapha sees the same happening again. Yahya's cancer started in his kidney, spread to his right lung, and now affects his liver.

Twice, on Jul. 20 and Oct. 2 last year, Yahya was allowed passage to Sourasky Medical Centre in Tel Aviv. On the second visit the hospital agreed to give the family 28 tablets worth 35,500 shekels (9,000 dollars).

Transfer to an Israeli hospital now could give Yahya medication and hope again, but Israeli officials have refused passage for medical care, citing the oxygen cylinder as a 'security risk'.

The medicines given to Yahya earlier were no donation; Israel deducts the cost of medicines for Palestinian patients treated in Israeli hospitals from the taxes it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority (PA). Israel retains rather than disburses the bulk of such payments. The PA continues to pay for medication whenever possible.

Now that Israel has declared Gaza a 'hostile entity', it shut its borders, preventing travel from Gaza to hospitals in Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the West Bank (the west bank of Jordan river, the Palestinian area under Israeli occupation since 1967).

Israel has closed its borders because Gaza elected a *Hamas* party government, which does not recognise Israel.

Efforts by the international community and by thousands of people inside Israel forced allocation of a few medical shipments. But the chaos caused by the ongoing siege means distribution is poor.

Palestinian ministry of health spokesman Khaled Radi has confirmed that '72 people have died as a result of medicine shortages and not being permitted access to medical care.' Among them are <u>women</u>, elderly people and children.

Israeli siege blocks medicine supply MIDEAST: No Rights, Little Mercy

Radi has called for immediate international action to pressure Israel to allow necessary medical care to reach patients in Gaza.

'If proper medication was available, Jamal's case would not be as bad as it is now,' says Dr. Iman Abu Ouan, one of the doctors treating him.

Dr. Quan says the hospital in Gaza where she has been treating Jamal has two radiology rooms for up to five cancer patients. That is simply not enough. And lack of beds forces patients to recover from treatment lying on the floor, with blankets from their own homes, she said. Others in need of care are asked to leave. This means essential care is often not possible.

Israeli officials have often tried to extract security commitments in exchange for access to medical care.

'In several cases known to us, people with security clearance, and carrying exit permits, were called to interrogation by the Israeli secret service (GSS, Shabak) at Erez Crossing, and asked to give information on suspects as a condition for accessing care,' Miri Weingarten, Israeli spokeswoman for the group Physicians for Human Rights told IPS. 'If they failed to provide the information they were turned back to Gaza and told they would not receive permits again.'

Weingarten has records of many such cases. 'This deliberate withholding of medical care for non-medical reasons is completely unjustifiable and could represent cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment under the UN Convention Against Torture,' she said. But Mustapha still waits, and looks for help. 'We don't seek more than our right,' the grief-stricken father says. 'For God's sake, help us get to the hospital in Tel Aviv. My son deserves to survive. All I ask is a bit of mercy.' © 2008 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS - All rights reserved

Load-Date: January 22, 2008



<u>'Ties with US can harm Iran'</u>

Pretoria News (South Africa)

January 04, 2008 Friday

e1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 6 **Length:** 673 words

Body

Tehran - Iran's supreme leader said yesterday that restoring ties with the US now would harm the Islamic state, but he did not rule it out in the future. "We have never said this relationship should be cut forever," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a speech reported on TV.. "Certainly, the day when having relations with America is useful for the nation, I will be the first one to approve this relationship."

Sydney - A dog stranded on a mountain ledge since New Year's Eve was saved yesterday in an amateur rescue that police and animal welfare experts opposed as the weather made it too risky. The bull mastiff tumbled down Mount Maroon in Queensland during a bush walk. Its owner teamed up with an experienced climber to rig up a harness, reach the ledge and haul up 65kg Diff.

Sofia - Parked cars are covered in snow in Bulgaria's capital yesterday. Heavy snow blanketed Romania and Bulgaria, cutting power to hundreds of towns and villages, blocking roads and forcing Bucharest's airports and some Black Sea ports to close.

Seoul - North Korea publicly executed eight people last month, including a decorated member of the country's rubber-stamp legislature, a South Korean aid group said yesterday. The member of the North's Supreme People's Assembly was executed by firing squad with two other regional officials in Pyeongseong city. They were accused of wielding influence for personal gain.

Gaza City - Nine Palestinians were killed in Israeli ground and air bombardments in Gaza in the latest blitz against the *Hamas*-ruled territory yesterday. The dead included a mother and daughter and at least four militants, while 33 people were wounded and several houses destroyed. The renewed violence comes shortly before US President George Bush is due in the region.

Sydney - The internationally acclaimed Three Tenors will never re-form with a new singer replacing the late Luciano Pavarotti, tenor José Carreras said yesterday. The 61-year-old Spanish singer, in Australia to sing at the Sydney Opera House, said that for him and Placido Domingo to re-form, the trio would be disrespectful to Pavarotti, who died in September of pancreatic cancer.

Colombo - Sri Lanka's 25-year civil war with Tamil Tiger rebels is likely to escalate into the bloodiest period of fighting the island has seen, after the government scrapped a tattered truce this week. "This means all-out war," experts said yesterday. President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the Tigers had held off scrapping a Norwegian-brokered truce to avoid appearing the villain.

'Ties with US can harm Iran '

Bhopal, India - A boy was shot dead at a school in a Madhya Pradesh state by an older student yesterday, less than a month after a similar deadly shooting at a school outside New Delhi. Until recently, school shootings were almost unheard of in India. The boys, aged 15 the 13, started fighting after a school exam when the older boy pulled out a gun and killed his classmate.

Naples - The southern Italian region was grappling with a chronic rubbish disposal problem yesterday, with up to 2 000 tons of excess garbage piled up outside dumps and in streets because overburdened waste treatment centres were for the umpteenth time unable to handle the surplus. A newspaper described the region as "a community sinking and suffocating in its own excrement".

Paris - France yesterday advised its nationals not to travel to Mauritania to take part in the annual Dakar motor rally after four French tourists were gunned down in the country on Christmas Eve. The Mauritanian government has offered assurances that the country is safe for the rally, which passes through Mauritania. The rally starts in Lisbon tomorrow and ends in Senegal on January 20.

New Delhi - Five <u>women</u> and a child were killed and 18 others injured in a stampede at a temple in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh yesterday. The stampede occurred as thousands of devotees surged up a narrow path to the temple devoted to goddess Durga on a hilltop near Hyderabad. A state official claimed inadequate security by temple authorities had led to the tragedy.

Load-Date: January 3, 2008



Bush tempers criticism on stalled Mideast democracy, claims Iran poses danger

Prince Rupert Daily News (British Columbia)

January 14, 2008 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 648 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates

Body

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) -- U.S. President George W. Bush gently nudged authoritarian Arab allies Sunday to satisfy frustrated desires for democracy in the Middle East and saved his harshest criticism for Iran, branding it "the world's leading state-sponsor of terror."

Speaking in this Persian Gulf country, just 250 kilometres from the shores of Iran, Bush said Tehran threatens countries everywhere and that the United States was "rallying friends around the world to confront this danger before it is too late."

The warning about Iran was much tougher than Bush's admonition about spreading democracy in the Middle East, which had been billed as the central theme of his speech.

In a region of autocratic rulers, Bush did not single out any country for criticism. He spoke about democracy in a deeply undemocratic country, the U.A.E., where an elite of royal rulers makes virtually all the decisions. Large numbers of foreign resident workers have few legal or human rights, including no right to protest working conditions.

"To the people of the Middle East: We hear your cries for justice," Bush said. "We share your desire for a free and prosperous future. And as you struggle to find your voice and make your way in this world, the United States will stand with you."

Usually averse to sightseeing, Bush rode out into the sand dunes to the desert encampment of Abu Dhabi's crown prince, Sheik Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan. He let Bush hold one of his prize falcons. Later, Bush returned to his suite in the opulent Emirates Palace Hotel, constructed at a cost of more than \$3 billion and reputed to be the most expensive hotel ever built.

The next stop on Bush's eight-day journey is the neighbouring emirate of Dubai, part of the U.A.E., where the government has declared a public holiday Monday to avoid traffic chaos during the tour.

He will then go to Saudi Arabia, where King Abdullah, has tried to push some reforms on education and <u>women's</u> rights, and there have been limited municipal council elections. But he has been cautious and limited in his efforts,

Bush tempers criticism on stalled Mideast democracy, claims Iran poses danger

apparently hampered by others in the royal family worried that fast changes could upset the country's conservative clerics and citizens.

In Egypt, the last country Bush planned to visit, the democracy effort has stalled badly. The opposition candidate, Ayman Nour, who ran against longtime President Hosni Mubarak in the first multiparty elections, remains jailed on what many critics view as trumped-up criminal fraud charges.

Bush's blistering words about Iran appeared intended to reassure Arab allies about U.S. readiness to confront Tehran. There have been doubts about Washington's intentions because of a new U.S. intelligence report that said Iran had stopped pursuing nuclear weapons in 2003.

Bush appeared to put the danger posed by Iran on par with that from al-Qaida, which the U.S. national intelligence director, Mike McConnell has said is America's greatest threat.

"One cause of instability is the extremists supported and embodied by the regime that sits in Tehran," Bush said. "Iran is today the world's leading state sponsor of terror.

Bush said Iran funds militant groups such as <u>Hamas</u>, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad and sends arms to the Taliban in Afghanistan and Shiite extremists in Iraq. "The other major cause of instability is the extremists embodied by al-Qaida and its affiliates," he said.

His words brought a stern response from Iran's foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, to end what he called U.S. meddling.

"Mr. Bush has tried unsuccessfully to undermine our relations with the countries of the region. We believe his mission has totally failed. We have making strides in building ties with the region, politically, economically and even in security," Mottaki told the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television. "It is much better if the Americans had stopped intervening in the region's affair."

Graphic

Photo: Susan Walsh, Associated Press; RALLYING CALL: President Bush delivers his speech at the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi, Sunday.;

Load-Date: January 14, 2008



No talks with arms

The Star (South Africa)

January 03, 2008 Thursday

e4 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4 Length: 676 words

Body

Colombo - Sri Lanka's government said today, a day after authorities decided to formally withdraw from a Norway-brokered ceasefire with the Tamil Tiger rebels, that the insurgents would have to disarm before it would consider any future peace talks. "It's useless talking to them (the rebels) now," Cabinet spokesperson and Media Minister Anura Yapa told a news conference.

New Delhi - Five <u>women</u> and a child were killed and 18 others injured today in a stampede at a temple devoted to goddess Durga in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, reports said. The state's minister for Endowments, J Ratnakar Rao, has ordered an investigation and said compensation would be given to the next of kin of those who had died, and to each of the injured.

Beijing - The names of three banks and the word "stocks" beat "sex" to become four of the most Googled words in China last year, according to a Google China list. "On the Chinese mainland, it was money and technology that took the honours last year," the China Daily said. China keeps a tight rein on Internet content, perhaps one reason why "sex" did not score so well.

Beijing - China has described North Korea's failure to meet a deadline to account for its nuclear activities as a natural delay. North Korea failed to meet a year-end deadline to make a full declaration of its nuclear programmes under a disarmament-for-aid deal involving the two Koreas, the US, Japan, Russia and China. "The pace is ... slower in some areas," a Chinese spokesperson insisted.

Gaza City - An Israeli air strike on the Gaza Strip today killed at least one <u>Hamas</u> militant, Palestinian hospital sources said. Another nine militants were injured in the raid in the southern Gaza Strip near Khan Yunis, where Israeli armoured units have also moved in. The latest death brings to 6 022 the number of people killed since the start of the second Palestinian uprising in September 2000.

Tehran - Iran executed 13 people - 12 men and one woman - yesterday, an official newspaper reported today. The report by the IRAN daily said eight were hanged in the notorious Evin Prison in northern Tehran. The eight, including the woman, had been convicted of murder. The report said five other people, drug traffickers, were hanged in two separate groups in the cities of Qom and Zahedan.

Sydney - A suspect in a California slaying who argued that his fear of flying should prevent his extradition to the US has lost his latest court bid to stay in Australia, an official said today. Lawrence John Rivera (36) is wanted in the 2002 strangulation of 26-year-old Kristina Garcia in Barstow, California. Rivera faces one count of murder and a potential sentence of life in prison.

No talks with arms

Hong Kong - Frost has been spotted as a winter monsoon pushed temperatures in subtropical Hong Kong to -9°C, meteorologists said today. The cold snap has caused a sharp rise in the price of vegetables imported from neighbouring southern China and two deaths of elderly people were reported yesterday. Frost was found on a golf course on Kai Sai Chung island.

Rome - Pope Benedict XVI holds the pastoral staff during a mass in St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on New Year's Day. He appealed for world peace, calling it a "divine gift" and stressed the role of the family as the foundation for world peace.

Dhaka - An offer by Bangladesh's army-backed authorities to send two detained former prime ministers abroad for medical treatment has baffled Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia's political parties. An interim government adviser, Mainul Husein, said yesterday that authorities were ready to consider letting the <u>women</u> leave the country for treatment if they or their parties requested it.

Havana - Priests offering New Year's prophecies from Cuba's Afro-Cuban religion yesterday gave few hints on the future of convalescing leader Fidel Castro and instead warned about dangerous climate change and epidemics. Many Cubans eagerly await annual predictions from the Santeria priests, who noted an improving economy but decided to steer clear of political predictions.

Load-Date: January 3, 2008



Focus on forced marriages

The Star (South Africa)
October 29, 2007 Monday
e2 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4 Length: 680 words

Body

Berlin - Germany is considering introducing new rules against forced marriages, a sensitive subject in Germany - home to western Europe's second biggest Muslim population after France. Conservative Chancellor Angela Merkel raised the issue in a speech to a <u>women</u>'s conference on Saturday, saying: "I think the demand to make forced marriage an offence is absolutely right."

Madrid - Traffickers arranged fake marriages for underage Nigerian girls in Catholic churches in Spain to avoid the questions civil authorities might have asked, the Spanish Interior Ministry said yesterday. Suspects charged girls e7 000 (R65 500) for a wedding to a European while paying e3 000 to men with EU citizenship. The girls were first smuggled to the Netherlands from Africa.

Salzburg - Several thousand people in the Austrian city of Salzburg protested yesterday against Kurdish rebels amid growing international tension over their Iraq bases. Responding to a call by the city's Turkish community, about 3 500 people marched through central Salzburg brandishing banners. About 200 000 Turks live in Austria, roughly a quarter of the country's foreign residents.

Baghdad - Gunmen in Baghdad snatched 10 Sunni and Shi'ite tribal sheiks from their cars yesterday as they headed home to Diyala province after talks on fighting al-Qaeda. One was later found dead. The daylight kidnapping came as the US commander in Iraq, General David Petraeus, said the threat from the terror network had been "significantly reduced" in the capital.

London - Police yesterday arrested the co-pilot of a passenger jet with 266 passengers on suspicion of being over the legal alcohol limit, minutes before the flight was to take off for the US. Officers boarded the Virgin Atlantic Airbus A340-600 as it was undergoing final checks before take-off from Heathrow. A 42-year-old crew member - confirmed by Virgin Atlantic as a first officer - was arrested.

Kiev - Ukraine has reburied about 2 000 victims of Stalinist repression, paying its respects to those gunned down by the Soviet secret police between 1937 and 1941and dumped into a mass grave. The remains of 1 998 victims, including 474 believed to be ethnic Poles, as well as 29 Red Army soldiers, were laid to rest on Saturday in Ukraine's biggest post-Soviet reburial of victims from the Stalin era.

Gaza City - Israel yesterday ordered the Israeli energy company that sells fuel to Gaza to start cutting vital shipments to the Gaza Strip, following through on a promise to step up pressure on <u>Hamas</u> following rocket attacks. The UN has condemned the move as inhuman. The move could endanger people's lives because hospitals, water pumping stations and sewerage will be affected.

Focus on forced marriages

San Diego - Rare trees, butterflies and other wildlife could lose their struggle for survival after the southern California fires, which ravaged one of the most unique and biodiverse areas in the world. Meanwhile, cooler, calmer weather helped firefighters to gain the upper hand over seven remaining wildfires yesterday as residents sought clean water, food, and help rebuilding their homes.

Prague - Horologist Otakar Zamecnik controls the Prague Astronomical Clock (Prague Orloj) on the Old Town Square in the Czech Republic capital yesterday, as he turns its side clock back one hour to reflect the Central European Time change

Kabul - A suicide bomber wearing an Afghan security uniform has detonated his explosives at the entrance to a combined US-Afghan base, killing four Afghan soldiers and a civilian. The blast wounded six Afghans. Insurgents have set off more than 100 suicide blasts this year - a record pace - killing more than 5 200 people. The violence has been the deadliest since the 2001 US-led invasion.

Montreal - The Quebec provincial government is planning to introduce controversial draft legislation this week that would ban Muslim <u>women</u> from voting in provincial elections if their face is fully veiled. A similar proposal was introduced in Canada's federal parliament on Friday. Quebec cabinet member Benoit Pelletier said the move "will be good for all of Quebec".

Load-Date: October 28, 2007



SELF-STYLED MORALITY POLICE NOW COMMONPLACE IN EGYPT

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

December 2, 2007 Sunday

FIVE STAR EDITION

Copyright 2007 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD; Pg. A-6

Length: 685 words

Byline: MIRET EL NAGGAR, MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Dateline: CAIRO, Egypt

Body

The self-styled enforcers of religious law issued frequent reprimands to Rasha el-Kholy for not wearing a head scarf.

Sometimes her co-workers spoke to her as "concerned friends," and one colleague at the Cairo clothing factory where she worked gave her a CD of a sermon that emphasized the virtues of wearing the veil.

When that failed, the de facto morality squad lectured her on how to stand during prayers, on the need to pray more than the required five times a day and how she should limit her contact with Christian co-workers, Ms. Kholy said.

"It bothered me a lot because we were not friends," said Ms. Kholy, 36. "You're not doing it for my concern, you're really doing it just because you want to give me these pearls of wisdom that make you in some way a better Muslim than I am."

Self-appointed enforcers of Islamic law are becoming more common in Egypt, a Sunni Muslim nation with a population well above 70 million. Unlike the state-sanctioned morality police of conservative theocracies such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, Egypt's enforcers are ordinary people who take it upon themselves to offer religious "advice," often to strangers.

Unveiled <u>women</u> are the primary targets, but the enforcers also chastise Muslim men for dating, not observing prayer times or allowing their wives or sisters to wear revealing clothes.

Television preachers, Saudi religious literature and religious instruction in mosques all are encouraging practicing Muslims to offer such advice to others, even if unsolicited.

"People I barely knew started walking up to me, saying, 'You have beautiful hair and you're such a decent girl. Complete the perfect picture and get veiled,'" said Salma Nadim, 24, a telecommunications analyst in Cairo.

Egyptian officials have expressed alarm at the conservative Islamist reformation that's spreading across the Middle East and posing a challenge to the secular, authoritarian government of President Hosni Mubarak, one of the United States' closest Arab allies.

SELF-STYLED MORALITY POLICE NOW COMMONPLACE IN EGYPT

While Egyptian security forces regularly round up dozens of Islamist activists from organized movements such as the Muslim Brotherhood, they're all but powerless to stop the street preaching that's now an everyday occurrence on the subway, at the airport, in the workplace and at sidewalk cafes.

Government-backed clerics fear that their relatively moderate brand of Islam is being replaced by a more militant version fueled by widespread political discontent at home and fury over what's seen as Western meddling in the Muslim world. To add insult to injury, sheiks who've devoted their lives to studying Islam's intricacies are finding themselves upstaged by religious vigilantes with no formal training.

"Preaching has its professionals who know religion and understand how to do their job," said Sheik Omar el Deeb, a senior cleric at Al Azhar, a venerable Cairo religious institute that's struggling to remain a touchstone for the Islamic world. "But for someone to appoint himself as a preacher, on public transportation or on the streets, and then order people to follow religion, could make people shun religion."

Several other Muslim countries are locked in internal struggles over the role of morality squads in public life. The difference is that enforcers in the other countries have full state support.

This year, Shiite Muslim Iran launched one of the widest crackdowns in nearly two decades, allowing paramilitaries and police to harass or detain hundreds of <u>women</u> for wearing snug clothing or not wearing the proper head scarves. Men were accosted if they sported long hair, sleeveless shirts or tattoos.

In the Palestinian territories, members of the militant Sunni group <u>Hamas</u>, which won parliamentary elections last January, banned certain musical instruments deemed counter to Islam, while the rival Fatah party's newly appointed morality police arrested dozens of people for smoking or drinking during Ramadan, the holy month of fasting.

Many Egyptians welcome the work of the morality police volunteers as legitimate outreach, but even supporters concede that the message can get lost in an overzealous delivery.

Load-Date: December 4, 2007



'Islamo-fascism' speaker meets controversy at Dartmouth

University Wire

October 29, 2007 Monday

Copyright 2007 The Dartmouth via U-Wire

Length: 676 words

Byline: By Thomas Bukowski, The Dartmouth; SOURCE: Dartmouth

Dateline: HANOVER, N.H.

Body

Robert Spencer, director of Jihad Watch and author of two New York Times bestsellers on Islamic jihad, gave a speech to an audience of around 70 at Dartmouth College in Dartmouth Hall on Friday, Oct. 26 on the subject of "Islamo-fascism." Amid much controversy over the week's advertising, the keynote speech received a standing ovation and was the concluding event of "Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week" at the College.

During his speech, Spencer called on the audience to end the silence on the subject of what he called Islamo-fascism.

"Now is the time for every person of conscience to call what oppression and injustice are -- oppression and injustice," Spencer said. "That's why we need Islamo-fascism Awareness Week."

Chloe Mulderig '05, who identifies as a "moderate Muslim" and works for the anthropology department, said that Dartmouth disagrees with Spencer's assertion that Dartmouth needs such a week.

"Part of their agenda is to illicit a response, but we're smarter than that," Mulderig said. "Debate about terrorism is very important, but Robert Spencer is unfortunately bringing hate speech on campus and hates Islam itself."

Spencer defended the term "Islamo-fascism" and denied that the term equates Islam to terrorism. He added that terms such as Italian and German fascism used during World War II did not apply to the entire populations of Italy or Germany.

"Saying that Islamo-fascism tars all Muslims simply defies all common sense," he said.

Spencer said that there was a growing movement of fundamentalist Muslims within the Islamic world who are "claiming the mantle of Islamic purity".

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Load-Date: October 29, 2007



Focus on forced marriages

The Star (South Africa)
October 29, 2007 Monday
e1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4 **Length:** 672 words

Body

Berlin - Germany is considering introducing new rules against forced marriages, a sensitive subject in Germany - home to western Europe's second biggest Muslim population after France. Conservative Chancellor Angela Merkel raised the issue in a speech to a <u>women</u>'s conference on Saturday, saying: "I think the demand to make forced marriage an offence is absolutely right."

Madrid - Traffickers arranged fake marriages for underage Nigerian girls in Catholic churches in Spain to avoid the questions civil authorities might have asked, the Spanish Interior Ministry said yesterday. Suspects charged girls e7 000 (R65 500) for a wedding to a European while paying e3 000 to men with EU citizenship. The girls were first smuggled to the Netherlands from Africa.

London - A British army regiment has signed a £1-million (R13,5-million) record deal, a spokesperson for the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards said yesterday. Recorded between tours of duty in Iraq, the album is a compilation of traditional Scottish tunes and includes cover versions of Sailing and Paul McCartney's Mull Of Kintyre.

Rome - At least 14 migrants have died in the waters off southern Italy in two separate incidents. Six of the victims died when their 23m-long vessel sank near the Calabrian coast. More than 113 others on board survived, swimming to shore. The second incident involved a shipwreck off Sicily in which another eight migrants died. Both incidents occurred overnight yesterday.

New Delhi - A total of 168 people have died of diarrhoea in four districts of India's Assam state since April and health authorities are now treating the outbreak as an epidemic. At least 85 people died in Jorhat district and over 6 300 people were affected. A health spokesperson said the disease had assumed epidemic proportions in 38 tea gardens in the Jorhat and Golaghat districts.

Kiev - Ukraine has reburied about 2 000 victims of Stalinist repression, paying its respects to those gunned down by the Soviet secret police between 1937 and 1941and dumped into a mass grave. The remains of 1 998 victims, including 474 believed to be ethnic Poles, as well as 29 Red Army soldiers, were laid to rest on Saturday in Ukraine's biggest post-Soviet reburial of victims from the Stalin era.

Gaza City - Israel yesterday ordered the Israeli energy company that sells fuel to Gaza to start cutting vital shipments to the Gaza Strip, following through on a promise to step up pressure on <u>Hamas</u> following rocket attacks. The UN has condemned the move as inhuman. The move could endanger people's lives because hospitals, water pumping stations and sewerage will be affected.

Focus on forced marriages

San Diego - Rare trees, butterflies and other wildlife could lose their struggle for survival after the southern California fires, which ravaged one of the most unique, biodiverse areas in the world. Southern California has the same Mediterranean-type ecosystem as only about five other places - including parts of Chile, South Africa, Australia and Europe - about 2,2% of Earth's land surface.

Prague - Horologist Otakar Zamecnik controls the Prague Astronomical Clock (Prague Orloj) on the Old Town Square in the Czech Republic capital yesterday, as he turns its side clock back one hour to reflect the Central European Time change

Kabul - A suicide bomber wearing an Afghan security uniform has detonated his explosives at the entrance to a combined US-Afghan base, killing four Afghan soldiers and a civilian. The blast wounded six Afghans. Insurgents have set off more than 100 suicide blasts this year - a record pace - killing more than 5 200 people. The violence has been the deadliest since the 2001 US-led invasion.

Montreal - The Quebec provincial government is planning to introduce controversial draft legislation this week that would ban Muslim <u>women</u> from voting in provincial elections if their face is fully veiled. A similar proposal was introduced in Canada's federal parliament on Friday. Quebec cabinet member Benoit Pelletier said the move "will be good for all of Quebec".

Load-Date: October 28, 2007



'Islamo-fascism' speaker meets controversy at Dartmouth

University Wire

October 29, 2007 Monday

Copyright 2007 The Dartmouth via U-Wire

Length: 676 words

Byline: By Thomas Bukowski, The Dartmouth; SOURCE: Dartmouth

Dateline: HANOVER, N.H.

Body

Robert Spencer, director of Jihad Watch and author of two New York Times bestsellers on Islamic jihad, gave a speech to an audience of around 70 at Dartmouth College in Dartmouth Hall on Friday, Oct. 26 on the subject of "Islamo-fascism." Amid much controversy over the week's advertising, the keynote speech received a standing ovation and was the concluding event of "Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week" at the College.

During his speech, Spencer called on the audience to end the silence on the subject of what he called Islamo-fascism.

"Now is the time for every person of conscience to call what oppression and injustice are -- oppression and injustice," Spencer said. "That's why we need Islamo-fascism Awareness Week."

Chloe Mulderig '05, who identifies as a "moderate Muslim" and works for the anthropology department, said that Dartmouth disagrees with Spencer's assertion that Dartmouth needs such a week.

"Part of their agenda is to illicit a response, but we're smarter than that," Mulderig said. "Debate about terrorism is very important, but Robert Spencer is unfortunately bringing hate speech on campus and hates Islam itself."

Spencer defended the term "Islamo-fascism" and denied that the term equates Islam to terrorism. He added that terms such as Italian and German fascism used during World War II did not apply to the entire populations of Italy or Germany.

"Saying that Islamo-fascism tars all Muslims simply defies all common sense," he said.

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Load-Date: October 29, 2007



Man fires into food queues

The Star (South Africa)
October 10, 2007 Wednesday
e1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4 Length: 675 words

Body

Kismayo - A gunman fired into thousands of people waiting for food yesterday, killing an elderly woman, wounding two <u>women</u> and disrupting aid efforts. The people, affected by floods and drought, were lined up to receive aid from the World Food Programme in Shiidleey, southern Sudan. There have been at least six shooting or looting incidents during food distributions in recent weeks.

Berlin - Germany's Muslim community is planning to more than double the number of mosques in the country, the Islamic Institute said yesterday. There were 184 projects to build new mosques, with domes and minarets, of which some were already under construction. There are now 159 mosques in Germany, compared to just three in 1990, to serve a Muslim minority of more than 3-million.

Hong Kong - An imperially inscribed "Tai Shang Huang Di" white jade seal, carved in 1796 to celebrate Emperor Qianlong's abdication, was sold for \$5,9-million (R40,4-million) yesterday - a new record for white jade at an auction.

Cairo - A prominent Egyptian human rights activist said waning US pressure for democracy in Egypt had left liberals there cornered between an autocratic government and Islamists, with no prospect for change soon. Hisham Kassem said after talks with President George Bush and senior US officials that he detected little interest in discussing prospects for democracy in Egypt.

Geneva - Switzerland yesterday returned to Turkey a bronze hand, looted from a Roman archaelogical site near the south-western Turkish town of Denizli. The artefact was sold by auction in Germany in 2005 to a Swiss bidder, who handed over the bronze after he learned it had been stolen. The bronze hand's origins were discovered by the auction house when it checked an Interpol list.

Padua - An Italian priest who publicly declared his love for a woman has lost his job, the diocese said yesterday. Father Sante Sguotti can no longer work as pastor in his parish or hear confessions. However, he remains a priest and can celebrate Mass. In August, the priest went on national TV to declare his love for the unwed mother, but said he wouldn't give up his vow of celibacy.

Jerusalem - Police questioned Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert yesterday for five hours about his involvement in the privatisation of Israel's second-largest bank - one of two cases in which he is being investigated on suspicion of corruption. Authorities suspect Olmert tried to rig the sale of a controlling interest in Bank Leumi in favour of two associates when he was finance minister in 2005.

Man fires into food queues

Gaza - <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah committed "grave breaches" of international law in their civil war in the Gaza Strip in June. The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights yesterday said 161 Palestinians, of whom 41 were civilians, died. People were seized by gunmen in their homes and their bodies dumped in remote areas, while others were pushed off buildings or executed on their way to hospitals.

Twin Falls, Idaho - When Jamie Howard (35) knocked on Paul Sucher's door six months ago, he was trying to sell him a vacuum cleaner. He ended up giving him one of his kidneys in August. Sucher (35) suffered kidney failure three years ago and was forced to go on dialysis. When Howard heard they had the same blood group, he "went outside, prayed about it and called my dad and my wife".

Baghdad - Foreign security guards killed two <u>women</u> when they opened fire on a car in the centre of the Iraqi capital yesterday. Witnesses said the men opened fire when the driver failed to make room for their convoy. The shooting in Karrada came two days after Iraq vowed to punish US security firm Blackwater which "deliberately" killed 17 Iraqis in Baghdad three weeks ago.

Accra - Ghana yesterday appealed for international help to rebuild northern parts of the country hit by devastating floods. At least 56 people died, 340 000 were displaced and 35 000 homes were destroyed, government figures showed. About 1 500km of road were washed away and vast swathes of farmland were destroyed, jeopardising food production in the coming months.

Load-Date: October 9, 2007



Letters to the Editor

The Philadelphia Inquirer
August 13, 2008 Wednesday
CITY-D Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Inq Opinion & Editorial; Pg. A12

Length: 717 words

Body

Europe's responseln 1935, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin famously observed, "The pope? How many divisions has he got?"

What followed was the Soviet Union's invasion of Poland, decades of post-war occupation of Eastern Europe, and tens of millions murdered and imprisoned. Recent years have witnessed Europe pandering to North Korea and Iran while celebrating terrorists from Fatah, Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u>, all while still under the protection of U.S. soldiers still standing guard in Europe more than 60 years after the end of World War II.

NATO members have slashed their defense budgets while European demonstrators and public officials deride those who ensure their freedom to protest. Now another Russian leader has sent tanks to destroy a neighboring democracy ("Russia demands Georgia disarm," Aug. 12). Brutal aggression is greeted by silence from Europe's streets and inaction from its largely powerless leaders.

How many divisions has NATO got? Unfortunately for the people of Georgia, not enough.

John R. Cohn

Philadelphia

Looking presidential was troubled by the photos accompanying the article "McCain, Obama rebuke Russia for attacks on Georgia" (Inquirer, Aug. 11). One photo had Barack Obama walking on the beach, relaxing with a buddy as though nothing whatsoever is going on in the world. The other photo showed John McCain behind a podium, looking "presidential." Have you no shame? This juxtaposition of images has the power to lodge in the deep recesses of voters' psyches and has no place in a newspaper readers expect to be neutral and fair.

Lou Ann Merkle

Plymouth Meting

Pro-life dishonestyCongratulations for Jennifer Lin's story "China deports Lansdale protester" (Inquirer, Aug. 11) about Michael McMonagle, our local "pro-life" activist. Lin correctly refers to McMonagle as an "antiabortion activist," rather than the misleading label more commonly used by those who work to end abortion rights.

The inherent dishonesty in the "pro-life" community is troubling. If you consider yourself "pro-life," do you support war? Are you in favor of the death penalty? Have you worked to improve **women**'s lives? How do you stand on

Letters to the Editor

funding programs whose sole benefit goes to children and poor families? Have you spoken out vigorously against the murder of doctors who perform abortions?

It should be perfectly clear that no one is in favor of abortion; it is the right to choose that is in question. Antiabortionists, if you want all babies born, you must do the hard work to ensure that they live with dignity.

Louis Farrell

Hatfield

McCoy repugnantPlease explain to those of us offended by the Glenn McCoy cartoon of Michelle and Barack Obama (Inquirer, Aug. 11) in what way it was either funny or had anything enlightening to point out to us. As usual, McCoy's figures were grotesque, but in this case the message is unclear.

I find it difficult to understand why, with Tony Auth on staff, you should *ever* have to stoop to publishing McCoy. There are lots of talented political cartoonists out there who represent different perspectives who are not as repugnant as McCoy.

Susan Miller

Sumneytown

Museum neededValley Forge National Historical Park is indeed a treasure, but an underutilized one ("Valley Forge not unique in including private land," Aug. 11). The addition of a museum would go a long way in drawing more visitors, creating funds for improvement and helping Americans understand why the Revolution, and Valley Forge's part in it, are so significant. A history lesson highlighting the great story of how America came to be is more valuable in my mind than preserving land for people to run with their dogs.

Nancy Mullen

Glenmoore

Energy policyTwenty years ago we were told that drilling for more oil in the United States would not solve our energy problem ("Democrats, want to win? Drill for oil now," Aug. 11). That group was wrong then and it is wrong now. More available oil means more supply and lower prices. Every other country in the world with oil reserves off its coast line is drilling.

Fossil fuels will drive our economy and the world's for at least the next 20 years. We delude ourselves if we think a comprehensive energy policy does not include more drilling, nuclear power, clean coal and other alternative energy sources.

Michael G. Del Rossi

Lower Gwynedd

Load-Date: August 13, 2008



Israel Frees 198 Palestinians Before Rice Arrives for Talks

The New York Times

August 26, 2008 Tuesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Foreign Desk; Pg. 10

Length: 716 words

Byline: By ISABEL KERSHNER; There was additional reporting for this article from Jerusalem.

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank

Body

Israel on Monday released 198 Palestinian prisoners in a move intended to bolster the Palestinian president, Israel's negotiating partner, hours before Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in the region to try to nudge forward Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts.

Before embarking on two days of talks with top Israeli and Palestinian officials, Ms. Rice told reporters on the plane to Tel Aviv that there was a "lot of work ahead" if the sides hoped to reach a peace agreement by the end of the year.

Still, Ms. Rice also said it was "extremely important to just keep making forward progress rather than prematurely to come to some set of conclusions," according to remarks released by the State Department. It appeared to be an acknowledgment of the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators' reluctance to come to a hasty partial agreement, despite the eagerness of the Bush administration for results before its term ends in January.

While Ms. Rice's visits here have become routine -- this is her seventh since this round of peace negotiations began in November -- the prisoner release was a rare cause for celebration in the West Bank. Jubilant Palestinians clambered atop buses that carried the freed prisoners into Ramallah, while cars bedecked with flags, horns honking, accompanied them to the presidential headquarters, where hundreds of relatives were waiting.

Departing from its usual policy of not releasing Palestinians with what the Israelis call "blood on their hands," Israel this time included two veteran prisoners sentenced for life for murdering Israelis, saying they no longer presented any significant risk.

One, Said al-Ataba, was convicted in 1977 for a bombing that killed an Israeli woman, Tzila Galili. The other, Muhammad Abu Ali, was convicted in 1980 for killing Yehoshua Saloma, an Israeli student in the West Bank, and later for killing a fellow prisoner whom he suspected of collaborating with Israel. Mr. Ataba was affiliated with the leftist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine at the time of his attack, while Mr. Abu Ali was elected while in prison as a legislator for the Fatah Party, now led by the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas.

Mr. Abbas addressed the crowd from the steps of his office, stating that "there will be no peace without the release of all the prisoners."

Israel Frees 198 Palestinians Before Rice Arrives for Talks

About 9,000 Palestinian prisoners remain in Israel's jails, according to the Israeli Prisons Authority. Palestinian officials put the number at 11,000. Gaining the release of hundreds of long-term prisoners like Mr. Ataba is a priority for Mr. Abbas.

About half those released on Tuesday had already been scheduled to be released within the next year. Several dozen others were serving medium terms on charges like shooting at Israelis and laying explosives. One of three <u>women</u> released, Khawla Zeitawi, was sentenced in January 2007 for two years for membership in an illegal organization. Fully veiled, she returned with a baby who was born in prison.

The release of prisoners has been one of the few tangible benefits of the peace effort for Palestinians, with the prisoner issue always high on the public agenda.

Almost 1,000 prisoners, mostly from Fatah and a few from leftist groups, have been released in four rounds since *Hamas* took control of Gaza.

Mark Regev, a spokesman for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel, said the idea was "to strengthen the moderate and pragmatic Palestinian leadership" and to show that engagement brings more results than extremism.

Saeb Erekat, a top Abbas aide, said the president's achievement in releasing the prisoners through negotiation "should not be undermined."

Other Palestinians viewed the achievement as more modest. Asked if it would help Mr. Abbas, Ali Ahmed Amayreh, the father of a released prisoner, said: "Maybe. It's a little step. We have another 12,000 prisoners in jail."

Mr. Amayreh's son, Muhammad, was sentenced to 10 years in 2002 for attempted murder. A member of the Palestinian security forces, he said he was also active in Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, a Fatah-affiliated militia.

Now he wants to go back to his post as a security officer and "to live a normal life," he said, as he was reunited with Yaara, a 7-year-old daughter whom he last saw in 2002.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

PHOTO: Palestinians in Ramallah, West Bank, ran after a bus with prisoners freed by Israel on Monday.(PHOTOGRAPH BY RINA CASTELNUOVO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES)

Load-Date: August 26, 2008



Second attack by a bulldozer in Jerusalem; Only Driver Killed; Incident comes hours before Obama arrives

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

July 23, 2008 Wednesday

Toronto Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A13

Length: 666 words

Byline: Isabel Kershner, National Post

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM - For the second time in a month, a Palestinian driver of a large construction vehicle plowed into traffic on a busy Jerusalem street yesterday, hitting a bus, mangling cars and injuring at least 24 people before he was shot dead by an off-duty soldier and a border police officer.

The attack took place on King David Street in Jerusalem's upscale hotel district, near the King David Hotel, where U. S. presidential candidate Barack Obama was due to check in later in the day. There were no fatalities besides the driver of the construction vehicle, authorities said, although at least one person was badly injured.

Police were treating it as a terrorist attack. The driver, Ghassan Abu Tir, 22, came from Umm Tuba, an Arab village in east Jerusalem that has a strong *Hamas* presence.

He was stopped when the off-duty soldier shot into the vehicle. The border police officer who arrived soon after shot him again "to confirm his death," police said.

On July 2, a Palestinian drove another construction vehicle on a deadly rampage in central Jerusalem, crushing several cars and ramming into buses and pedestrians before an off-duty soldier and a police officer clambered up to the cabin and fatally shot him. At least three people were killed and more than 40 were wounded.

In a third attack in the city this year, a Palestinian from east Jerusalem opened fire at a prominent Jewish seminary in the heart of Jerusalem in March, killing eight students.

On the street minutes after yesterday's attack, which took place at around 2 p. m., one car was left crushed and another turned over. Many of those injured were still being led away from the scene by the emergency services, and the area had been closed off.

Yonatan Yagadovsky, director of the international department of Magen David Adom rescue organization, said one person had lost a leg.

After the attack, witnesses said the construction vehicle, which they described as a large digger, was riddled with bullets, and the body of the driver was being removed by the authorities from the cab.

Second attack by a bulldozer in Jerusalem; Only Driver Killed; Incident comes hours before Obama arrives

Witnesses said the vehicle was driven from a construction site behind the YMCA building opposite the King David Hotel. When the vehicle emerged onto King David street, it first hit a bus, the driver of which reacted quickly and drove off the road, according to Bentzi Gottesman, 24, who was working in a nearby gallery.

The construction vehicle then proceeded slowly along the main street, deliberately hitting cars along the way, Mr. Gottesman said. "I heard a big boom. I went out. I saw the tractor going into a bus. He hit the back part."

Another witness, Moshe Feiglin, said: "The first thing, he tried was to lower the shovel on a *female* pedestrian right near me. I jumped when there was a boom as the shovel hit the street. He missed by centimetres, thank God. In the first second I thought it was some kind of accident, confusion, but then he continued in a zigzag on King David Street, hitting cars, turning over cars."

Mr. Obama, on a tour of Afghanistan, Iraq, the Middle East and Europe, arrived in Israel last night vowing that if he wins the presidential election he will work towards ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict "from the minute I'm sworn into office."

Speaking in the Jordanian capital, Amman, before flying to Israel, Mr. Obama sought to reassure both sides. He said he would continue to regard Israel as a valued ally.

"That policy is not going to change," he said.

"What I think can change is the ability of the United States government and a United States president to be actively engaged with the peace process and to be concerned and recognize the legitimate difficulties that the Palestinian people are experiencing.

With only 24 hours pencilled in for Israel and the occupied territories during his tour of seven countries, the Democratic presidential candidate's every move and comment will be closely analyzed by both sides in the long-running Middle East conflict.

The New York Times, with files from The Daily Telegraph

Graphic

Black & White

Photo: Uriel Sinai, Getty Images; Israeli forces secure the site of the second bulldozer rampage in Jerusalem in less than a month yesterday. Although the operator was the only person killed, at least 24 were injured, including one person who lost a leg.;

Load-Date: July 23, 2008