

Verbatim

‘Chill out, and let everybody have their say. We’re going to win this election.’

BILL CLINTON, urging Democrats to allow the U.S. primary process to play out, in a speech at California’s Democratic Party convention

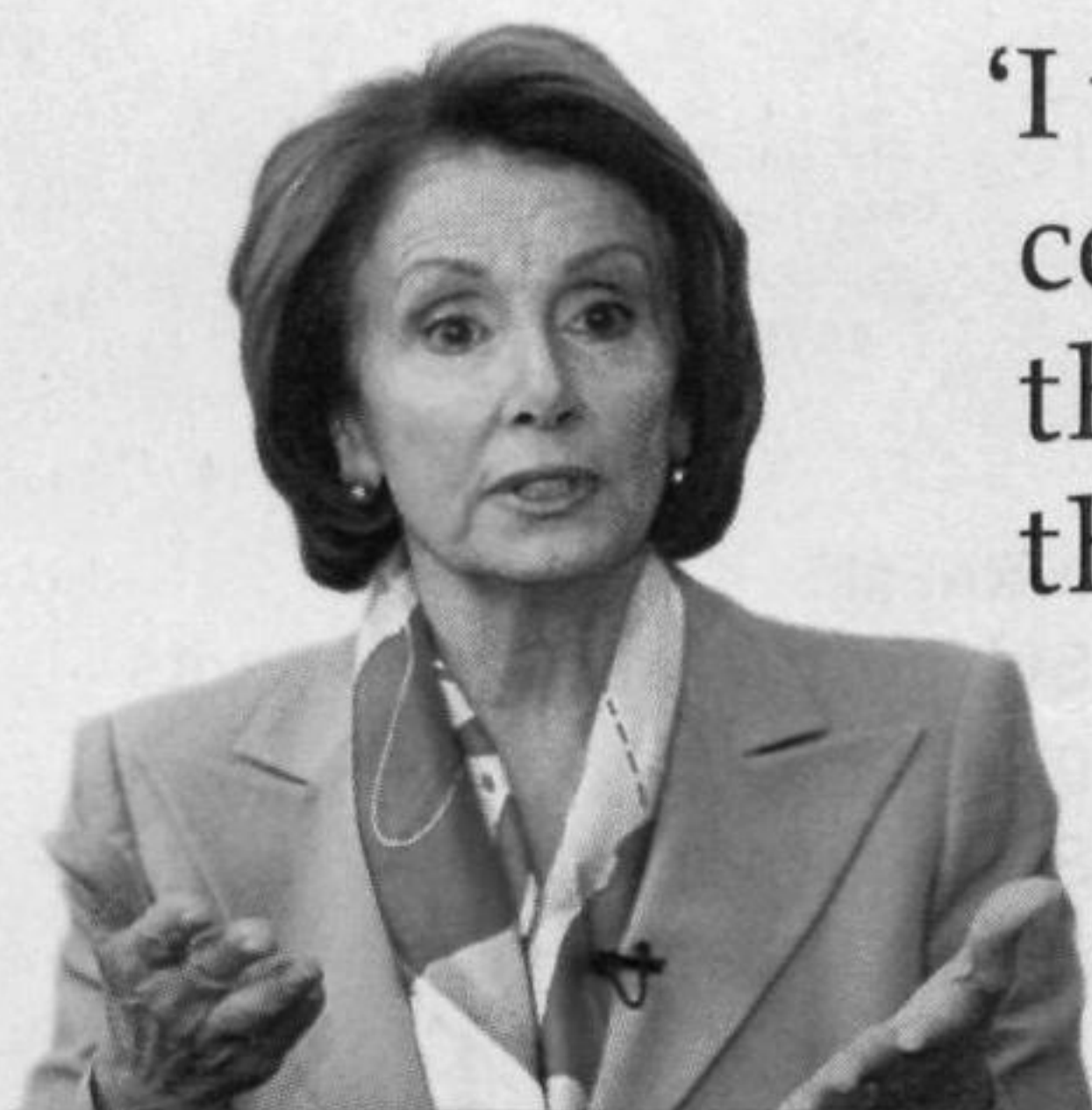


‘For the first time in history, we are no longer on top.’

MONSIGNOR VITTORIO FORMENTI, on new Vatican data indicating that Catholics are no longer the world’s largest religious group. Muslims now make up 19.2% of the population, while Catholics constitute 17.4%

‘Everything will be in ashes, not just a sea of fire, if our advanced pre-emptive strike once begins.’

NORTH KOREAN STATE NEWS AGENCY, threatening South Korea with destruction. Relations between the countries have soured due to North Korea’s continuing intransigence over its nuclear program and the South’s tougher negotiating tactics



‘I think boycotting the opening ceremony, which really gives respect to the Chinese government, is something that should be kept on the table.’

NANCY PELOSI, U.S. Speaker of the House, recommending that the U.S. consider not attending the Games’ premiere to protest the Chinese crackdown in Tibet

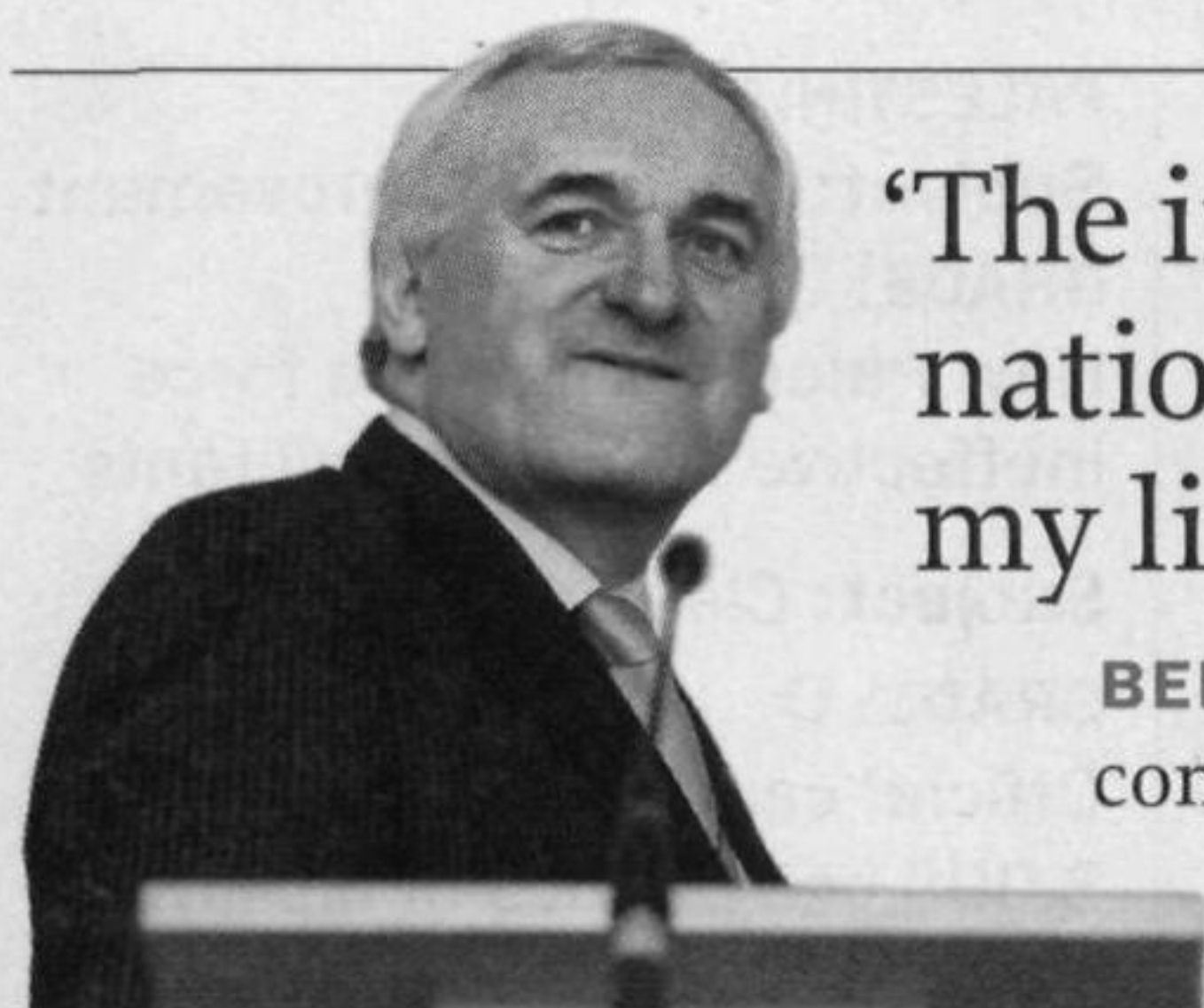
‘Something is better than nothing.’

KYAW HSAN, Burma’s Information Minister, on the junta’s proposed new constitution, which would establish a civilian government but allows the military to maintain effective control of the country



‘The interests of Ireland demand that the national dialogue not be deflected by ... my life, my lifestyle and my finances.’

BERTIE AHERN, Irish Prime Minister, resigning amid controversy over his financial affairs



NUMBERS

CASINOS

19,078

Residents per sq km in Macau, which has passed Monaco as the world’s most crowded gambling enclave

\$36,357

Per capita GDP of Macau, making it Asia’s richest place

IMMIGRATION

304,000

Number of immigrant criminals currently in U.S. jails who are eligible for deportation. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials estimate that figure could rise as high as 455,000 in coming years

21.8 million

Estimated number of non-naturalized immigrants, both legal and illegal, currently living in the U.S. Immigrants make up roughly 7% of the country’s population

AIRPORTS

28,000

Number of bags put into temporary storage when an automated baggage-handling system malfunctioned during the launch of a modern new terminal at London’s Heathrow airport



\$8.56 billion

Cost of the new terminal at Heathrow. During a glitch-filled first four days of operation, nearly 250 flights in and out of the new facility were canceled

FOOD

\$360

Price per metric ton of rice in late 2007

\$760

Price on March 27. Spiking prices have raised fears across Asia and Africa of food shortages, hoarding and social unrest

Sources: South China Morning Post (2); Wall Street Journal (2); BBC (2); Wall Street Journal (2)

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Sources: Los Angeles Times; Reuters; Korean Central News Agency; A.P.; Reuters; A.P.