

NZTONIGHT

**Arms trials
to proceed**

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WORLD

**Obama lied,
full details**

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SPORT

**Silver Ferns
need form**

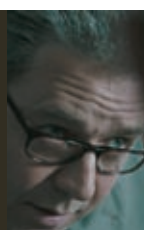
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TECH

Crowe in Lies

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Auckland

Sat: 16°/10° Sun: 17°/9°



Hamilton

Sat: 16°/7° Sun: 18°/5°



Wellington

Sat: 14°/6° Sun: 12°/8°



Christchurch

Sat: 12°/3° Sun: 15°/7°



Queenstown

Sat: 10°/0° Sun: 16°/6°



Dunedin

Sat: 12°/4° Sun: 16°/8°



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17 October 2008



PASSPORT SCANDAL

Two ministers, one MP, implicated

By Ian Wishart

Editor, TGIF Edition

A Chinese businessman allegedly wanted for fraud in China and whose assets were seized in Australia last year after he was found opening bank accounts using a different identity, has been awarded New Zealand citizenship by the Minister of Internal Affairs – against the recommendations of New Zealand citizenship officials.

To make matters even more complex, *TGIF Edition* has been given information alleging the businessman told an official he had donated money to the New Zealand Labour Party.

The Labour government ministers in the gun are Internal Affairs Minister Rick Barker, whose office allegedly approved the citizenship against the advice of officials, and Associate Immigration Minister Shane Jones who was brought in to make the final call on Barker's behalf. Former Labour cabinet minister Dover Samuels sponsored the application.

The businessman goes in this country by the name Yang (Bill) Liu. Property records reveal he lives in a plush Metropolis apartment in central Auckland with a 2005 valuation of \$2.4 million. According to official certificate of title records, Yang Liu paid cash in 2002 – there is no mortgage regis-

tered against the property.

Records show Liu also owns a property in the Auckland suburb of Bayswater for which he paid \$5 million early last year – again, in cash.

However, documents obtained by *TGIF Edition* from the website of the **Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions** in Australia reveal he was prosecuted there under the alias of Yongming Yan:

“Yongming Yan

“Yongming Yan, a citizen of the People's Republic of China, was wanted by law enforcement authorities of China for alleged large-scale misappropriation and embezzlement offences committed in China. Yan travelled to Australia on a number of occasions, first as Yan, and later under the name ‘Yang Liu’.

“On these later occasions Yan is alleged to have produced a Chinese passport in the name ‘Yang Liu’, and failed to advise Australian immigration officials that he had previously travelled to and entered Australia in the name ‘Yongming Yan’.

“Whilst present in Australia, Yan opened and operated a number of bank accounts. Some of the bank accounts were opened and operated in the name ‘Yang Liu’, in circumstances where Yan

allegedly failed to advise that he was also known by the name ‘Yongming Yan’, contrary to section 24 of the *Financial Transaction Reports Act 1988*.

“On 22 August 2005 a civil restraining order under the POC Act 2002 was obtained over bank accounts held in the name Desant Group Ltd, a company registered in the British Virgin Islands. The accounts in the name Desant Group Ltd were able to be restrained on the basis that they were suspected of being under the effective control of Yan, who was operating the accounts in the name ‘Yang Liu’. The basis for the restraining orders was that Yan was suspected of having committed offences of opening and operating bank accounts in a false



on the
INSIDE



KEY'S DEBATE

The statistics

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HIJAB HELEN

More refugees

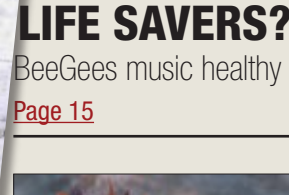
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AFGHAN BLUNDER

Airstrikes hit kids

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LIFE SAVERS?

BeeGees music healthy

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CHOCOLAT

Why we love it

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off BEAT

BUMMER, STONER

MASTERTON, (UPI) — Police in Masterton, New Zealand, said a woman was charged with possession of marijuana after her lost wallet containing the drug was turned in to officers. Investigators said the wallet was turned in by a citizen who found it by the side of the road and officers discovered the small tin of marijuana inside while searching for identification, *The Dominion Post* reported. The woman was charged with possession after she showed up at the police station to claim her lost wallet. She is due to appear in court this month.

‘NINJA TURTLE’ TEENS RESCUED FROM SEWER

NEW YORK, (UPI) — Police sources said three teenagers who were playing Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles have been rescued from a New York sewer. The sources said the three teens — ages 17, 16 and 15 — became lost in the sewer system while pretending to be the popular cartoon, movie and comic book characters, the *New York Daily News* reported today. “These three idiots were playing Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and wanted to go into the sewers,” said one police source. They were never in danger, just goofing off and being stupid. Police said firefighters pulled the trio out of a manhole in the Kissena Park neighbourhood of New York’s Queens borough. Officers charged the two older teens with criminal trespassing and the 15-year-old was released into the custody of his parents.



JOBLESS MAN OWES \$400 MILLION IN TAXES

JERSEY CITY, (UPI) — New Jersey officials say a man who hasn’t lived in the state since 2001 owes \$400 million in taxes, despite not being able to buy dinner at McDonald’s. Darren Goodman, 33, tops the list of New Jersey’s tax scofflaws, *New York’s Daily News* reported Thursday. Though New Jersey treasury officials say the \$400 million tax bill is for real, Goodman says it’s a mistake resulting from his failed attempt to be a stock market day-trader a decade ago in Jersey City. Goodman said he failed to file tax returns for several years and pay several thousand dollars in tax fines after he went bankrupt in 2003. He is unemployed and living with his parents in Raleigh, N.C. Goodman told the *Daily News* he learned of the \$400 million tax bill last week when his debit card came up empty at a McDonald’s — New Jersey had put a lien on the \$1,800 in Goodman’s bank account. New Jersey based its claim on information from the Internal Revenue Service, said state Treasury spokesman Tom Vincz, suggesting Goodman may be crying poor to avoid paying the \$400 million. Goodman, however, said told the newspaper he would have to be worth billions to pay the bill.

PILOT AND STUDENTS BUILD PLANE IN 10 WEEKS

MIAMI, (UPI) — The youngest person to fly solo around the world has set another record by building a single-engine plane in 10 weeks alongside Florida high school students. Barrington Irving, who became the youngest person to fly solo around the world at the age of 23 last year and the first black man to achieve the feat, said the 60 Miami Norland High and Miami Carol City High students in his Build & Soar program transformed rivets and sheet metal into a working plane in record time, WPLG-TV, Miami, Fla., reported today. Irving said it typically takes professionals more than a year to construct a single engine plane. He took the plane into the skies Wednesday, flying around Opa-Locka Airport to show off the fruits of the students’ labors, the television station reported. Ruschay Levy, a 10th grader who worked on the plane, said the process was often difficult and frustrating. Some wanted to give up, Levy told WPLG. You know, when you have a plane being built by 13- to 18-year-olds, it’s nerve-wracking.

Kids hurt on sideshow ride

WELLINGTON, OCT 17 — The organiser of Gisborne’s A&P show, where five girls were hurt on a malfunctioning ride this morning, says he would not have engaged any risky operators.

The girls, aged between seven and 12, were taken to Gisborne Hospital after the Explorer joy ride, billed as New Zealand’s fastest ride, malfunctioned.

Four of the girls were treated for minor to moderate back and limb injuries. A 10-year-old girl was to remain in Gisborne Hospital for observation.

Many children were battered and bruised as they staggered from the fully loaded machine, owned by Mahon’s Amusements, the *Gisborne Herald* reported.

“How those kids managed to stay on the ride I don’t know. They were getting flung around like ragdolls,” one mother said.

Show organiser Derek Allan said the children were all fine, and some had returned to the show today.

“The mother of the young girl who they had most concern for has told me that she’s come away with a bruised elbow and a cut lip,” Mr Allan told Radio New Zealand.

“She’s at home, but I’ve seen two of the other girls back at the show, they just couldn’t wait to get back here.”

The parents had told him they saw the accident as something that could not have been predicted.

He was not present when the accident happened, but had not been told of panic and children being thrown around.



“I don’t know where that description came from, because that’s not the description I’ve had from the parents, the ones that I’ve spoken to,” Mr Allan said.

“It was, of course, of concern, but I guess the ultimate is that nobody’s been seriously injured.”

There had been no similar incident in the past seven years he had been involved in the show.

“We wouldn’t engage people who might be risky

or have any risk associated with them, and Mahon’s have got an impeccable public safety record.”

The Mahon family told Radio New Zealand they were extremely sorry that the incident had occurred, and that they had expressed their regret and concerns to the parents.

The Explorer has been shut down during an investigation by the Department of Labour.

— NZPA



The replay shows Clark was more likely to successfully hijack speaking time, simply by increasing her voice projection, whereas Key was more prepared to wait for Clark to finish first

Debate breakdown

Clark spoke longer, interrupted more often

By Ian Wishart

The first minute by minute analysis of this week’s big leadership debate on TV1 has thrown up some interesting statistics, including that Prime Minister Helen Clark interjected or successfully hijacked a question more often than National’s John Key.

TGIF Edition ran a digital recorder across the debate and found Helen Clark successfully steered the debate her way on 16 occasions, against John Key’s 13.

Significantly, the minute by minute replay disclosed that Clark’s most famous outburst — when she accused Key of trying to shout her down — was actually caused by **Clark herself hijacking John Key mid-speech.**

Although Clark declared at the end of the debate

that she was pleased it was robust and had not been bitter, she surprised commentators and the public the next day by launching a stinging attack on Key, suggesting it was lucky he hadn’t burst into tears, that the National leader had been “having a tantrum”, and that it was also fortunate Key had not “collapsed” on the set.

The replay shows Clark was more likely to successfully hijack speaking time, simply by increasing her voice projection, whereas Key was more prepared to wait for Clark to finish first.

On the issue of speaking time, *TGIF defined* it as an unbroken question and answer thread not successfully hijacked by an opponent. We did not count unsuccessful interjection attempts as a contribution toward speaking time. We didn’t include the opening

addresses either.

On that definition, Helen Clark managed to speak for 29 minutes and 30 seconds, and we measured John Key at 28 minutes and five seconds.

Although Key scored for the longest single oration — 2:04 — Helen Clark locked in more opportunities for uninterrupted speech — four segments greater than a minute thirty, compared to Key’s three.

Clark was given the chance to speak 35 times, Key 33.

It’s in the area of moderator and panel questions, however, that the statistics swing out to their widest level in favour of Clark. Moderator Mark Sainsbury, and his media panellists were nearly three times more likely to ask Key a challenging question, or to attempt to cut Key short.

Greens propose letting in more refugees

WELLINGTON, OCT 17 –The Green Party would lift the number of refugees allowed into New Zealand each year by a third.

At present 750 refugees are allowed into the country each year, but the Greens' immigration policy, released today, proposes raising that to 1000 by 2010.

Green MP Keith Locke said the tone of the Greens' policy was the opposite of New Zealand First's.

NZ First leader Winston Peters yesterday proposed a crackdown on immigrant numbers to ensure New Zealanders did not have to compete with newcomers for jobs at a time when unemployment was set to rise.

Earlier in the year Mr Peters' deputy Peter Brown said he was concerned that society would become more divided if the number of Asians coming to New Zealand continued to grow.

Mr Locke said the Greens were not afraid of immigrants.

"The Green Party policy is fundamentally humanitarian, not exclusionary."

He said most refugees were fleeing from oppression and New Zealand also needed to gear up for an influx from low lying Pacific countries affected by climate change.

But unlike the refugee category the policy does not promise an overall boost in immigrant numbers.

It says this has to be measured against how much population growth the country can handle and the flow should be restricted if increased numbers were likely to exacerbate environmental or social problems.

Mr Locke said the Greens also wanted more



resources put into settlement programmes, English language classes for new migrants and assistance finding a job.

More effort also needed to be put into educating New Zealanders about the cultures and religions brought here by migrants.

"It is important that New Zealand isn't seen as anti-migrant. After all the number of Kiwis migrating to other lands is roughly equal to the number of migrants coming here.

"Migrant bashing will only put off the skilled migrants we need to fill the gaps left by departing Kiwis."

– NZPA

NZ fish oil capsules slated by Hong Kong watchdog

WELLINGTON, OCT 17 – A consumer watchdog in Hong Kong says more than 40 percent of the fish oils or fish liver oils tested there contained less fatty acids than claimed on the labels, and that a New Zealand product was one of the worst performers.

A New Zealand fish liver oil supplement, Kiwi House Arctic South-J, contained only 29.6 milligrams of eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) per capsule instead of the 240mg claimed on its label, the Consumer Council told the Hong Kong Standard.

It said of the overall 28 samples tested, eight contained a level of Omega 3 fatty acid, docosahexaenoic acid, (DHA) lower than claimed and four samples had less EPA.

And a Nature's Fruit Alaska Deep Sea Fish Oil from the United States contained 71 percent less DHA than on its label: 26mg per capsule instead



of 90mg. That sample also contained the highest amount of trans fat of 40.6mg per capsule.

The tests also found 12 samples to have been contaminated with pesticide DDT though the level was within safety standards. Council chief executive Connie Lau Yin-hing said the contamination was caused by sea pollution.

Scientific evidence has shown the intake of Omega 3 fatty acids may lower blood pressure, reduce blood triglyceride levels and assist in preventing cardiovascular diseases.

But council chairman Ambrose Ho said an excessive intake of the acid may lead to higher risk of intestinal bleeding, and an excessive intake of vitamin A and vitamin D could lead to liver problems.

– NZPA

Boundary shift protects historic site

WELLINGTON, OCT 17 – Protection has been organised for an important Maori archaeological site in Wairarapa.

The site, which includes terraces and pits, had been at the centre of debate about the position of a boundary fence on a coastal subdivision in Awhaia, near Tora, 45km south of Martinborough.

Resource consent had approved the legal position of the fence along a ridge line which divided the site.

But after negotiations by local iwi Ngati Kahungunu and Ngati Rangitaane, the developer and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) it was agreed the fence line should be moved to respect and preserve the site.

The developer, Martinborough Coastal Developments, and Queen Elizabeth II National Trust established an open space covenant that now includes these features. The covenant protects the

archaeological, cultural and historical significance of the land.

Ann Neill, NZHPT's general manager, central region, said while discussions between the interested parties had taken some time, all were determined to ensure the heritage site was protected.

"There was a lot at stake for all the parties involved.

"For iwi the site was culturally and historically important. The developers, who were keen to act in good faith, also acknowledged that the site needed to be protected."

NZHPT's role was more as facilitator in ensuring heritage protection was carried through.

"It's pleasing that in the end the main goal was achieved and a valuable heritage site has been preserved," Mrs Neill said.

– NZPA



Maori seats distort MMP, Dunne says

WELLINGTON, OCT 17 –The Maori seats in Parliament became an issue for minor parties today and one said they were distorting the electoral system.

The Maori Party, which holds four of the seven seats and is aiming to win all of them in the election, wants the seats entrenched in law.

That would mean they could not be removed without a 75 percent majority vote in Parliament.

At present they could be abolished with a simple majority vote.

The Green Party said today it supported the Maori Party's position.

MP Metiria Turei said general seats were entrenched, and she had drafted a member's bill to require any decision on the Maori seats to meet the same threshold.

National is embroiled in a controversy over the seats because it has a policy to eventually abolish them and has run into problems with the Maori Party because of that.

National's leader, John Key, confirmed yesterday he had told the Maori Party the policy would not be a bottom line in any negotiations after the election.

He had not previously said the policy was negotiable.

United Future leader Peter Dunne said today they were all missing the point.

"The continued existence of the Maori seats has long since gone past the bumper sticker slogans of race-based representation by opponents of the seats, or preserving the special place of Maori in the elec-

toral system by supporters of the seats," he said.

"It is now an issue about totally distorting MMP and potentially perverting the will of the voters."

Mr Dunne said if current polling was an accurate reflection of voter intentions, the Maori Party was on track to win six, if not all seven, of the Maori electorate seats.

But the party was only polling between 2 percent and 3 percent of the party vote, which would entitle it to two or three seats.

"If this plays out at the ballot box, Parliament would have to grow by either four or five seats from 120 to 125 seats," he said.

"This overhang would result in either of the major parties having to cobble together a total of 63 rather than 61 seats to form a majority to govern."

Mr Dunne said if National's current polling became reality and it won 51 percent of the party vote it would have 61 or 62 seats in Parliament.

"But with the potential overhang caused by the Maori seats, National would not be able to form a government," he said.

"Such a situation would be totally undemocratic and unacceptable.

"The fundamental tenet of representative democracy would be totally perverted. Put simply, the will of the majority would be thwarted."

Mr Dunne said the Maori Party should explain how the continued existence of the seats could justify that scenario.

– NZPA

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Poor circulation can present itself at any time, and effects both women and men. It is more common with age; especially after 40 and pregnancy. Do you ever feel like you have been flying for hours and **your legs and ankles feel heavy and tight?**

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Editorial

Threads of a scandal

When you look at some of the sillier scandals that have occupied the time and money of governments and taxpayers, it seems that the more trivial the issue the greater the amount of money governments are willing to throw towards investigating it.

The Taito Field case, for example, totally dominated media coverage for months, with breathless TV news reports, front page stories (including in *Investigate* magazine) as all of us chewed over the minutiae of whether or not Field's organising of the Thai community into a sub-branch of the Labour party had led to favours being offered in return for government deeds.

Field, of course, denies any wrongdoing and points out Labour's guilt in the whole thing.

But nonetheless, the story totally occupied the media's attention, and parliaments. The Mary Anne Thompson immigration scandal likewise dominated coverage.

So here we have a new contender on the scandal front. Leaked documents from within Department of Internal Affairs are provided to *TGIF Edition*. Now, for a start that already puts us ahead of the average media scandal – most of them never have leaked documents. Most of them rely on silhouettes

of whistleblowers, but nonetheless the allegations are taken seriously.

In our case we have documents, AND we have whistleblowers.

We have sources inside DIA who claim migrants who donate to Labour appear to be getting fast-track and special treatment. Our sources are hoping this story will provoke a Serious Fraud Office investigation, not just an internal inquiry.

Our sources told us of donations being made at the Jade Terrace restaurant. We rang Labour's Mike Williams who admitted, yes, Labour has held Chinese fundraising events at the Jade Terrace restaurant. But, he warns, we don't know who the individual donors might be because we just put all the money into the kitty as an aggregate donation.

Seems like a great way to launder donations anonymously, or at least while appearing anonymous. No paper trail to prove how much you personally have given, or even whether you have given at all.

According to one Labour source, the Chinese fundraising nights have been known to raise up to \$200,000 for political parties – just in one night. So if you turn up with \$20,000 cash in your pocket and drop it in the bucket, who's going to know?

Talk about a fantastic way to get around the Electoral Finance Act's requirement for donations to be declared – call it a fundraiser and have a whip-around!

I say “appearing” anonymous, because in truth Labour knows who was invited to the fundraisers, so it knows the people are probably supporters. That's all the party needs to know, and all the knowledge necessary for a perception of a conflict of interest to arise.

Only a formal inquiry can find out whether the Liu case involved a donation or not (and probably only from interviewing DIA staff about Liu's conversations with them). Only a formal inquiry can determine whether this case was a one-off, or whether in fact it is the tip of an iceberg, as DIA staff have told *TGIF* – that there are other similar cases involving ministerial approval in strange circumstances.

Let's see whether our colleagues in the wider media give this case the attention it deserves, or whether they'll let it slip.

The Taito case did not expose the system the way this story has. That's the real news here.

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Comment

Iran envisions ‘a world without America’

By Clifford D. May and James Jay Carafano

The Heritage Foundation

Which world leader is on record musing about “a world without America” – a goal he calls “attainable”? Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Until recently, it was possible to believe that whatever Ahmadinejad's intentions, Iran was a long way from acquiring the capabilities it needs to achieve its goals. But a blue-ribbon commission has reported to Congress on what appears to be an Iranian drive to obtain the means to carry out an EMP (electro-magnetic pulse) attack.

An EMP attack is produced by launching a ballistic missile with a nuclear weapon attached – and detonating it high above the earth. This produces a massive pulse of ionized particles that could damage or even wipe out many electrical and information systems. Such an attack would disrupt telecommunications, banking and finance, fuel and energy, food and water supplies, emergency and government services and much more, threatening millions of lives.

We've seen a blacked-out South Texas in the wake of Hurricane Ike. We've seen New Orleans after Katrina. Now imagine that scenario over most of the continental United States. There would be a “world without America” – at least as we know it.

No one disputes that Iran is developing a robust long-range missile force. Few question that Ahmadinejad's regime is working on nuclear weapons development. Less well known is that Iran has conducted missile tests from sea-based platforms, detonating warheads at the high-point of the missile trajectory, rather at the aim point over the target. These facts have now been documented in official government reports.

Connect the dots, and you find the picture of a workable research program for developing a covert means to deliver an EMP attack against the United States.

A short-range ballistic missile could be carried on one of the thousands of commercial freighters sailing under “flags of convenience” that sail around U.S. waters every day. Without ever piquing the interest of the Navy, the Coast Guard, or the Customs and Border Protection, that ship could sail within range and deliver its payload over American territory. Even a modest warhead placed at the right spot over the East Coast could take down 75 percent of the electrical grid.

The genius of such a covert attack is that it doesn't come with an obvious “return address.” The ship might be registered in Liberia. The crew

might be Lebanese. The ship might disappear into the night – or be scuttled quietly.

Another advantage for a would-be attacker is the bang that can be achieved for the buck. An EMP attack would allow an enemy to wreak an enormous amount of destruction for a modest investment. It would mean no electricity, no food on the shelves, no phone, no fuel deliveries. Life would look more like the barter system of the 19th century, not to mention the millions that would die from traffic accidents, fires, failed hospital equipment, disease and the other chaos that would result from such an attack.

A lot can be done to deal with this terrible threat. For starters, we need to build comprehensive missile defences that can shoot missiles down fired anywhere shortly after they lift off. We also need to develop national plans to mitigate vulnerabilities to an EMP attack and recover quickly from a strike if one does occur.

America, however, also needs to dust-off its nuclear deterrent. Of all the nations that could pull off an EMP attack or hand that capacity to a transnational terrorist group, Iran is the only country that has directly threatened to destroy the United States. While much America's infrastructure is vulnerable to EMP, the nuclear strike force is not. We need to

inform Iran that if an EMP attack were unleashed on America, Iran could well be held responsible and suffer massive nuclear retaliation.

Perhaps deterrence won't work. Middle East scholar Bernard Lewis argues that to a devout believer in Ayatollah Khomeini's apocalyptic ideology, mutually assured destruction may be “more an inducement than a deterrent.” Still, it's worth making it clear that a steep price will be paid for such an attack.

In the end, President Reagan was right: Massive retaliation is not a morally supportable option when there are real alternatives. Comprehensive missile defences, vigorous counter-proliferation programs, and making U.S. infrastructure more resilient are really the best ways to protect and defend the nation. The next president needs to make these a priority.

Indeed, demonstrating that America takes the threat seriously is perhaps the best message we could send to Ahmadinejad and those he represents.

Clifford D. May is president of the Foundation for the Defence of Democracies. James Jay Carafano, a senior research fellow for national security at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org), is the author of the books *G.I. Ingenuity* and *Private Sector, Public Wars*.

RELATED STORY: You read it first in [April 2007's Investigate magazine here](#)

STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS



In response to questions from media around the circumstances in which Mr Yang Liu was granted residency and citizenship, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon Rick Barker, has issued the following statement.

“For obvious reasons, Ministers and officials do not make public comments about the circumstances or substance of any individual's application for residency or citizenship.”

“There is an ongoing investigation into the possibility of immigration fraud in this case. That may result in a prosecution and/or a revocation of residency status. Where a case for revocation is established, this may provide a basis to deprive a person of their citizenship.”

“In order to not jeopardise this ongoing process, there will be no further comment from Ministers. In relation to Mr Liu, I am advised the process was as follows:

1. Mr Liu applied for permanent residency in January 2002.
2. Mr Liu was granted permanent residency in June 2002. As is usual in relation to residency applications, the decision to grant residency was made by an Immigration Officer.
3. Mr Liu applied in May 2005 for New Zealand citizenship.
4. On 14 July 2008, Minister Jones, as the delegated Minister, received a submission from Department of Internal Affairs officials concerning Mr Liu's application for the grant of citizenship.
5. On 6 August 2008 Minister Jones approved the grant of citizenship to Mr Liu.
6. On 11 August, Mr Liu swore the oath of allegiance to New Zealand and was issued a Certificate of Citizenship.”

The privilege of permanent residency is granted under the Immigration Act 1987. The privilege of citizenship is granted under the Citizenship Act 1977. In relation to processes under both Acts, the decision maker must assess the available information, and weigh the reliability of the information. Where there is disputed information (a not uncommon situation), the decision maker must still form a view about the credibility of the information and make a decision.

If subsequently there is fresh information that suggests residency or citizenship decisions should be revisited, both Acts provide processes under which that can occur. All citizenship decisions are made by the Minister of Internal Affairs, except where there may be an actual or perceived conflict of interest. In that circumstance, a decision on a citizenship application is made by another Minister acting under delegated authority. A general delegation to the Hon Shane Jones was in place.



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Outside View: NATO and the Taliban

By Professor M D Nalapat

MANIPAL, INDIA – There are indeed parallels between the insurgents in Iraq and the Taliban. Both have brown complexions and prefer to avoid a shave. Both get excitable when challenged and regard the United States and its military allies as the enemy. But that is where the similarities stop.

The Iraqi insurgents are overwhelmingly nationalist, usually moderate in their religious views and have taken to arms to end what they view as a humiliating occupation of their country. In contrast, the Taliban are Wahhabi extremists who enforce a lifestyle that has nothing in common with the evolving needs of the past 1,000 years. While the Iraqi insurgents are more than 90 percent Sunni Muslims, the Taliban are nearly all Pashtuns, although they have abandoned the moderate ethos and customs of this admirable race in favor of an ultra-Wahhabist lifestyle that places a premium on personal cruelty.

Once Gen. David Petraeus, as U.S. commanding general in Iraq, no longer tried to occupy territory and began a process of handing responsibility to local forces, the anger at the occupation began to dissipate, and so did the ferocity of the attacks on the United States and its allies.

As yet, despite the radicalization caused by the past five years, the insurgents in Iraq are not inclined to impose a Taliban-like state there. Should U.S. troops withdraw completely within an 18-month time frame, Sunni Iraq can yet be prevented from going the way of Afghanistan and becoming extremist. Just as the Vietnamese ceased to be a

threat to the United States once they got control of their country, so will the Iraqi insurgents once U.S. and allied troops leave Iraqi territory.

In Afghanistan, the chemistry of the Taliban is hardly nationalist. It is virulently extremist. Once the movement regains its breath, it can be expected to stealthily spread to more and more villages until once again the bulk of the Afghan people come under its control.

During the jihad against the Soviet Union in the 1980s the Taliban – and its predecessors – enjoyed plentiful support from the United States, as well as massive financial help from Saudi Arabia. Today, all that remains of the balmy past is the safe area set up for the militia by their friends in the Pakistani army. And instead of helping them with arms and cash, the United States is now making their lives miserable with bombings and raids.

The Taliban need at least a year to recoup and replenish, and the only way they can get this respite would be to tempt NATO into a cease-fire that would ensure them safe haven, as well as protect their ability to spread. No wonder they are desperately seeking such an arrangement and once again have sent siren calls to old friends in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to rescue them from NATO.

Sadly, even though they ought to have known better, the Saudis have been convinced by Pakistani army chief Ashfaq Kayani that a grand reconciliation with the Taliban is possible. Given the character of the beast, it is unlikely to be domesticated. It will be only a year before fighting breaks out again, with the Taliban in a much stronger position.

Amazingly, some analysts are now talking of a

break between al-Qaida and the Taliban, when in fact the militia functions as foot soldiers for the followers of Ayman al-Zawahiri. Imagining a separation between them poses the risk, once again, of treating the symptoms of terrorism while leaving intact the roots.

The core of the problem lies in a sliver of land on the Afghan-Pakistani border, and only control over this territory can stanch the supply of jihadis in the Afghan theatre. There is no escape from a military solution, just as there was no other way to deal with previous historical pestilences such as the Nazis. As India's experience has shown, terrorism subsides only after the defeat of its proponents in the field, and never before that point. At present NATO is in retreat in Afghanistan, losing control of village after village to the Taliban, its commanders reduced to panic.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai would be an excellent Hollywood star, but as an administrator he has been a failure. He is loathed by his own people. Instead of calling off the offensive against the Taliban, NATO should go around the hapless Karzai and link up with tribal and other chiefs across the Pashtun heartland – in both Afghanistan and Pakistan – and secure their help against the Taliban militia, which the traditional chiefs fear.

As in 2001, a strategy combining softening-up air raids and ordnance barrages with quick movements by teams of Afghan army regulars and tribal militias could eliminate the Taliban from the villages they now control. More attacks are needed on this group that remains ideologically committed to Osama bin Laden's vision for humanity. It has

clearly shown this in its treatment of the populations it controls in present-day Afghanistan.

If Petraeus, who takes over as commander of the U.S. Central Command this month, gives the Taliban the breathing space it so desperately needs, he will be ensuring its return to power in Kabul within a few years. Equally to the point, if Saudi Arabia restarts its generous financial aid to the Taliban, it will be a lethal blow to the United States and its allies. Both financial starvation of the Taliban and military pressure need to continue.

Short cuts often prolong wars. There is no short-cut solution to the mess that has been created by the Pakistani army in its own back yard. Rather than returning to the 1990s policy of cozying up to the Taliban, the United States and NATO must intensify the search for the militia, deny them safe haven and arm those willing to battle them, no matter what brand of cologne they use.

NATO must also give the Pakistani army an ultimatum – either it takes out the Taliban within its territory or NATO will.

In Iraq, the insurgency is showing signs of subsiding, but this is because of the new policy of leaving almost all operations to local troops. The insurgents there are not religious fanatics; they are nationalists. Afghanistan presents an entirely different situation. In this theatre, NATO needs to finish a job that ought never to have been derailed by the occupation of Iraq. It needs to decapitate the Taliban.

Professor M.D. Nalapat is vice chair of the Manipal Advanced Research Group, UNESCO peace chair and professor of geopolitics at Manipal University

— UPI

Walker's World: What comes next?

By Martin Walker

CHICAGO – To understand where we are in the financial crisis, think of it this way: The ship has stopped sinking and its big leak is sealed, but the vessel is still a long way from port, the storm continues to rage, and up on the bridge the officers are squabbling about who is the captain.

Much can still go wrong. A global slowdown has certainly begun, and the odds are that it may become a global recession. Unemployment, bankruptcies and credit-card debt are rising ominously around the world, not least in China. New car sales are down in the United States and Britain by an unbelievable 30 percent. Big investment projects are being cancelled, such as Michelin's new \$700 million plant in Mexico. Inflation is coming down fast, but remains too high for comfort, particularly in Britain, Russia and India.

And for the next 100 days, nobody will be in charge. The White House appears to be vacant until a new president is installed in January. When George W. Bush talks, nobody listens; he has become, in George Orwell's memorable dismissal of 1930s prime minister Stanley Baldwin, not even a stuffed shirt – just a hole in the air.

As far as Wall Street and world markets are concerned, only Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson and Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke speak for the United States. And their words are enfeebled by their policy flailing over the past three months – above all for Paulson's disastrous decision to let Lehman Brothers sink into bankruptcy.

This was the nearest we have come to a Creditanstalt moment, named after the Austrian bank that failed on May 11, 1931, the event that most European historians see as the event that forced Britain off the gold standard and launched the Great Depression.

Lehman's bankruptcy meant that the Reserve Primary Fund broke the buck in its money-market fund, since its Lehman assets suddenly became worthless. Reserve Primary, America's oldest money fund, only held \$785 million of Lehman securities in its \$65 billion of assets, but that was enough to

make each dollar invested worth only 97 cents. And with that, hundreds of billions were pulled out of the money markets, and inter-bank lending froze for fear of further bankruptcies.

The Group of Seven statement of the weekend and the massed bailout of the British, European and American banks mean there probably will be no such Creditanstalt moment again. And that in turn means that we have a longer breathing space for the real recovery to begin, which requires banks to start acting like banks and lending again.

This will not happen overnight. The banks are still frightened, and so are the stock markets, which is why the Dow fell by almost a full percentage point Tuesday. They are right to be nervous. There are still a lot of crocodiles in the swamp, starting with the unresolved Credit Default Swaps. And the housing slump will not be over until the backlog of unsold houses comes down to six months or less. But by then, a lot of small businesses could be facing bankruptcy, unless the banks can help tide them over the gap between paying their payrolls each month and

the 60 days or more the companies have to wait to get paid by their big customers.

Globally, there are mounting risks of sovereign defaults, in which countries might not be able to honour their debts. The current spreads they have to pay on their bonds suggest that Pakistan and Argentina are in real trouble, with Ukraine close behind. The political implications of a default by Pakistan, a nuclear power with a Taliban problem, need little elaboration.

World trade is unlikely to provide much relief. A year ago it cost US\$2,700 to ship a 40-foot container from Hong Kong to Rotterdam. Today it costs \$900, which is to say that the shipping industry is in real trouble – just as an unprecedented tonnage of new shipping is being built.

The slowdown is happening. Spending on advertising in Britain first turned down in August, fell 17 percent in September, and now in October the industry is looking at the lowest rates for TV ads in 15 years. Nissan has slashed its Spanish workforce by a quarter after what it called a dramatic decline in sales. In

Holland, the consumer lifestyle division of Philips saw sales drop 8 percent with declining sales in India and China, which had been the group's bright spot.

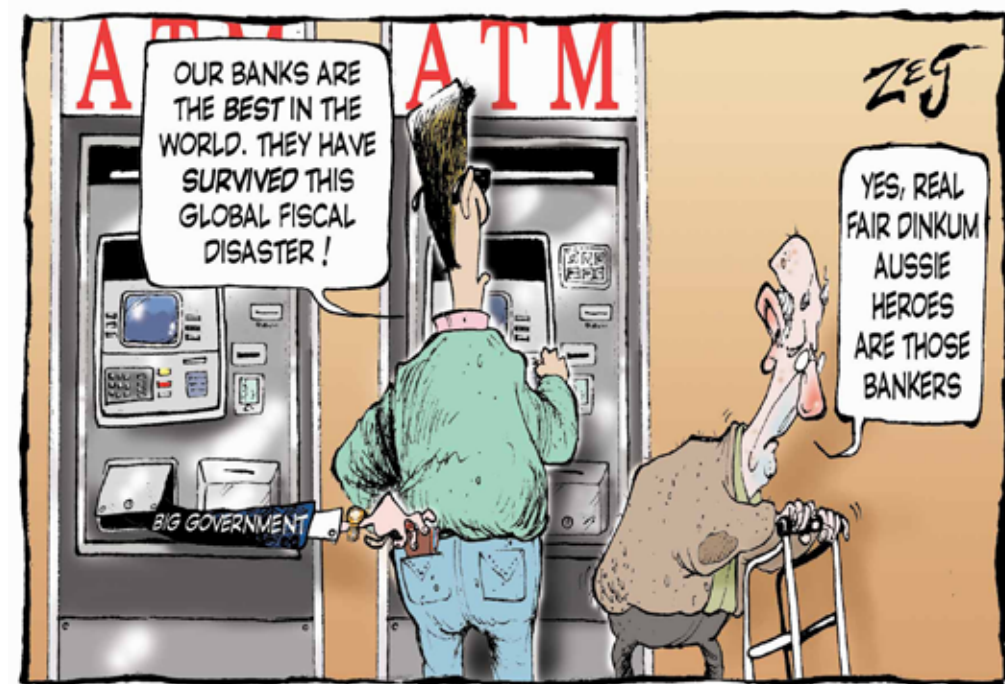
And yet the medium-term outlook remains very promising, with the likelihood of recovery by the end of 2010. All of the main drivers look positive. Start with demographics. The real problem of mass aging does not hit Europe and North America until 2012, and China's labour force does not start to shrink until 2018.

All over the world, the people now entering the workforce are better educated and more adapted to technology than their predecessors. Almost 60 percent of human beings have a cell phone; we are connected, we are consumers, and the new middle class of China and India and the Middle East may be under pressure, but they and their ambitions are not going away.

Although the oil price has dipped below \$80 a barrel, let us hope it does not drop too much further, because we do not want to ruin those new investments in alternative energy systems that are likely to be a great driver of growth for the coming decades. Thin-film photovoltaics and new high-efficiency windmills, plug-in cars and smart grids and smart appliances are going to shift us from a carbon-heavy toward a carbon-light economy. Smart irrigation and seed technologies will change agriculture, and more education in nutrition should ensure we change it for the better.

The future is still glittering, provided we get through this rough patch. And that really means one thing: that the governments and taxpayers who now call the shots at the banks make sure they start lending again. But governments and bureaucrats have not often been good at picking winners to invest in; historically they have tended to lend to those who employ the most voters rather than to those who will make best use of the money.

That is the really worrying part of the coming boom in alternative energy. Do you want entrepreneurs and competition and the creative destruction of capitalism deciding which new post-Kyoto technologies are going to prosper? Or do you prefer banker-bureaucrats putting the money where government ministers tell them?



Obama lied in debate

By Ian Wishart

The man likely to be America's next president has lied about his connections to an organisation accused of vote-rigging, during yesterday's televised presidential debate.

Democrat nominee Barack Obama was questioned about his links to ACORN, a community-based organization whose voter drive has registered some 1.3 million voters, mostly Democrats.

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, known as ACORN, aims to register to vote lower income blacks and Latinos, but officials in ten of the swinging states in this election have commenced fraud investigations into ACORN's practices.

The group, based in Las Vegas, has been accused by Nevada officials of using fake and duplicate names, including the names of Dallas Cowboy players, in a fraudulent voter registration.

Investigators have alleged that ACORN hired 59 inmates on work release as canvassers. One inmate who had worked as a team leader told investigators that "some of the canvassers hired by ACORN were lazy crackheads."

Since June, local election officials in at least nine other states have reported problems with thousands of registrations submitted by ACORN.

Sally LaSota, the director of the Lake County elections board in Indiana, said information on some of the registration cards submitted to her office appeared to have been copied from the telephone book.

"We don't know if any of these people are legitimate," LaSota said of the ACORN-generated voter registrations.

Democratic party presidential hopeful Barack Obama yesterday tried to distance himself from the growing controversy:

"Now, with respect to ACORN, ACORN is a community organization. Apparently what they've done is they were paying people to go out and register folks, and apparently some of the people who were out there didn't really register people, they just filled out a bunch of names.

"It had nothing to do with us. We were not involved. The only involvement I've had with ACORN was I represented them alongside the U.S. Justice Department in making Illinois implement a motor voter law that helped people get registered at DMVs (department of motor vehicles)."

But information uncovered by one Ohio newspaper suggests America's next president was lying when he said, "the only involvement I've had with ACORN" was the court case.

The Cleveland Leader reports Obama's links to ACORN

go far deeper than the senator has revealed.

"Most media background pieces simply note Obama's involvement in a 1995 lawsuit on behalf of ACORN. Obama's own website, as well as most major media, fail to reveal the full depth and extent of his relationship with the organization.

"Attempts to hide evidence of Obama's involvement with ACORN have included wiping the web clean of potentially damaging articles that had appeared, and were previously publicly accessible. Unfortunately, those behind the attempted cover-up failed to realize that in today's day and age, nothing disappears forever."

Using the Web Archive database, the Cleveland Leader retrieved stories directly contradicting what Obama said in the debate, and on his campaign website.

"Obama's campaign website states: 'Fact: Barack was never an ACORN trainer and never worked for ACORN in any other capacity.'"

But in 2004, the journal Social Policy published an article by Chicago ACORN leader Toni Foulkes, who wrote:

"Obama took the case, known as ACORN vs. Edgar (the name of the Republican governor at the time) and we won. Obama then went on to run a voter registration project with Project VOTE in 1992 that made it possible for Carol Moseley Braun (a former US ambassador to New Zealand in the 1990s) to win the Senate that year.

"Project VOTE delivered 50,000 newly registered voters in that campaign (ACORN delivered about 5,000 of them). Since then, we have invited Obama to our leadership training sessions to run then session on power every year, and, as a result, many of our newly developing leaders got to know him before he ever ran for office. Thus it was natural for many of us to be active volunteers in his first campaign for State Senate and then his failed bid for U.S. Congress in 1996. By the time he ran for U.S. Senate, we were old friends."

The article, which has been pulled from Social Policy's website recently as part of the cleanup, makes clear that not only did Obama take the legal case, he then ran training sessions for ACORN leadership between 1992 and 2004.

"As recently as March 2008," reported the Cleveland Leader, "the Los Angeles Times also made reference to Barack Obama's involvement with ACORN: 'At the time, Talbot worked at the social action group ACORN and initially considered Obama a competitor. But she became so impressed with his work that she invited him to help train her staff.'" (LA Times, March 2, 2008)"



Barack Obama may be the star of pop culture, but the possible future president lied about his connections to an organisation accused of vote-rigging. Mehdi Taamallah/Abaca Press/MCT

Additionally, Obama's role in helping organise the 'Project VOTE' voter registration campaign in 1992, in association with ACORN, puts Obama's denials of any links to ACORN's voter registration practices, ever, in serious doubt.

Meanwhile, Ohio's largest newspaper, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, has also **waded into the ACORN investigation**, revealing that ACORN staff "pestered" street youths to register "multiple times" using different names.

One witness told local electoral commission officials he was sometimes offered cigarettes and

money by ACORN staff as a bribe to get him to register again.

"They would come up with a sob story when they needed a sob story," said Freddie Johnson.

The newspaper says another witness interviewed by local police told of ACORN workers approaching him while he was reading, who wouldn't take no for an answer even when he told them he'd already been signed up.

"They'd just keep saying I could help them hold onto a job," said Christopher Barkley.

— Additional reporting: UPI

Jailbirds enrolled to vote in Florida

By Sally Kestin

Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. — More than 30,000 Florida felons who by law should have been stripped of their right to vote remain registered to cast ballots in this presidential battleground state, a *Sun Sentinel* investigation has found.

Many are faithful voters, with at least 4,900 turning out in past elections. Another 5,600 are not likely to vote Nov. 4 — they're still in prison.

Of the felons who registered with a party, Democrats outnumber Republicans more than 2-to-1.

Florida's elections chief, Secretary of State Kurt Browning, acknowledged his staff has failed to remove thousands of ineligible felons because of a shortage of workers and a crush of new registrations in this critical swing state.

Browning said he was not surprised by the newspaper's findings. "I'm kind of shocked that the number is as low as it is," he said.

Asked how many ineligible felons may be on Florida's rolls, Browning said, "We don't know."

The Division of Elections has a backlog of more than 108,000 possible felons who have registered to



vote since January 2006 that it hasn't had the time or staff to verify. Browning estimated that about 10 percent, once checked, would be ineligible.

"This is part of a big mess," said Jeff Manza, professor of sociology at New York University and

author of a book on felon voting. "It's almost certain there will be challenges if the election is close enough that things hinge on this. Both parties are armed to the teeth with legal talent in all the battleground states."

The felons the *Sun Sentinel* identified never received clemency, but their names remain on Florida's voter rolls

Florida's felon ban originated before the Civil War, and today the state remains one of 10 that restrict some felons from voting even after they've served their time. The law requires state and county elections officials to remove felons from voter rolls after conviction and add them only when they've won clemency to restore their voting rights.

In 2007, the state eased the restrictions by granting automatic clemency to most nonviolent offenders who have completed their sentences. Others, including people convicted of federal offenses, multiple felonies or crimes such as drug trafficking, murder and sex charges, must still apply for clemency and have their cases reviewed.

The felons the *Sun Sentinel* identified never received clemency, but their names remain on Florida's voter rolls. Some are well-known: ex-Broward Sheriff Ken Jenne and ex-Palm Beach County Commissioner Tony Masilotti, for instance, both convicted last year of public corruption.

Browning said the state painstakingly checks all voters before removing them to avoid inadvertently taking off eligible voters as happened in two previous large-scale purge attempts.

"The policy of this department, this state, is that we will err on the side of the voter," he said.

Obama, McCain, share a laugh

WASHINGTON – The US presidential candidates put aside the serious business of courting voters this afternoon to match wits before a well-heeled crowd that expected to be entertained, not wooed.

Dressed in a white tie and black dinner jacket, Republican John McCain, 72, insisted he had dismissed his entire team of senior advisors and replaced them with “a man named Joe the Plumber” – a reference to an Ohio man who has become Everyman in the bitter race for the White House.

Democrat Barack Obama, 47, also in white tie, joked about his partial Kenyan ancestry and his middle name Hussein that has provoked centre-right Republican suspicions that he could be foreign or even Muslim.

“Many know I got my name from my father, Barack, which is actually Swahili for ‘that one,’” Barack said, jabbing at McCain’s dismissive reference to him during one debate. “I got my middle name from somebody who obviously didn’t think I’d ever run for president.”

The audience roared with delight at the unaccustomed light-heartedness and charm of the two senators, after many had just the night before watched them parry sharp verbal swords during the final debate before the November 4 elections.

The occasion was the annual fund-raising dinner to commemorate Alfred E Smith, the 1928 Democratic nominee who was the first Catholic to run for US president from a major political party.

Cardinal Edward Egan, head of the archdiocese of New York, was the referee, sitting between the political rivals at the head table, according to broadcast footage from the event.

Grist for the senators’ humour mill came from iconic campaign images – like Joe Wurzelbacher, an employee of a plumbing company outside Toledo, Ohio, who was outside on his street recently when Obama strolled through his neighbourhood.

The man rocketed to fame after video clips showed the so-called plumber – it turns out he doesn’t have a licence, the New York Times reported – complaining to Obama that the Democrat’s plans to raise taxes on personal incomes above 200,000 dollars would interfere with his own plans to buy a



(L-R) U.S. presidential candidate Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), Archbishop of New York Edward Cardinal Egan, and U.S. presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) appear at the 63rd Annual Alfred E. Smith Foundation Dinner in New York City / UPI Photo/Andrew Theodorakis/Pool)

plumbing company that makes 250,000 to 280,000 dollars a year.

McCain, jumping on the theme to portray Obama as a big taxpayer and spender, invoked Joe the Plumber repeatedly during Thursday’s debate.

But after US media camped out at the plumber’s house and started investigating, they found that Wurzelbacher earns so little that he would actually benefit from Obama’s promised middle-class tax cuts.

Never mind the discrepancy, McCain joked. “Joe the Plumber recently signed a very lucrative contract with a wealthy couple to handle all the work on all seven of their houses.”

McCain was referring to the hubbub over his inability to remember how many homes he and his wealthy beer-distributorship-heiress wife Cindy McCain owned.

Obama made fun of the pretentious stage decorations at his own acceptance speech in August, which filled a huge Denver, Colorado, sport stadium with his supporters – an unusual, and critics said overly ambitious, event for the relative newcomer on the national political scene.

“I was originally told that we would be able to move this outdoors to Yankee Stadium,” Obama said of the white-tie affair. “Can someone tell me what happened to the Greek columns I requested?”

Obama, who could become the first black US president, confessed that he actually had not been born in a manger, but rather on Superman’s planet, Krypton, “and sent here by my father – to save the planet earth.”

The centre-left Democrat, who has pulled ahead in the polls as the economic crisis has worsened, said it felt like an “odd time” to be dressed up in a white tie, then forged ahead with a claim that one of McCain’s advisors had conceded that “if we keep talking about the economy, McCain’s gonna lose.”

“So I’m gonna keep talking about the economy,” he jibed, drawing another wave of laughter.

– DPA



Civilian casualties have become a sensitive issue between the Afghan government and foreign militaries in Afghanistan, which were deployed there after the ouster of the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban regime by a US-led invasion in late 2001

NATO airstrikes hit kids

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN – Afghan villagers brought the bodies of 17 civilians, most of them children, to a provincial governor’s office in southern Afghanistan and blamed NATO airstrikes for the deaths, officials said Friday.

Afghan officials confirmed that Afghan army and NATO aircraft engaged a group of Taliban militants Thursday in the Nad Ali district of Helmand province, resulting in the deaths of several Taliban militants.

The same day, villagers in the district’s Loy Bagh

area, brought the bodies of 17 civilians, including 13 children, and placed them before the governor’s office, said Daoud Ahmadi, spokesman for the provincial governor.

“It is not yet confirmed if the civilians were killed in aerial bombardments or Taliban’s rocket attacks or some other kinds of blasts,” Ahmadi said, adding that the government was investigating the incident.

Haji Abdul Manan, a local elder from the Nad Ali district, said by

phone that at least 27 people were killed in the airstrike and the rest of the bodies were still under rubble.

Assadullah Shirzad, a provincial spokesman, said Thursday’s operation resulted in some civilian casualties and the deaths of several Taliban.

“We know that there were some civilian casualties, but at the moment, we can’t confirm the number,” he said.

The NATO-led International Security Assistance

Force (ISAF) said it was aware of an incident involving its aircraft in the district but could not confirm any civilian killings.

“This incident is being investigated, and at this time, we are unable to confirm any civilian casualties,” the ISAF said in a statement.

Civilian casualties have become a sensitive issue between the Afghan government and foreign militaries in Afghanistan, which were deployed there after the ouster of the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban regime by a US-led invasion in late 2001.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai ordered a review of foreign military operations after an airstrike in the Shindand district of the western province of Herat on August 22, which killed more than 90 civilians, mostly children.

Afghanistan’s defence minister, General Abdul Rahim Wardak, said at a news conference last week that NATO officials agreed at a meeting in Budapest earlier this month that the alliance would be modest in using its air power to avoid civilian deaths during anti-insurgent operations.

Back to Helmand, there have been several clashes between Afghan and Taliban insurgents in the province this week. Afghan officials claimed to have killed more than 200 militants in the past week.

Most of the militants, who had massed around the provincial capital to attack the city, were killed in NATO airstrikes.

Provincial officials said they believe hundreds of foreign fighters have poured into the province recently to back indigenous militants in their insurgency.

More than 4,000 people – mostly insurgents, but including at least 1,500 civilians – have been killed in the Afghan conflict so far this year, according to figures provided by military sources.

– DPA

Ireland's miracle ends

DUBLIN – The choked voices on the airwaves telling tales of job losses, repossessions, debt and downright misery signal the seismic shift in Ireland's economy that has caught thousands unaware.

One such voice is that of Kathleen, a mother of four, who sobs as she describes how she was given a sub-prime mortgage to redecorate the family home she inherited.

With arrears of 7,000 euros (NZ\$15,500), she is now in danger of losing that home as interest rate increases meant that her repayments jumped from 1,600 to 2,300 euros a month.

"I just couldn't afford it any more," she said.

With her husband's income dwindling as he was dependent on the ailing construction sector and the mortgage company threatening "to go legal" she could see no way out and was feeling suicidal.

The couple's combined earnings of 3,000 euros a month meant that she should only have been allowed about 90,000 euros in a mortgage instead of the 260,000 which a sub-prime lender, owned by failed US investment bank, Lehman, loaned the family.

"I can see no way out. I just want to get back to the way I was. I just want to be happy for my children," said the woman, who would only use her first name when she spoke to Irish national broadcaster RTE last week.

Such stories are a far cry from the heady swagger of the days of the Celtic Tiger boom, and Ireland is shocked at the speed of the crash.

"People are dropping like flies from the construction and engineering sector," says Fergus Mc Gabhann, an engineer in his 40s who has just received notice that he is losing his job in one month's time.

"It's all changed," says Mc Gabhann, who has also lost money in a government-promoted savings scheme, the value of which has plummeted.

"This means that the reserves I had are depleted and I don't have time to sit and wait it out. I can't really afford to stay here now," he told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa.

His daily commute to Ringaskiddy, which is home



to the pharmaceutical industry near Cork in south-west Ireland, has changed beyond recognition.

"The traffic jams are all gone," he says. "The car parks are empty. We have had troughs before, but you would find small jobs to keep you going. This time all the big projects have been cancelled and small jobs have all dried up too."

He feels as if he is left with no choice but to leave.

"I have done it before, but this is the first time I have to do it

with small children and I am not looking forward to it."

The combined effects of the global credit crisis and the construction slump have meant that unemployment in Ireland has increased by 49 per cent in the last year and is expected to hit 7.3 per cent next year.

According to the September figures from the Central Statistics Office, the numbers receiving unemployment benefit have risen to 244,500, a massive 48-per-cent rise on September 2007 and the highest in 11 years.

Those who are in employment feel they can do little to secure themselves against what may be worse times to come.

Jackie Gowran, who is self-employed, had hoped to downsize from a four-bedroomed house to a three-bedroomed one, but the housing market downturn has meant that her house has remained unsold after a year.

"The credit crunch does restrict your options. It wasn't crucial for me to sell, but the reality is I wanted to downsize and I haven't been able to. In terms of being self-employed, it would make you sit up and take notice. I have enough work lined up for the next six months, but after that it might be different."

— DPA

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Britain tries to outdo NZ on climate change

LONDON – Britain will sign up to a legally-binding pledge to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050, compared with 1990 levels, raising the target from an earlier 60 per cent, Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband announced Thursday.

He said the move would make Britain the first country in the world to commit to such far-reaching cuts in the production of carbon dioxide and other gases blamed for global warming.

Miliband said the government was following recommendations from a government-appointed climate change committee which last week suggested that Britain should raise its target from 60 to 80 per cent.

The commission said the target needed to be tightened because new information suggested climate change was happening more quickly and the dangers were greater than previously thought.

— DPA



Titanic survivor destitute

LONDON – The last remaining survivor of the Titanic in Britain has said she is forced to sell mementoes from the ill-fated cruise liner to pay for her nursing home fees, reports said today.

Millvina Dean, 96, is hoping to raise more than 3,000 pounds (\$8,500) from selling a suitcase full of clothes given to her family by the people of New York when they arrived in America after their rescue.

Dean is also putting up for auction rare prints of the Titanic which have been signed by the artists along with compensation letters sent to her mother by the Titanic Relief Fund.

Dean was a two-month-old baby when the ship sank after hitting an iceberg in 1912.

She moved into a private nursing home in Ashurst, in the southern English county of Hampshire, two years ago after breaking her hip, which meant she could no longer live in her own home.

"I am selling it all now because I have to pay these nursing home fees and am selling anything that I think might fetch some money," she told the Southern Daily Echo newspaper. The items will be auctioned on Saturday.

— DPA

Last chance for netball glory

By Cathy Walshe of NZPA

PALMERSTON NORTH, OCT 17 – Rival netball coaches Sue Hawkins and Ruth Aitken continue their quest to second guess each other one last time as England and New Zealand meet in Saturday's three-test series decider here.

In Auckland last Monday, the Aitken-coached Silver Ferns demolished a hapless England 65-26, dominating an England team which lacked structure, cohesion and motivation.

Australian-born Hawkins' description of it as a "smacking" was cruelly accurate.

But the measure of both Hawkins as a coach, and her players' resilience, came through in Dunedin on Wednesday when the English rebounded with grit and style to upset a suddenly rudderless New Zealand 40-38.

In Palmerston North today, both coaches were relishing the chance to do battle again in a series which has delivered some class netball from both teams, although never in the same game.

Aitken said New Zealand's focus in the few days since the Dunedin loss had been simple.

"We've been making sure we get over the disappointment and look ahead to what we're going to do instead of looking back on what we didn't do.

"Each and every player was disappointed, the coaching staff were as well, but now it's about making sure we're clear on the game plan and making sure we execute it well."

Aitken wouldn't be drawn on her potential line-up for Saturday night, but it seems likely Laura Langman will be back at wing attack from the first whistle.

Irene van Dyk, played at goal attack regularly in recent tests, could well return to goal shoot while Maria Tutaia would be a good chance to start at goal attack.

Whoever starts, Aitken said the game plan was clear.

"We've got to put more pressure on right through the court. (In Dunedin) England used a lot of short passes and cuts to get the ball to the circle edge – they played very intelligently.

"We hung off them and gave them a bit too much room. Our wing attack and goal attack need to put that pressure on right from the start"

Aitken said it was crucial to make sure the Silver Ferns game was well-paced and maintained structure.

"I think we've got to make sure our court is really

well balanced because we got all jammed together like bees around a honey pot on Wednesday."

She said although the team had talked about the dangers of complacency after last Monday's huge win, "I suppose talking about it and actually taking it into the game are two different things".

"There've been a lot of emotional highs and lows in the last week for both teams, so the resilience factor will come into it – fitness and mental fortitude will really come to the fore."

England may have caught New Zealand off-guard in their second test ambush, but as Hawkins said: "That's not our fault."

So has England lost any chance at a series win now the surprise factor has disappeared?

"No, because we've got a few more tactics we've thought about collectively as a group and we're ready to jump again," Hawkins said.

"I'm really impressed with the ticker of these girls, I'm inspired."

Hawkins is relishing the thrust and counter-thrust of tactics between teams in the three-test series.

"Netball's not a hard game – we need to go out and play smarter than they'll come out.

"Ruth's a tactician and so is Wai (Taumaunu, Silver Ferns' assistant coach) – they'll be dissecting what we did to counteract what they did and we now need to do that.

"It's a cat and mouse game, it really is. That's the nature of coaching – you try to work out what they did to you, then you try to work out what they're anticipating to do."

Hawkins was reluctant to try and anticipate the Silver Ferns line-up for tomorrow.

"I honestly believe they'll look at the reshuffling of their positioning but that's not our worry, our worry is about what we're doing. It doesn't matter what team they put out – we're going to counteract them and go for it."

The former Auckland Diamonds coach backs her players to the hilt, and – unusually for netball – stuck with the same seven for the entire Dunedin match.

Chances are, with the Geva Mentor-Sonia Mkoloma-Ama Agbeze defensive mix in destructive form, and midcourters Jade Clarke and Karen Atkinson delivering quality ball for shooters Louisa Brownfield and Pam Cookey to sink, Hawkins won't mess with a winning combination.

"If they're strutting their stuff out there, and they're working really hard, why change it?"



NZPA / Ross Setford

Marshall offers Carter advice



WELLINGTON, OCT 17 – Justin Marshall has warned his former All Black teammate Dan Carter that his switch to French rugby is likely to have few bumps along the way.

Carter will join French side Perpignan in December for six months but Marshall, who plays for French club Montpellier, has warned it won't be a cakewalk.

"Dan's going to Perpignan (where there's) not a great deal of foreign players," the halfback told *The Times*.

"He's got the language barrier as well so it's going to take some time for him to adjust. There's going to be a bit of a reality check for him, so it will be interesting"

Marshall is a veteran of not only New Zealand rugby, but Europe's Guinness Premiership, the Magners League and now Europe's Top 14 competition.

"First of all, you've got to meet the players, you don't know anybody, you don't know who likes to play golf or go for a coffee," Marshall said.

"You don't know the way they play the game, you don't know how the team's going to train."

– NZPA

Dixon to retrace his 'crowning glory' in New York

AUCKLAND, OCT 17 – New Zealander Rod Dixon will retrace what he described as the "crowning glory" of his athletics career when he runs the New York Marathon next month.

Dixon, 58, won the 42.2km event 25 years ago, and will mark the anniversary by taking part again on November 2 (NZ time).

This time, he will have for company his eldest daughter, Emma, who suggested the return.

In 1983, Dixon, a 1500m Olympic bronze medalist, grabbed a dramatic come-from-behind victory, crossing line in Central Park after two hours eight minutes and 59 seconds.

He came home just nine seconds ahead of Geoff Smith, overtaking the Englishman with 400 metres to go.

The scene at the finish was captured in an iconic photo, with Dixon pictured about to raise his arms in triumph while Smith is behind him, collapsed on his back in exhaustion.

Los Angeles-based Dixon said today that he would be adopting a more leisurely approach this year, taking in the sights with a smile on his face.

But he would still have a plan in place and he and Emma, 28, were targeting a time of three hours 30 minutes to three hours 40 minutes.

He said he was feeling plenty of excitement about returning to the course that runs through



New York's five boroughs.

"To come back and join with all my friends and all previous winners is going to be a big thrill," he said.

"Winning New York City was a defining moment in my life and the icing on my athletics career."

Dixon said he would also be taking part in memory of the late Fred Lebow, event director from 1970 to 1993, who convinced him to adopt the victory mantra of "from the mile to the marathon".

Although his serious competitive career ended 20 years ago, he had continued to run every other day, as he had done "since I was about 12 and joined a running club".

His build-up for next month had including clocking 4min 47sec for a mile 10 days ago.

Regarded as one of the top middle-distance runners of his era, Nelson-born Dixon won the 1500m bronze medal at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Four years later at the Montreal Games, he finished fourth

in the 5000m.

He also collected bronze medals at the world cross country championships in 1973 and 1982 and had success on the United States road racing circuit.

– NZPA

TV & Film



Body of Lies
➔ **Director:** Ridley Scott
➔ **Cast:** Leonardo DiCaprio, Russell Crowe, Mark Strong, Golshifteh Farahani
➔ **Length:** 125 minutes
➔ **Rated:** R (for violence & offensive language)
★★★★☆

Body of Lies is a riddle wrapped in an enigma served with a side of mystery meat. It's very watchable, with some entertaining action beats, kind of a *Syri-ania* as scripted by Tom Clancy, a *The Kingdom* with a little less *C.S.I.* — heavy on the tech, snappy in the dialogue.

But the showy dialogue — and a scenery-chewing turn by Leonardo DiCaprio in the lead — forces Ridley Scott's latest foray into the morass of the Middle East to straddle that line between "not bad" and "not all that, either."

DiCaprio is Roger Ferris, an Arabic-speaking C.I.A. field agent, at home in Iraq or Turkey, the United Arab Emirates or Amman, Jordan. He's chasing this phantom terrorist Al-Saleem. He's constantly on the phone with his portly, desk-jockey boss, the D.C.-based field chief, played with a cagey drawl by Russell Crowe. Ferris goes undercover, works agents, tries to "turn" terrorists, always with Ed Hoffman (Crowe) watching in, by spy plane, listening in by phone.

They have shouting matches, disagreements over strategy, largely over issues of trust or control. And maybe cell phone bills.

"You've gotta decide which side's the cross you're on," drawls Ed. "I need nailers. Not hangers."

Ed's interference, his running of "side operations" behind Roger's back, is dangerous. But it turns deadly when he puts Ferris in bed with the deadly-efficient Jordanian secret police, led by the dapper, scary-intense Hani. Mark Strong does a silky, menacing Armand Assante impersonation in playing this master counter-terrorist, a man who insists on human assets, not high-tech, and man who demands that you never, ever, ever lie to him.

The bad guys are fighting, as Hoffman lectures, "men from the future" — that is, us. And by going



“ED’S INTERFERENCE, HIS RUNNING OF “SIDE OPERATIONS” BEHIND ROGER’S BACK, IS DANGEROUS. BUT IT TURNS DEADLY WHEN HE PUTS FERRIS IN BED WITH THE DEADLY-EFFICIENT JORDANIAN SECRET POLICE

low-tech, not using computers or cell phones to communicate, for instance, they are staying one step ahead of the C.I.A. But Ferris, despite his differences with Hoffman, envisions a trap.

You've guessed that there's going to be a betrayal, a "side operation," and a lie. You've guessed that since it's a Leo movie, there'll be a love interest, here an Iranian-Jordanian nurse (Golshifteh Farahani). And if you've noticed that the script was by William "The Departed" Monahan, you know that all this lip service about men from the past avoiding cell phones is just that, lip service. Monahan is Mr. Cell-Phone-as-Plot-Device. They're a constant here, used to set up meets, set off bombs, bicker with bosses and badger divorce lawyers in the middle of an anti-terror operation.

It's not exactly a lazy prop, though you would hope

Monahan is getting some sort of Sprint kickback for all the cell-plugging he's doing in his scripts.

DiCaprio's performance is amped-up in the extreme here, lots of yelling into a phone, chewing out subordinates, bobbing his head or worse, raising his eyebrows with each line. Scott's choppy editing style means that every shot is a repeat performance, with little flow between cuts. Leo works himself into a tizzy, then "ACTION," and that's what we see.

Body of Lies, adapted from a David Ignatius novel, plays like a beach book, a decent genre page-turner. We liked *Syriana* and *The Kingdom*, right? We stay with this sand-caked beach novel even if we pretty much know what's on that last page half-way through.

Watch trailer

— By Roger Moore

entertainment
NEWS

MADONNA SPLITS

As a species, celebs don't mate for life. So, as shocked as we are that the once adamant bond between megapopstar Madonna, 50, and British film guy Guy Ritchie, 40, has disintegrated after almost eight years, it's the way of the whirl. Madge's rep says the couple plan to divorce, but haven't yet worked out a settlement. What's to settle? There's the money: Their combined wealth is \$525 million, only \$35 million of which comes from Guy. And then there's the question of custody of their two sons, Rocco, 8, and David Banda, 2, who was adopted in '06 from Malawi. Madonna and Richie have mounted increasingly desperate public displays of solidarity since July, when rumors spread that Madge was carrying on with the then-married Yankees star Alex Rodriguez. (She denies it.)

HOUSEWIVES ACTOR IN ACCIDENT

Gale Harold, who plays Teri Hatcher's love interest on *Desperate Housewives*, was listed in critical condition in the neurosurgical intensive-care unit at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Centre, a hospital rep said Wednesday. Harold fractured his shoulder Tuesday in a motorcycle accident and is being checked for further injuries.

JANET RETURNS TO TOUR

Janet Jackson, who cancelled nine concerts in her Rock Witchu tour due to illness, was set to return, with a show scheduled in Washington. Jackson's rep says doctors have diagnosed the superstar with "a rare form of migraine called vestibular migraine or migraine-associated vertigo." The warbler's missed shows will be rescheduled.

COLIN POWELL'S RAP CAREER

Colin Powell brought the house down Tuesday at the Africa Rising Festival at London's Royal Albert Hall. The former Secretary of State danced and rapped with Nigerian hip-hop star Olu Maintain. Pundits speculate that Powell will endorse Barack Obama.

BON JOVI UNHAPPY WITH THE GOP

Obama supporter Jon Bon Jovi says Sen. John McCain's campaign this week used his band's tune "Who Says You Can't Go Home" without permission during rallies held by Sarah Palin. "We wrote this song as a thank you to those who have supported us over the past 25 years," Jon tells TMZ.com. "Although we were not asked, we do not approve of their use of 'Home.'" Jackson Browne and Heart also have objected to the GOP's use of their tunes.

SPEARS TOPS CHART, PLANS TOUR

Britney Spears has made history with her new tune "Womanizer" from her coming CD, "Circus." The single this week took a giant leap from No. 96 to No. 1 on Billboard's singles chart. Wow. Meanwhile, unnamed insiders tell Billboard that Britney will mount a national arena tour in the spring to back up the CD, which is due out Dec. 2. This would be Britney's first outing since her \$34-million-grossing 2004 tour.

DJ AM FEELS THE LOVE

DJ AM (Adam Goldstein), who continues to recover from severe burns sustained in a Sept. 19 plane accident, was celebrated by friends at a benefit concert at Avalon Hollywood Tuesday night, says E!Online. Bold-facers at the do included Hilary Duff, Wilmer Valderrama, will.i.am, Macy Gray, Tila Tequila and Cisco Adler. Proceeds from the event will go to the families of the four people who died in the Learjet crash.

COWELL'S NAPOLEON COMPLEX

Simon Cowell puts three cushions under his backside when he sits on stage to make himself look taller on TV, says Piers Morgan, who sits next to Cowell on the Brit show, "Britain's Got Talent." "Simon grows between shows. When we're on 'Britain's Got Talent' he's smaller than me, then suddenly his three pillows arrive and he's taller than me!" Piers tells TheLondonPaper.com.

YES, MORE! MORE! MORE!

Christina Aguilera, 27, whose first baby, Max, is barely 9 months old, tells People that No. 2 won't be too far behind. "Absolutely, we'll definitely have more kids," she said.

Music



Vinyl spins to the forefront again

By Greg Kot

Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — At a time when convenience and portability rule for consumers listening to music collections on MP3 players, the stodgy old vinyl album and turntable are making an unexpected comeback.

While CD sales continue a doubledigit decline, sales of vinyl albums have doubled in the last year to 6 million and turntable sales increased 80 percent last year. The resurgence is being led not just by Baby Boomers nostalgic for gatefold album sleeves and the pops and scratches of favourite records, but by college-age consumers discovering the elaborate artwork of vinyl-album packaging for the first time, and entranced by the grittier, less-artificial sound quality.

"We're seeing the (vinyl) resurgence in all walks of life: from 50-year-old guys who want high-quality product to match their high-end stereos to 19-year-old kids who are sick of the minimalist Ikea design that has plagued dorm rooms for the last decade," says Ken Shipley, co-owner of the Numero Group, a Chicago label that specializes in reissues of underground soul music. "Vinyl is the new books."

This year, 40 percent of the label's income is coming from vinyl sales.

Sundazed Music, a New York-based reissue label, has seen vinyl sales surge 500 percent in the last three years. The percentage is far lower at major labels, but still significant enough to warrant not only reissues of classic titles such as the Beach Boys'

"Pet Sounds" and Radiohead's "OK Computer," but new titles as well.

Warner Brothers sold 12,000 vinyl copies of the White Stripes' 2007 release "Icky Thump" and sold out a 5,000-copy run of a \$115.98 vinyl boxed set of Metallica's latest album, "Death Magnetic." None-such's vinyl version of Wilco's 2007 album "Sky Blue Sky" has sold 15,000 copies.

Matador Records, home to such bands as Cat Power, Yo La Tengo and Mission of Burma, is seeing a double-digit percentage increase in vinyl sales. "We can't press it fast enough," says Matador General Manager Patrick Amory.

"You have to get in line now at these pressing plants, which is amazing, because vinyl was virtually non-existent two or three years ago," adds Bill Gagnon, senior vice president of catalogue marketing at EMI Music. The turnaround time at pressing plants has doubled to two months because of high demand, says Robert Griffin, who runs the Scat label out of Cleveland.

"How many commercials have you seen that involve a DJ spinning a record?" he says. "Repeat with incidences on TV shows, movies. It's being presented as a cool thing, not anachronistic, which was the late '90s attitude."

Though Gagnon says vinyl will eventually make up about 4 percent of EMI's revenue, it's a profitable business that will have long-lasting appeal, in part because a younger generation is getting hooked on it.

Eric Shah, a 23-year-old law student, says he didn't start buying vinyl to be cool, but because "I

like the sound. It's closer to the sound you might hear in the studio when the music is being recorded. I like the idea of listening to an artist's work on vinyl. It becomes a process. You sit down, play through a side, it becomes more singular because you're more focused on it. It's not portable. You have to pay attention, turn the record over when it's done. It encourages active listening."

Allie Samata, a 20-year-old studying architecture, rhapsodizes about "the emotional connection of placing the record on the turntable, putting the needle down and sitting there with your friends to listen. It's definitely a community experience, which I don't get from downloading an MP3 file. It's as close to going to a concert as you can get."

The disadvantages of vinyl are numerous: tough to transport, bulky to store, easy to damage.

MP3 files have enabled consumers to essentially pack their entire music collection in a device the size of a cigarette box and listen to it any time, anywhere. Clearly, digital is the future of music, and the re-emergence of vinyl won't change that. But hard-core music lovers are a demanding bunch, and they still want a tangible connection to the music that a digital file can't provide.

"There's an art to making a

vinyl album, and it invites serious listening," says Matador's Amory.

"For me, vinyl is more of a personal listening experience," says Ben Meyerson, 22, who is studying journalism. "I have my turntable in my room, and it's hands-on — a compensation for the lack of physicality you get from a hard drive and iTunes. It fills a void in my musical experience."

There are also legions of album junkies who insist that no digital format, whether compact disc or MP3, can compare to the sonic richness of a stylus penetrating the grooves of a vinyl record.

"There's a huge difference," says singer Sam Phillips. "It has a little grit and texture compared to digital. It's heartbreaking not to have all that sound on an MP3 file. I love my vinyl, and I play it all the time. Nothing sounds like it."

"Who would've thought? In the early '80s, we were trying to take all the noise out by making these really precise recordings. And now, we want it all back because it sounds more real, more like the work of a human being instead of a machine."

The new market for albums is in part directed at these audiophiles, with heavier 180-gram discs made out of so-called "virgin" vinyl (which contains no recycled plastic) more resistant to the degradation and warping that accompany cheaper materials. With fewer pressing plants and more expensive material, the packaging can get pricey: Some vinyl albums sell for double the price of a CD. The situation was reversed 25 years ago, when compact discs first came on the market and were double the price of most vinyl albums. In addition, the nuances of an audiophile vinyl album won't be apparent unless the listener has a turntable of sufficient quality to pick them up. A hand-me-down turntable from an uncle or a flea-market bargain special won't necessarily yield sonic results that satisfy any more than a low-grade MP3 download.

But the romantic pull of turntables and vinyl is strong, both for an older generation that grew up with them, and younger listeners looking for a deeper connection with the music they love.

"Everything old is new again," says Tom Biery, general manager of Warner Brothers. "Now that iPods and MP3s have become your parents' music, too, kids want something different. The kids in the dorm with the turntable are the cool kids now."

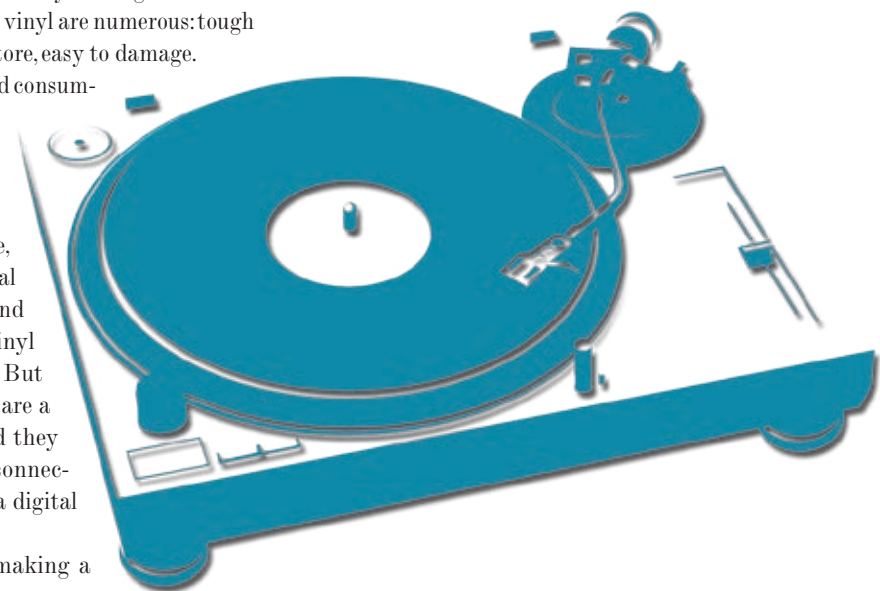
CLASSICS ON VINYL

The 13th Floor Elevators, "The Psychedelic Sounds of..." (Sundazed): The Holy Grail of psychedelia by Roky Erickson's acid-drenched garage band, available in the original (and vastly preferred) mono for the first time in 40 years.

Beach Boys, "Pet Sounds" (Capitol Records): The limited-edition double album released in 2006 contains both mono and stereo mixes of the 1966 masterpiece.

Johnny Cash, "At Folsom Prison" (Columbia Legacy): The master in his element, in a recording that captures the palpable excitement of his 1968 performance at one of the country's most notorious penitentiaries.

Metallica, "Master of Puppets" (Elektra): Available in both 33-rpm and pricier 45-rpm pressings, a revelatory reissue of a metal landmark.



NEW CD RELEASES

Lenka

➔ Lenka

➔ Epic

★★★★☆



The solo debut for this Australian pop chanteuse opens auspiciously with an impressive one-two punch: the coquettish “The Show,” which sounds like Colbie Caillat with a horn

section, followed by the jaunty, Beatlesque “Bring Me Down.”

Lenka proves to be a nifty songwriter, her talents nicely enhanced by producer Mike Elizondo’s deft and inventive arrangements.

She sounds charming on the tracks with a burlier burlesque tone. Unfortunately, most of the album is made up of dreamy ballads. And Lenka’s breathy voice wears thin on these slower, less-adorned songs. Stick with the singles.

— David Hiltbrand

Lucinda Williams

➔ Little Honey

➔ Lost Highway

★★★★☆



I’m happy for Lucinda Williams, the perennially bummed country-soul siren who is engaged to her manager, record executive Tom Overby. But I’m happier for her music and

her fans. That’s because Williams, as divine as she can be when turning sorrow into song, had lately grown depressingly one-note in her discontent.

Not so here: “Little Honey,” her ninth studio album, has its share of longing. “If wishes were horses,” she sings, “I’d have a ranch.” But it’s her most rocked-out set to date, and also her happiest. (Happier even than 1980’s “Happy Woman Blues.”) And while contentedness is quite often the bane of a tortured creator’s existence, it does Williams a world of good. It spurs her to vary the album’s mood and tempo, and loosen up in heretofore unheard ways, on the likes of “Jailhouse Tears,” a delicious country love-hate duet with Elvis Costello, as well as the raunchy title cut, and a cranked-up cover of AC/DC’s “It’s a Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock ‘n’ Roll).”

— Dan DeLuca

Juana Molina

➔ Un Dia

➔ Downtown

★★★★☆



Juana Molina enthusiasts know there’s no one like her. The Argentine songwriter — and formerly wildly popular (in South America) TV comedian — specializes in diaphanous music

of hypnotic beauty that blends organic and electronic elements into a seamless whole. “Un Dia,” sung entirely in Spanish, is one of those it’s-not-for-everybody-but-then-you-don’t-know-what-you’re-missing propositions. If anything, it’s more winning, and weird, than 2006’s exemplary “Son,” stretching songs out (three of them extend over seven minutes) and moving forward with a driving, rhythmic pulse that never threatens to dissolve, even among loops of delicately twittering sounds that might seem merely New Age-y in the hands of a less imaginative artist.

— Dan DeLuca

Books



Sex and City author’s new novel looks at tony Greenwich Village life and real estate

Sex and the City

➔ By Candace Bushnell

➔ Voice, \$25.95

Fans of Candace Bushnell may be surprised to learn that her latest book focuses more on high-rises than high heels.

The *Sex and the City* author turns her trenchant wit and eye for social folly to real estate with “One Fifth Avenue”, which focuses on characters inhabiting a landmark art deco building in New York City’s Greenwich Village.

In addition to *One Fifth Avenue* and *Sex and the City*, which began as a series of columns for the *New York Observer*, Bushnell has written three other novels, including *Lipstick Jungle*, the basis of the NBC series. She hosts a New York-based Sirius radio show called “Sex, Success, and Sensibility” and is working on two young-adult books for HarperCollins about *SATC*’s Carrie Bradshaw during high school and college.

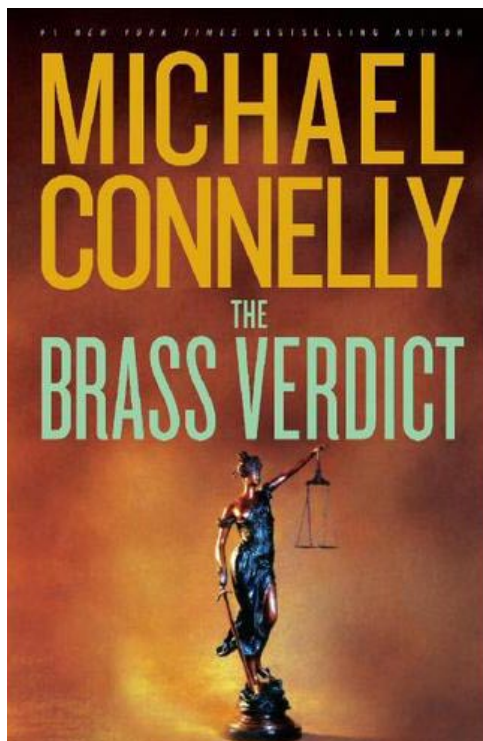
The idea for *One Fifth* sprang from her own youth. Bushnell grew up in Glastonbury, Conn., where she learned firsthand how crazy people can get over their property. Her mother, Camille, was a real-estate agent.

“She taught me how real estate is so deeply ingrained in people’s psyches, very deep-rooted and complicated,” Bushnell says. “It really goes back to the caveman days — who had a bigger cave than someone else? And whose cave had a parking space?”

In *One Fifth*, one of the most hilariously disturbing episodes is when nouveau-riche tech guru Paul Rice is thwarted in his efforts to buy, at any cost, the building’s sole parking space, which is distributed via lottery each year. Despite his gazillions, Paul discovers that, as Bushnell puts it, “Money not only can’t buy you happiness, it can’t even buy a parking space. And there is still some fairness in life — but it may not be fairness as Paul sees it.”

The real-life One Fifth Avenue skirts Washington Square Park and is home to Blythe Danner, Sam Shepard, Tim Burton and Helena Bonham Carter, among others, according to the *New York Post*.

In her novel, Bushnell populates it with Paul and his nicer-than-he-deserves wife, Annalisa; Philip Oakland, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author who’s now slumming with screenplays (“Bridesmaids Revisited”); a fortysomething movie star who’s slumming with television and who is the author’s ex-lover;



“CONNELLY’S SKILLS AT MELDING PLOT, CHARACTER AND SCENERY INTO A COHESIVE UNIT SHINE IN *THE BRASS VERDICT*. HE SPOTLIGHTS BOTH CHARACTERS, SHOWING THE NUANCES, FLAWS AND STRENGTHS IN EACH. EACH IS MORE ALIKE THAN THEY KNOW, FROM THE RESTAURANTS THEY FREQUENT TO THE DIFFERENT VIEW EACH MAN’S HOME HAS OF THE SAME AREA OF LOS ANGELES...”

Lola Fabrikant, a wannabe Carrie Bradshaw who is the author’s current lover; Enid, a Liz Smith-esque columnist; and the hideously pretentious Mindy Gooch, president of the owners’ board.

Hovering over them all is the figurative ghost of Louise Houghton, a Brooke Astor-like society doyenne whose death sets off a frenzy over the disposition of her fabulous three-story apartment.

Bushnell pays tongue-in-cheek homage to both *Sex and the City* and her own heritage in the book. Lola, a character so reprehensible that she somehow becomes lovable, is described as someone who has seen every episode of *Sex and the City* at least 100 times — and has come to New York with one goal: snagging her own Mr. Big.

In addition to the horrors of real estate, Bushnell notes, the book also touches on how the new always eventually replaces the old — people, buildings, this week’s most-wanted bling — despite one character’s lament that “all the best people are dead.”

And of course, if they can’t get that parking space, they might as well be.

— By Joy Tipping

The Brass Verdict is a guilty pleasure

The Brass Verdict

➔ By Michael Connelly

➔ Allen & Unwin (\$tba)

A solid, suspenseful plot full of twists and surprises is de rigueur for a Michael Connelly novel — and he certainly brings plenty of that in his 19th novel.

The Brass Verdict’s riveting story doubles as a highly charged legal thriller and a finely nuanced police procedural. But a richer, bolder story about family, especially brothers and fathers, redemption and recovery quickly rises to the top.

The Brass Verdict is equally a story about L.A.P.D. detective Harry Bosch, Connelly’s perennial series hero, and defence attorney Mickey Haller, who debuted in the evocative *Lincoln Lawyer* (2005). The conceit is that Harry and Mickey are half brothers, a situation Connelly established in his first novel, *The Black Ice* (1993). Separated by decades in age, the two are at opposite ends — Harry raised in foster homes after his prostitute mother was murdered; Mickey was a child of privilege. Harry knows who Mickey is; Mickey has no idea about their shared history.

Mickey returns to the law when he inherits the practice of a high-powered attorney who was murdered mid-trial defending a Hollywood studio executive accused of killing his wife and her lover. As Mickey tries to come up to speed on the case, Harry investigates the attorney’s murder. Connelly sets up the two as competitors — each resentful and suspicious of the other. But for each to succeed, Mickey and Harry will eventually have to cooperate with each other.

Connelly’s skills at melding plot, character and scenery into a cohesive unit shine in *The Brass Verdict*. He spotlights both characters, showing the nuances, flaws and strengths in each. Each is more alike than they know, from the restaurants they frequent to the different view each man’s home has of the same area of Los Angeles to their innate sense of honour and justice.

The Brass Verdict is gold.

— By Oline H. Cogdill

What the experts say you should be reading

KATHRYN POPOFF, vice president for adult trade- merchandising at Borders Books:

Fiction ➤ *The Hour I First Believed* by Wally Lamb. “His books always make you think about them for months after you finish reading them.”

Nonfiction ➤ *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution* by Thomas L. Friedman. “It’s really topical and addresses hot-button issues everybody should be well-versed on.”

DAVID CALLANAN, site merchandiser for the Amazon.com Online Bookstore:

Fiction ➤ *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson. “This crime thriller has enough twists and turns that you don’t want it to end.”

Nonfiction ➤ *The Irregulars* by Jennet Conant. “A fascinating look at young-readers author Roald Dahl’s early life as a British spy in pre-World War II Washington. His spy ring encompassed (James Bond creator) Ian Fleming and Bill Stephenson — code name Intrepid, one of the most well-known spymasters of the 20th century.”

SARA NELSON, editor-in-chief of Publishers Weekly magazine:

Fiction ➤ *The Hour I First Believed* by Wally Lamb. “It’s been 10 years since he last published. It’s a great American novel, with sweep and size and personality.”

Nonfiction ➤ *The Heminges of Monticello: An American Family* by Annette Gordon-Reed. “She explores the connection between Thomas Jefferson and his slave Sally Hemings (and the families that resulted).”

A breakthrough, then a surge, in stem cell research

By Jeremy Manier
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Less than a year after a US team helped discover a major alternative to human embryonic stem cells, the scientists say more than 800 labs have begun using their approach, suggesting that many stem-cell researchers are starting to move beyond controversial embryonic sources for their work.

Such shifts may reframe the emotionally fraught debate over stem cells, an issue that has ignited passions across the political spectrum. Both presidential candidates have indicated they would lift President Bush's restrictions on funding for the research, though Sen. Barack Obama has been more adamant than Sen. John McCain.

The biologist doing more than anyone else to stir the debate is University of Wisconsin researcher James Thomson, who co-discovered human embryonic stem cells a decade ago, in November 1998. Last year Thomson shook the field again when his lab and a Japanese team showed a way of genetically reprogramming adult skin cells to act like stem cells, including the ability to form any of the body's tissues.

Some groups that oppose destroying embryos for research have hailed the new cells, called induced pluripotent stem cells, as a way to eliminate the need for stem cell research based on embryonic material. In a rare extended interview, Thomson said he shares some of their qualms but believes the issue's moral and scientific contours have never been more complex.

Thomson still supports lifting Bush's restrictions, he said, because no one knows whether the new iPS cells can match embryonic cells' knack for growing into any kind of tissue — brain cells, heart muscle, insulin-producing cells and dozens of others — in mass quantities.

Some scientists cite this potential in saying the true moral course is to accelerate research on embryonic cells, because it might produce transplant tissue for illnesses such as diabetes and Parkinson's disease. But Thomson also says many arguments

for expanded federal funding have exaggerated the field's short-term promise.

Perfecting such techniques could take many decades, he said. "It's certainly going to happen, but it's going to be hard, and people are not prepared for how hard it's likely to be," Thomson said.

The most profound effect of stem cells in the meantime could be to screen new drugs for safety and to gauge a medication's effectiveness on real human tissue without using patients as guinea pigs.

"It simply means that for the very first time we have access to the human body in the lab," Thomson said. "And for drug screening and drug discovery that's going to make a huge difference. When you use one of those drugs you won't know that human embryonic stem cells or iPS cells were involved. It won't make the front pages at all."

He said he's amazed at how quickly scientists have begun exploring the use of the reprogrammed skin cells he reported on last year.

"People are jumping in very rapidly, much more rapidly than they did 10 years ago" following the initial discovery of embryonic stem cells, Thomson said.

In all, 812 labs in dozens of countries have requested the materials needed to re-program ordinary cells into iPS cells, according to Addgene, a Massachusetts-based repository for the research supplies. By contrast, only a half-dozen or so labs started working with embryonic stem cells in the months after his landmark 1998 paper, Thomson said.

In recent months Thomson has been racing other labs to grow an improved form of iPS cells that potentially could be used in human patients. The original method probably could not be tested in people, because it relied on a retrovirus to activate a few genes that re-program the cells.

The first successful attempt to make iPS cells without such potentially dangerous viruses was published online recently in the journal *Science*. A group from Massachusetts General Hospital grew the cells using relatively safe viruses that can be cleared from the cells once they do their jobs, though the method was not as efficient as existing techniques.



Already, researchers say, iPS cells have proved easier for individual labs to make than embryonic stem cells, fuelling the intense interest

Already, researchers say, iPS cells have proved easier for individual labs to make than embryonic stem cells, fuelling the intense interest.

Before the iPS papers, stem-cell research "was still a select fraternity," said Evan Snyder, director of the stem cells and regeneration program at the California-based Burnham Institute. "Now it's been kind of opened to the masses."

To use embryonic stem cells, labs must either make their own — which requires the destruction of human embryos — or get them from a lab like Thomson's that has already made its own cell lines. Only cell lines made before August 2001 qualify for federal funding under Bush's research restrictions.

With iPS cells, Snyder said, "you can do a skin biopsy on yourself if you want" and use that tissue as raw material for the stem cells.

Many scientists said the absence of ethical concerns over iPS cells also is a draw.

"As soon as you have a cell type that is relatively

free of this black cloud, then obviously there's huge pent-up interest," said George Daley, director of the stem cell program at Children's Hospital Boston.

Yet no one knows whether iPS cells can fill the same roles as embryonic stem cells, most researchers say. Some believe iPS cells may work differently depending on the type of tissue they came from — that skin cells might be difficult to transform into blood cells, for example.

Daley said the situation is comparable to the advent of a new sugar substitute — it seems similar, but may not work for every application.

That's a major reason why Thomson still refers to his original embryonic stem cells as a "gold standard."

"My belief is that if iPS cells turn out to be completely biologically equivalent (to embryonic stem cells), scientists will just migrate to them because they're easier to deal with," Thomson said. "But that may not be true, and we should simply let the science play itself out."

CPR finds the right beat: Bee Gees' 'Stayin' Alive'

By Mary Jo Layton

The Bee Gee's hit "Stayin' Alive" is more than a catchy disco tune, medical researchers have found. It might even save a life.

Medical students and physicians who listened to the pop song while training to do chest compressions as part of cardiopulmonary resuscitation maintained close to the ideal rhythm of 100 compressions per minute, according to research to be presented later this month at the annual meeting of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

"Properly performed CPR can triple survival rates for cardiac arrest, but many people hesitate to jump in because they don't feel confident about maintaining the proper rhythm," said researcher Dr. David Matlock of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, Ill. "Our research subjects felt that listening to 'Stayin' Alive' improved their ability to perform chest compressions at the proper speed, and indeed their performance even five weeks later was excellent."

"Stayin' Alive," the hit song from the movie "Saturday Night Fever," has 103 beats per minutes, which is almost exactly the rate at which chest compressions



should be performed. Research subjects reported feeling more confident about performing CPR as a result of the musical training.

"This was a small study, but the results are encouraging enough that a further study, using a larger and more diverse population, is warranted," Matlock said. "A number of pop songs have the right rhythm for CPR, but of course the meaning of 'Stayin' Alive' is pretty powerful when you are trying to save someone's life."

Stayin' Alive

— MCT

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From this Vista, it looks like same old Microsoft

By Lou Dolinar

Newsday

Just when you thought it was safe to convert to Windows Vista, Microsoft changes its mind, again. This soap opera is getting to be a little old.

In early October, Microsoft admitted that it didn't discontinue XP in June after all, and would continue selling via system builders through January 2009. This is accomplished via "downgrade" rights: Dell, for example, will sell you a system with Windows XP Professional installed, but it also includes the latest version of Vista. Meanwhile, you can still buy boxed XP at Amazon, among other places. The June deadline in itself was an extension, and there's some suggestion that, for corporate customers at least, Microsoft may extend the extension of the extension.

Looking a little further down the line, Microsoft may make Vista irrelevant with the release of Windows 7, which could come as early as 2010. Does anyone seriously expect IT departments to invest in conversion costs and new hardware, a Vista requirement, in the middle of a recession?

As I wrote a while back, Vista is slower and less compatible than XP, but it does cost more. There are some security improvements, but that doesn't matter to the corporate crowd, which deals with security institutionally. Home users should care, but all most notice is the more annoying pop-up warnings and that it doesn't always work with their favourite peripherals.

I'm starting to feel sorry for Microsoft. If it were a person, we'd stage an intervention. At every turn, it seems the world's biggest software company shoots itself in the foot. Does anyone even remember the whole point of Vista? Vista incorporated soup-to-nuts digital rights management, including hardware requirements. Alarmed by Apple's success with iTunes and the iPod, Microsoft decided to try



to move in the home entertainment market. Vista would do everything, play your music, tune your TV, record high-def movies — you name it. Vista also would stream this big digital goulash into any room of the house via media extenders.

How many people do you know who use Vista as a home entertainment centre? It all sort of worked, but Vista was so late in arriving, the cable and satellite industries built their own proprietary entertainment computers, aka set-top boxes, complete with hard drives, peripherals, networking and — boy that

must hurt — usually some version of Linux as the operating system. Apple still rules the roost in music. Meanwhile, Microsoft's critics argue that DRM lies at the root of Vista's inefficiencies and instability when filling its traditional roles.

Then there's the lawsuit. Microsoft blew the deadline for getting Vista into the hands of system builders in time for Christmas 2006, while at the same announcing it would be available January 2007. Rather than sacrifice holiday sales, Microsoft began touting PCs as "ready for Vista." So you'd buy now and

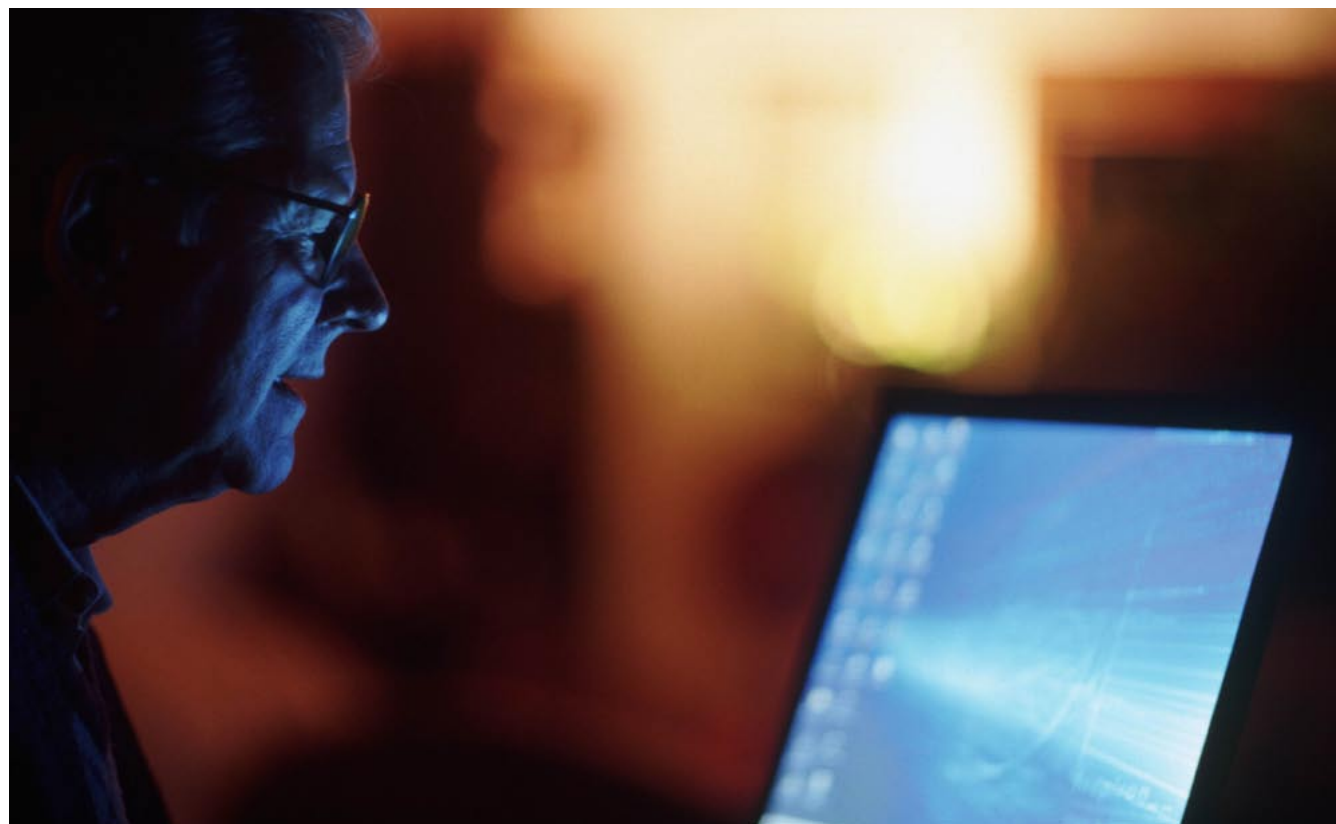
upgrade for free in the New Year. Well, some PCs were ready and some only ran the most feeble version of the software, and along came the lawyers. Adding insult to injury, discovery motions in the case turned up memos from Microsoft indicating the company lowballed hardware requirements to help Intel sell more product and that its own executives were confused by the hardware it needed to run.

Next came the service pack fiasco. Corporate buyers like to wait for the first service pack release of a new operating system, the service pack being the final cleanup of bugs. Not to worry, said Microsoft, Vista was so great that it wouldn't need a major service pack update. Oops, Vista was so sufficiently problematic that Microsoft was eventually forced to release a service pack in February 2008 to fix the problem. More ice please: The new SP slowed down Vista; the concurrent release for XP sped it up. Corporate buyers have stayed away in droves.

Even more bad awaits. Microsoft, arguing against expansion of the class-action lawsuit, says it doesn't know who was misled by its ad campaign — clearly, a lot of hardware did work fine with Vista. No problem say the opposing lawyers, just use Windows update to automatically notify all owners of Vista that they may be eligible for damages.

I don't know what to say anymore about Vista. Its growing pains aren't necessarily any worse than earlier Microsoft releases, and I go all the way back to MS-DOS days. All have broken legacy hardware and software, and have typically run slower than their predecessors. You can look at this one of two ways: Has it always been this bad, and was Microsoft able to stomp dissenters? Or has the Internet, in full flower when Vista arrived, merely given everyone a megaphone to complain about it?

Still, if you're happy with your PC, it may just pay to wait for Windows 7. That or interview the Mac guy.



A recent study showed that most Internet users are unable to distinguish genuine popup warnings messages from false ones designed to trick them into downloading harmful software — even after repeated mistakes.

Don't give in to 'scareware'

By Anne Krishnan

McClatchy Newspapers

Q. Recently my computer was attacked by a program named Antivirus XP 2008 that, while claiming to protect your computer, is actually a virus itself.

It pops a big red warning block on the screen and asks the user to continue. Pressing continue brings up another screen asking for your Visa number so you can be billed \$39.95 to get rid of the threat it has identified. Well, you'd have to be crazy to give them a credit card number.

I was unable to get rid of this attack software. Finally I had to reformat the hard disk, reload the

operating system and begin anew. This malware is really bad news. If it should happen again, is there any way to get rid of it other than start all over?

A. Antivirus XP 2008 is part of a growing threat category called "misleading applications," "rogue programs" or "scareware." These programs make false or exaggerated claims about the security of your system and request or demand payment to solve them.

Rogue programs can be found all over the Web, but they're more common on sites offering adult or pirated content, blogs and forums. Sometimes you can be infected just by visiting the site; other times, you may be tricked into downloading the program

by bogus pop-up ads that look like Windows system warnings.

The problem is so pervasive that last week, Microsoft and the Washington state attorney general filed suit against two companies that use fake warnings to sell their Registry Cleaner XP software. They promised to pursue others, as well.

"We won't tolerate the use of alarmist warnings or deceptive 'free scans' to trick consumers into buying software to fix a problem that doesn't even exist," Attorney General Rob McKenna said in a statement.

Microsoft has said that 50 percent of its customer-support calls regarding computer crashes can be

blamed on spyware, which the state of Washington broadly defines as any software whose marketers mislead users into believing it is necessary for security.

If you have to deal with Antivirus XP 2008 or another threat again, online gurus on the CNET.com forums and at BleepingComputer.com report success eliminating it with Malwarebytes' Anti-Malware, a free and highly rated spyware remover available from <http://www.download.com>.

To avoid downloading a misleading application in the future, consider these tips from Symantec, maker of Norton AntiVirus:

- Use security software to proactively protect from spyware and other security risks.
- Configure your firewall to block unsolicited requests for outbound communication.
- Be especially cautious when clicking on pop-up advertisements — especially ads promoting system security or performance tools that look like a standard Microsoft Windows alert.
- Do not accept or open suspicious error dialogs from within the browser.
- Purchase security and system performance software from reputable sources.
- Keep software and security patches up to date.

To learn more about misleading or rogue applications, visit www.symantec.com/norton/theme.jsp?themeid=mislead or www.bleepingcomputer.com/malware-removal/rogue-programs.

If you've ever been tricked into downloading malware by a bogus popup ad, take comfort in the fact that you're not alone.

A recent study by North Carolina State University researchers showed that most Internet users are unable to distinguish genuine popup warnings messages from false ones designed to trick them into downloading harmful software — even after repeated mistakes.

Undergraduates were fooled by fake messages 63 percent of the time, hitting the "OK" button in a message box when it appeared on the screen, despite being told that some of what they would be seeing would be false. Safer options, such as simply closing the message box, were infrequently chosen.

Chocolate: The food we hold sacred

By Renee Enna
Chicago Tribune

It seems incongruous that the ingredient so integral to, say, a Hershey's Kiss, is the same one that for centuries played a major role in religious and cultural rituals.

Of course, anyone addicted to Hershey Kisses may not think it strange at all.

Chocolate's reputation for inducing swoons has centuries of recorded history to back it up. It started with the discovery by Mesoamerican societies that the cacao (kah-KOW) tree's ungainly looking pods contained edible ingredients.

The tree was known to grow wild in South America, and it's possible that as early as 1500 B.C. people were cultivating it and eating the pulp that surrounded the cacao beans, said Mesoamerican archaeologist Meredith L. Dreiss, co-author with Sharon Edgar Greenhill of the upcoming book, "Chocolate: Pathway to the Gods" (University of Arizona Press, US\$30), and of its companion DVD, a film of the same name that Dreiss made with her brother, filmmaker Grant Mitchell.

But it's the pod's beans, not the pulp, that yield the chocolate. The Maya are thought to have perfected the process of grinding the beans into a powder, which they combined with water, spices and chillies to create a drink that was far different from the creamy cocoa we dollop with whipped cream.

"It was either unsweetened or bittersweet (chocolate), it was highly spiced and it wasn't made with milk [which was not available to the Mesoamericans], it was made with water," explained chocolatier Mark Sciscenti of Kakawa Chocolate House in Santa Fe, who uses ancient recipes to re-create beverages in the spirit of those times, and which are available on

his Web site, <http://www.kakawachocolates.com>. (Sciscenti added that water makes more culinary sense, too, because milkfat coats the tongue and masks the myriad flavours that can be tasted in good-quality chocolate.)

Cacao took off throughout Central and South America, but it was less a recreational foodstuff than a product of cultural significance used as currency, medicine and in religious ceremonies that ranged from baptism to human sacrifice. And it was not just important to the living. Dreiss said that burial vessels found in Guatemala dating to 400 A.D. not only had chocolate inside them, but that recipes for chocolate drinks were written on the pots.

Christopher Columbus is believed to be the first person to transport cacao beans from the New World to the Old in 1502, according to the National Confectioners Association. The cacao that was brought from the New World to the Old by Spanish explorers in the 16th Century was a well-kept secret among the royal court. What fascinates Dreiss is that the Spanish were able to keep chocolate a secret for so long: "It wasn't for about 100 years before it starts spreading through the rest of Europe," she said.

Chocolate remained, at first, a drink of the Old World aristocracy, often enjoyed with, yes, milk and the seasonings available to them, such as cinnamon, anise, black pepper, sesame seeds and almonds, Dreiss and Greenhill write. It was the addition of another ingredient, however, that took chocolate to a different level: "For when sugar was added to the bitter but sacred drink of the Maya, this beverage from the New World tropical forests came to belong to the rest of the world."

Eventually, the hoi polloi got a taste of what they were missing.

The Industrial Revolution made chocolate avail-



able to the masses, and ushered in the Next Big Thing for chocolate, when somebody (it's not clear who) was able to combine the melted cocoa butter (the fat that occurs naturally in cocoa beans) with sugar and cocoa powder to create the first solid eating chocolate.

The invention of the Hershey's Kiss (1907, by the way) was just a matter of time.

Maybe we're coming back full circle: The growing popularity of chocolate teamed with chilli – a com-

bination marketed as an exotic introduction despite its centuries-old provenance – sees this foodstuff returning to its spicy roots.

Or maybe not.

According to Hershey's Web site, more than 29 billion Kisses were manufactured in 2007.

80 MILLION: Number of Hershey's Kisses manufactured daily, according to the Hershey Web site.

2,300: Approximate number of calories in 400g of milk chocolate.

Falkland Islands: the kiwi connection



By John Bordsen

What's it like to live in a far-off place most of us see only on a vacation? Foreign Correspondence is an interview with someone who lives in a spot you may want to visit.

Jenny Cockwell, 28, is editor of the *Penguin News*, the newspaper of the Falkland Islands. She is from New Zealand, but her father is a Falklander. The Falklands are a British dependency off the Atlantic coast of South America. Cockwell has lived there for nearly a decade.

Q. If your paper is called the Penguin News, I'd assume there are penguins there.

A. There are five species that call the Falklands home, including one special one called the king penguin that's particularly rare. This is one of the only places in the world where it is found. The king penguin is about 2 feet tall – quite an imposing bird.

Penguins are quite common. I don't know the exact figure, but some penguin colonies are pretty substantial, with about 40,000 pairs of birds.

Q. More penguins than people?

A. Absolutely.

The Falklands consists of a couple hundred

islands; in land mass, the Falklands are about the size of Connecticut. The two main islands are inhabited: East Island has the capital, Stanley. Stanley is where the majority of people live. In Stanley, itself there are about 1,900 people.

People who live outside tend to be farmers. There are about 500 people who live "in camp" – in the countryside. They tend to be sheep farmers.

Q. Are the penguins tame?

A. They don't exactly wander around town, but they are quite approachable. People are quite sensitive to the penguin habitats and give them space. Penguins are quite inquisitive.

Q. What does spring look like where you live?

A. We don't have many trees; the Falklands are pretty windswept. Spring is when the gorse is in bloom, with beautiful yellow flowers that are very fragrant. They have almost a coconut scent. The scent comes wafting into town.

In spring, the wildlife really kicks off, with chicks hatching and seals popping and all the rest.

Q. How much does the temperature vary through the year?

A. In December it can get up to around 22 degrees Celsius, but feels cooler because of the constant

wind. The climate is temperate, though. Our winter is quite mild. London tends to be colder than here. It can get down to about minus 4 degrees, though. Again, the winds make it seem more chilly.

Q. Do you get many tourists?

A. A lot, mostly from the cruise industry. We get about 45,000 visitors on cruises in our summer months, between November and April. Many are Americans who fly down to South America and pick up their cruise ships. Some are sailing around South America, others are going to or returning from Antarctica. Others just come to the Falklands for the experience.

Q. What do these visitors do at the Falklands?

A. There are a variety of facilities for them. They can take a trip to a farm to see how a Falklands farm works. They can visit the museum if they're interested in the war of 1982.

Q. I see from your paper that the British-Argentine war over the Falklands is still part of life there. There are stories about dangers from exploding mines.

A. There are landmines, but they're all in minefields that are securely fenced off. They're no danger to the public unless you climb the fence and go into the minefield.

There is still a problem with Argentina, which continues to claim sovereignty over the Falklands against the wishes of the people who live here and who want to remain British.

Most Falkland Islanders are of British origin – England, Ireland and Wales are all represented here, especially among the older settlers. Now the population is a real mix of people, including New Zealanders, Chileans and quite a few people from St. Helena, a British island also in the South Atlantic.

Q. Were there people there before the British arrived?

A. There was no indigenous population.

Q. What about animals?

A. There was a fox called the warrah that became extinct a hell of a long time ago. That's about the only thing that springs to mind.

Q. Are sheep the historic economic mainstay?

A. Yes, but most income now is from squid fish-

ing. Very few Falkland Islanders work at sea; the income comes from licensing foreign fisheries in our waters. There are a lot of squid, and it's a valuable commodity. That's where most of the money for the government comes.

Traditionally, people had mutton and vegetables for dinner. Tastes have changed. It's a lot more exotic. Seafood and squid are generally on the menu.

Q. The Falklands are pretty remote, and Argentina is your only neighbour. Do people from the islands go there anyhow?

A. Not so much. We fly over Argentina to Chile, which we call "our friendly neighbour." There's a direct air link, and many Falklanders go over to Chile for the holidays.

Q. Do you have your own TV station?

A. We have a channel provided by British Forces Broadcasting Services. It's basically meant for the garrison based here – approximately 1,800 members of the British military – and it's based on British programming. We also get cable here – a load of channels including CNN and BBC.

Q. What are buildings in Stanley made of?

A. Traditionally they're wood, clad with tin – wriggly metal roofs. There are also stone houses with tin roofs. They traditionally have pale walls and bright roofs. When you arrive by ship, you can see Stanley from a long way away. It's pretty. The roofs are in contrasting colours – bright greens, reds and yellows. It's not terribly British, but that's always the way it has been done.

Q. What's a classic Falklands souvenir?

A. I'd probably get a scarf made from Falklands wool. And some diddle-dee jam.

Q. Diddle-dee jam?

A. Yes, it's made from diddle-dee berries. They're a small red berry that comes out in summer, in January, and spreads out like a carpet. The berries are wild and quite bitter when eaten straight off the plant. In jam, they're quite fantastic. It tastes like nothing else; you'd have to try it to believe it.

The jam costs about £1 for a 400-gram pot. Or something like that. People tend to make it themselves.

A dreaded country

Acclaimed science fiction writer Jules Verne didn't just write *Around the World in 80 Days*, he also wrote an epic about New Zealand and Australia called *In Search of the Castaways*, published in 1867. If you missed the previous instalment of this serial, you can download it [here](#).



Night drew on; the sun's disc, enlarged by refraction, was dipping blood-red below the horizon. The distant waves glittered in the west, and sparkled like sheets of liquid silver. Nothing was to be seen in that direction but sky and water, except one sharply-defined object, the hull of the *Macquarie* motionless on her rocky bed.

The short twilight postponed the darkness only by a few minutes, and soon the coast outline, which bounded the view on the east and north, was lost in darkness.

The shipwrecked party were in an agonizing situation on their narrow raft, and overtaken by the shades of night.

Some of the party fell into a troubled sleep, a prey to evil dreams; others could not close an eye. When the day dawned, the whole party were worn out with fatigue.

With the rising tide the wind blew again toward the land. It was six o'clock in the morning, and there was no time to lose. John arranged everything for resuming their voyage, and then he ordered the anchor to be weighed. But the anchor flukes had been so imbedded in the sand by the repeated jerks of the cable, that without a windlass it was impossible to detach it, even with the tackle which Wilson had improvised.

Half an hour was lost in vain efforts. John, impatient of delay, cut the rope, thus sacrificing his anchor, and also the possibility of anchoring again if this tide failed to carry them to land. But he decided that further delay was not to be thought of, and an ax-blow committed the raft to the mercy of the wind, assisted by a current of two knots an hour.

The sail was spread. They drifted slowly toward the land, which rose in gray, hazy masses, on a background of sky illumined by the rising sun. The reef was dexterously avoided and doubled, but with the fitful breeze the raft could not get near the shore. What toil and pain to reach a coast so full of danger when attained.

At nine o'clock, the land was less than a mile off. It was a steeply-shelving shore, fringed with breakers; a practicable landing-place had to be discovered.

Gradually the breeze grew fainter, and then ceased entirely. The sail flapped idly against the mast, and John had it furled. The tide alone carried the raft to the shore, but steering had become impossible, and its passage was impeded by immense bands of fucus.

At ten o'clock John found himself almost at a stand-still, not three

cables' lengths from the shore. Having lost their anchor, they were at the mercy of the ebb-tide.

John clenched his hands; he was racked with anxiety, and cast frenzied glances toward this inaccessible shore.

In the midst of his perplexities, a shock was felt. The raft stood still. It had landed on a sand-bank, twenty-five fathoms from the coast.

Glenarvan, Robert, Wilson, and Mulrady, jumped into the water. The raft was firmly moored to the nearest rocks. The ladies were carried to land without wetting a fold of their dresses, and soon the whole party, with their arms and provisions, were finally landed on these much dreaded New Zealand shores.

Glenarvan would have liked to start without an hour's delay, and follow the coast to Auckland. But since the morning heavy clouds had been gathering, and toward eleven o'clock, after the landing was effected, the vapours condensed into violent rain, so that instead of starting they had to look for shelter.

Wilson was fortunate enough to discover what just suited their wants: a grotto hollowed out by the sea in the basaltic rocks. Here the travellers took shelter with their arms and provisions. In the cave they found a ready-garnered store of dried sea-weed, which formed a convenient couch; for fire, they lighted some wood near the mouth of the cavern, and dried themselves as well as they could.

John hoped that the duration of this deluge of rain would be in an inverse ratio to its violence, but he was doomed to disappointment. Hours passed without any abatement of its fury. Toward noon the wind freshened, and increased the force of the storm. The most patient of men would have rebelled at such an untoward incident; but what could be done; without any vehicle, they could not brave such a tempest; and, after all, unless the natives appeared on the scene, a delay of twelve hours was not so much consequence, as the journey to Auckland was only a matter of a few days. During this involuntary halt, the conversation turned on the incidents of the New Zealand war. But to understand and appreciate the critical position into which these *Macquarie* passengers were thrown, something ought to be known of the history of the struggle which had deluged the island of Ika-na-Mani with blood.

Since the arrival of Abel Tasman in Cook's Strait, on the 16th of December, 1642, though the New Zealanders had often been visited

by European vessels, they had maintained their liberty in their several islands. No European power had thought of taking possession of this archipelago, which commands the whole Pacific Ocean. The missionaries stationed at various points were the sole channels of Christian civilization. Some of them, especially the Anglicans, prepared the minds of the New Zealand chiefs for submitting to the English yoke. It was cleverly managed, and these chiefs were influenced to sign a letter addressed to Queen Victoria to ask her protection. But the most clear-sighted of them saw the folly of this step; and one of them, after having affixed his tattoo-mark to the letter by way of signature, uttered these prophetic words: "We have lost our country! henceforth it is not ours; soon the stranger will come and take it, and we shall be his slaves."

And so it was; on January 29, 1840, the English corvette *Herald* arrived to claim possession.

From the year 1840, till the day the Duncan left the Clyde, nothing had happened here that Paganel did not know and he was ready to impart his information to his companions.

"Madam," said he, in answer to Lady Helena's questions, "I must repeat what I had occasion to remark before, that the New Zealanders are a courageous people, who yielded for a moment, but afterward fought foot to foot against the English invaders. The Maori tribes are organized like the old clans of Scotland. They are so many great families owning a chief, who is very jealous of his prerogative. The men of this race are proud and brave, one tribe tall, with straight hair, like the Maltese, or the Jews of Baghdad; the other smaller, thickset like mulattoes, but robust, haughty, and warlike. They had a famous chief, named Hihi, a real Vercingetorix, so that you need not be astonished that the war with the English has become chronic in the Northern Island, for in it is the famous tribe of the Waikato, who defend their lands under the leadership of William Thompson."

"But," said John Mangles, "are not the English in possession of the principal points in New Zealand?"

"Certainly, dear John," replied Paganel. "After Captain Hobson took formal possession, and became governor, nine colonies were founded at various times between 1840 and 1862, in the most favourable situations. These formed the nucleus of nine provinces, four in the North Island and five in the southern island, with a total population of 184,346 inhabitants on the 30th of June, 1864."

"But what about this interminable war?" asked John Mangles.

"Well," said Paganel, "six long months have gone by since we left Europe, and I cannot say what may have happened during that time, with the exception of a few facts which I gathered from the newspapers of Maryborough and Seymour during our Australian journey. At that time the fighting was very lively in the Northern Island."

"And when did the war commence?" asked Mary Grant.

"Recommence, you mean, my dear young lady," replied Paganel; "for there was an insurrection so far back as 1845. The present war began toward the close of 1863; but long before that date the Maoris were occupied in making preparations to shake off the English yoke. The national party among the natives carried on an active propaganda for the election of a Maori ruler. The object was to make old Potatau king, and to fix as the capital of the new kingdom his village, which lay between the Waikato and Waipa Rivers. Potatau was an old man, remarkable rather for cunning than bravery; but he had a Prime Minister who was both intelligent and energetic, a descendant of the Ngatihahuas, who occupied the isthmus before the arrival of the strangers. This minister, William Thompson, became the soul of the War of Independence, and organized the Maori troops, with great skill. Under this guidance a Taranaki chief gathered the scattered tribes around the same flag; a Waikato chief formed a 'Land League,' intended to prevent the natives from selling their land to the English Government, and warlike feasts were held just as in civilized countries on the verge of revolution. The English newspapers began to notice these alarming symptoms, and the government became seriously disturbed at these 'Land League' proceedings. In short, the train was laid, and the mine was ready to explode. Nothing was wanted but the spark, or rather the shock of rival interests to produce the spark."

"This shock took place in 1860, in the Taranaki province on the southwest coast of Ika-na-Mani. A native had six hundred acres of land in the neighbourhood of New Plymouth. He sold them to the English Government; but when the surveyor came to measure the purchased land, the chief Kingi protested, and by the month of March he had made the six hundred acres in question into a fortified camp, surrounded with high palisades. Some days after Colonel Gold carried this fortress at the head of his troops, and that day heard the first shot fired of the native war."

name in Australia.

“Yan later made an application seeking revocation of the restraining order.

“The DPP’s proceedings were ultimately resolved by orders of the Supreme Court of New South Wales on 15 November 2006, by consent, forfeiting the sum of A\$3,374,236.19 to the Commonwealth.

“On 7 June 2007, pursuant to the equitable sharing provisions of the POC Act 2002, the Australian Government repatriated a sum of over \$3.37 million to the Government of the People’s Republic of China,” reported the Director of Public Prosecutions in October last year.

Fascinating stuff, but even more so when the documents obtained by *TGIF Edition* reveal Yang Liu’s Australian prosecution happened whilst Liu was already a New Zealand permanent resident and has been since 2002.

The evidence for this is a signed letter by Labour MP and former cabinet minister Dover Samuels, **written on Labour Party letterhead**, dated 30 January 2008 and addressed to Internal Affairs Minister Rick Barker.

“I personally know Mr Liu,” begins Samuels, naming Liu’s partner and “two young children” before continuing:

“Mr Liu has Permanent Residence and has lived in Auckland for six years or more. During the years that I have known him he has demonstrated to be a caring father and husband, with humility and generosity of spirit.

“It is my understanding and confirmed by many New Zealand Chinese, that Bill is a decent law abiding person and would make a model New Zealand citizen. I agree with them.

“Mr Liu is well known for his public profile, his advocacy of open democracy, social justice and Human Rights,” waxed Dover Samuels, “the same principles that make us proud to be New Zealanders.”

Then, in the only clue that Samuels knew of darker allegations swirling around his protégé Yang Liu, he wrote, “Unfortunately, there are those who think otherwise.”

Samuels didn’t specify what the “otherwise” might entail, but clearly he’s on the record as being aware, and his comment suggests the Minister was aware as well because Samuels saw no reason to elaborate further. Instead, he told Internal Affairs Minister Rick Barker:

“Over the years, Bill has developed a constructive and meaningful relationship with Tangata Whenua, he has also made investments into the fishing and hospitality industry”

A further document, obtained by *TGIF Edition*, is the reply from Internal Affairs Minister Rick Barker to Dover Samuels:

“Dear Dover, thank you for your letter dated 30 January 2008 supporting Yang (Bill) Liu’s application for a grant of New Zealand citizenship. A copy of your letter has been sent to the Citizenship Office to be attached to Mr Liu’s file.

“I assure you that when Mr Liu’s application is forwarded to me for a decision, I will take his personal circumstances and your letter of support into consideration. Yours sincerely, Rick Barker.”

On 17 March this year, the paper trail reveals the Internal Affairs Department’s Citizenship Office in Manukau wrote to Yang Liu about a hiccup in his application.

“One of the requirements of New Zealand citizenship is that an applicant must be able to satisfy the Minister of Internal Affairs that she/he is of good character,” wrote DIA’s Johannes Gambo.

“As you are aware, there is still an active Red Interpol Notice recorded against your name, indicating that an arrest warrant has been issued by the Chinese judicial authorities.”

Gambo suggested the best course of action was for Liu to ask China to rescind the arrest warrant, but an alternative route existed if preferred:

“If, however, you do not wish to ask them to cancel the arrest warrant, your application should be referred to the Minister in an individual submission... You may wish to provide additional information and evidence to satisfy the Minister that, in spite of the above information, you do meet the good character requirement.

“The Minister may approve your application if he is satisfied that you have exceptional circumstances and that it would be in the public interest for you to receive the grant of citizenship.”

A further letter on Liu’s DIA file (file number CIT2005011583), dated 25 March 2008, reveals the Internal Affairs Department has grave doubts about the suitability of Yang Liu to even be in New Zealand as a permanent resident, let alone be awarded citizenship.

“Could you please answer the following questions in writing,” asked Gambo:

1. How many identities do you have or have you used?
2. Why are you using multiple identities?
3. Which of these identities are false?
4. What is your true name?
5. What is your correct date of birth?
6. Is your birth certificate a true record of your birth? If no, why?
7. If 20 October 1972 was not your correct date of birth, why did you declare on your application form that you were born on 20 October 1972? Why are you using a Chinese passport that shows your date of birth as 20 October 1972?

8. If 15 June 1969 was not your correct date of birth, why are you using a Chinese passport that shows your date of birth as 15 June 1969? Or why have you used a Chinese passport that shows your date of birth as 15 June 1969?

9. How did you obtain this passport? What documents were used to obtain this passport (the Chinese passport authorities would have sighted documentation with this date of birth before issuing a passport to you)?

10. What happened to these [other] passports: 144944669; 143080886; 140275129?

11. What dates of birth and names were used in obtaining these passports?

12. Are all the documents you have provided to us in support of your application genuine in every respect? If no, why?

13. Were your travel documents, visas and permits all obtained legally using genuine documents? If no, why?

14. What dates of birth have you used in your dealings with other government departments and non-government agencies in New Zealand and overseas (for example, banks, Inland Revenue Department, WINZ and LTSA)? Please provide documentary evidence.

15. What names have you used [with the entities in 14]?

16. How many identities have you used to enter (or depart from) United States of America? If more than one, why?

17. How many identities have you used to enter (or depart from) Australia? If more than one, why?

18. How many identities have you used to enter (or depart from) New Zealand? If more than one, why?

19. How many offshore registered companies do you currently own? If any, where?

20. How many offshore registered companies have you owned? If any, where?

The letter reveals knowledge of at least two international criminal investigations into Yang Liu, or whoever he really is, and further asks:

“Apart from America and Australia, have you visited any other country in the last five years? If yes, why were they omitted from your application form?”

Gambo’s letter concludes with a warning that it’s a criminal offence under s27 of the Citizenship Act to “knowingly or recklessly provide a false statement or submit false/forged documents in support of your citizenship application.”

As is very clear, by this stage the DIA didn’t even know who it was really dealing with. Yang Liu is a man with two passports in different names, and possibly three other passports as well. His companies were also registered in the British Virgin Islands tax haven — the same haven where Labour’s previous major campaign donor, Owen Glenn, has domiciled his companies.

According to *TGIF Edition*’s informant inside the DIA, Liu allegedly mentioned to a DIA case worker he had donated to Labour at a function at the Jade Terrace restaurant:

“The Minister for Internal Affairs is giving New Zealand citizenship to people (people who have donated money to the party) who do not meet the requirements,” our informant said when first tipping us off about Liu’s case. “These citizenships were given against the department’s recommendations. One recent case is in connection with a man who has multiple identities. He is also wanted by the law enforcement agency in his home country. The

Minister approved the application against the Department’s recommendation. These actions are devaluing the New Zealand passport.”

Our informant added tonight: “This is not the first one. The fact is that Mr Liu is unable to meet the “good character requirement” of the Citizenship Act. He was only approved because he is a big donor to the Labour party. He was also given an urgent ceremony. This is worse than Philip Taito Field’s story. You do not give a New Zealand passport to dodgy people without a reason.”

Liu’s citizenship application was fast-tracked, according to DIA sources: “Mr. Liu got his citizenship on 11 August 2008 at a private ceremony in Wellington officiated by Dover Samuels.”

TGIF Edition received independent corroboration from one of our other sources that citizenship has indeed been conferred on Yang Liu, and Dover Samuels has confirmed he conducted the ceremony.

Regardless of what motivated Labour to approve Liu’s citizenship, the hard facts are that Liu’s citizenship was approved by the Minister, despite knowing that Liu was using multiple identities, had not declared his aliases, and had allegedly supplied false information on his citizenship forms. Whilst Dover Samuels points out that Liu has not used his aliases in New Zealand, it’s a different story across the Tasman where bank accounts were opened using what police allege were false identities.

For Internal Affairs Minister Rick Barker and Associate Immigration Minister Shane Jones — knowing that DIA had discovered criminal breaches in Liu’s application punishable by up to five years’ jail — the questions they now face are serious. Many applicants for residency, let alone citizenship, have been turned away from New Zealand for far less. There is a punishment of up to ten years jail for anyone who issues a citizenship to someone not lawfully entitled to it, under the Citizenship Act.

Rick Barker denies making the final decision on Liu’s citizenship application, but the Department of Internal Affairs has gone on record this afternoon to confirm it sent its recommendations to the Minister. The file would have contained all the information uncovered, confirmed a DIA head office spokesman. Although Barker was actively involved in the file as recently as February this year, *TGIF* received confirmation from Dover Samuels this afternoon that Associate Immigration Minister Shane Jones was called in to act on Barker’s behalf.

But why was Jones brought in?

What Barker didn’t tell *TGIF* when we first approached him this morning, was that the Internal Affairs Minister has been a guest of honour at “fundraising” functions amongst the Chinese community at Auckland’s Jade Terrace restaurant.

And not just Barker. *TGIF* only found out about the extent of fundraising when we sought comment from Labour Party President Mike Williams about Liu’s donation status. Williams told us that while he didn’t recognise Yang Liu’s name as a formal donor, he could well have attended fundraising functions that Labour hosted in Auckland.

“Like the Jade restaurant?” we asked.

“Yes, at the Jade,” said Williams, who referred us to one of Labour’s Asian candidates for further detail.

Candidate Raymond Huo confirmed to *TGIF Edition* that “five or six fundraising dinners” have been held at Jade Terrace this year, including some featuring Rick Barker and others featuring Yang Liu’s friend Dover Samuels.

Huo said Liu did not attend the fundraiser Huo organised on May 24, and was not invited.

“I had been advised by a previous candidate, Steven Ching, to be ‘cautious’ in my dealings with Yang Liu, so I never sought donations or assistance from him.”

It’s understood up to \$200,000 can be raised at a single event, on a good night. Mike Williams told *TGIF* that donations collected are “aggregated” rather than entered under the names of individual donors.

We asked Barker whether it was wise for a Minister in his position to be hosting fundraisers within immigrant communities whose members could require him to determine their immigration status later.

“Can I come back to you on that?” Barker initially responded.

After further questioning from *TGIF* Rick Barker began to elaborate on the fundraisers: “The implication you’ve got is that I attended a fundraising dinner with Yang Liu, and I want to say to you

I have not.”

“Would you know, if you had?”

“I know the individual yes, but I have not attended a fundraising dinner with him.”

“How do you know him?” *TGIF* asked.

“I’ll come back to you with the answers to a range of questions... I know who he is. I’m very careful about any fundraising function. I don’t do it for me personally, I do it for the party, and I’m very conscious that if anybody’s got any issues I don’t want them to participate in any function at all.

“My office has a firm rule. Any offers of cash or money for services or anything like that is to be refused.”

“How long have you known Yang Liu,” *TGIF* asked again.

“Ah, I’m going to come back to you with my other answers as well. It’s part of a package of answers.”

Dover Samuels’ friendship with Yang Liu is already on the record, but the revelation that Liu was known personally by the Minister of Internal Affairs is a bombshell twist to the case.

TGIF sought comment from Associate Immigration Minister Shane Jones, but he hung up on us. We wanted to ask Jones whether, as DIA staff allege, he had a role in letting Liu stay in the country, and whether in fact Jones was called on to make the final decision because of Rick Barker’s conflict of interest.

Jones and his office have so far failed to respond. Officially, at press time, neither Rick Barker’s office nor Jones’ office have confirmed Jones’ role in the sequence of events.

Dover Samuels, on the other hand, defended his decision to support Yang Liu despite the allegations swirling around them, telling the newspaper that Liu and his family were victims of a vendetta originating in China.

Samuels says he was aware Liu had two different passports with different names, but says Liu told him it was because he was fostered out as a child. The passports however not only have different names, but the birth dates are three years apart.

Samuels also claimed Liu had told him the Australian court verdict against him had been overturned in a ruling only three weeks ago, but checks with the Australian prosecutor’s office have shown Liu’s claim is untrue.

Kathy Medved, from the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions head office in Canberra, told *TGIF* late today that the claim of a new court case overturning the verdict is “a fantasy”.

“The situation remains exactly as we laid out in our official report last year,” she said.

Dover Samuels also told *TGIF* that Liu had hired John Billington QC, but when we rang Billington this afternoon his response was: “Who? I don’t have any idea who you are talking about.”

If Samuels was relying on Liu for his information, so far it hasn’t been convincing. Liu’s phone was going unanswered today.

Samuels and Internal Affairs Minister Rick Barker — who both know Yang Liu — deny knowing whether he is a Labour party donor. Barker denies attending any fundraising “dinners” with Liu, but has not yet disclosed how he knows the man. And if Liu did make donations to Labour at a fundraising meeting, there is unlikely to be any official record because of Labour’s policy of simply lumping all the money together that is raised each night. While it makes the donation technically hard to prove, it also makes it technically hard for Labour to rule it out because of a lack of integrity in their fundraising methods.

New Zealand Police already have a prosecution underway of another former Labour cabinet minister, Philip Taito, into allegations that he received cheap tiling and painting from members of the Thai community in return for assisting their immigration applications. Police only launched their investigation of Field, however, after he refused to guarantee his vote in Parliament would continue to support Labour.

An official government inquiry lasting months and costing a fortune was launched to ascertain whether, in fact, Field had received any donations of money or labour.

Given the politicisation of the NZ Police headquarters, only a Serious Fraud Office investigation could possibly unravel the details of this latest citizenship scandal, one way or the other.

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Value Your Vote Election 08

Before you vote for a politician or party,
see how they voted on laws affecting your family

Over the past six years there have been a number of law changes voted on by our politicians specifically impacting the welfare of kiwi families, and the role of parents and marriage.

Some of these laws have undermined the important role parents play in their children's lives. Others have weakened and attempted to redefine the traditional family structure, ignoring the mass body of research which shows that family structure and marriage is hugely beneficial, not only for children, but for adults and families as well.

And a number of them have failed to take into account what is best for the welfare and safety of families.

This brochure allows you to see how your local MP and each political party has voted on these important social issues.

Families deserve laws that strengthen and protect them – not ones that redefine and undermine them.

We hope this record of how our members of parliament voted on important family-based legislation will help you make an informed decision of who to vote for at Election '08.

Bob McCoskrie
National Director - Family First NZ



For more details, go to:

www.familyfirst.org.nz

Promoting the role of parents and the well-being of our children and families



ACT													
Hide	Rodney	Epsom	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X		
Roy	Heather		X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓		X		
GREEN													
Bradford	Sue		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Fitzsimons	Jeanette		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Kedgley	Sue		X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X		
Locke	Keith		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Tanczos	Nandor		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Turei	Metiria		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
LABOUR													
Barker	Rick		X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X		
Barnett	Tim	Christchurch Central	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Benson-Pope	David	Dunedin South	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Burton	Mark	Taupo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Carter	Chris	Te Atatu	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Chadwick	Steve	Rotorua	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Choudhary	Ashraf		Abstain	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Clark	Helen	Mt Albert	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Cosgrove	Clayton	Waimakariri	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Cullen	Michael		X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Cunliffe	David	New Lynn	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X		
Dalziel	Lianne	Christchurch East	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Duynhoven	Harry	New Plymouth	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X		
Dyson	Ruth	Banks Peninsula	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Fairbrother	Russell		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Gallagher	Martin	Hamilton West	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Goff	Phil	Mt Roskill	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Gosche	Mark	Maungakiekie	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Hartley	Ann		X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Hawkins	George	Manurewa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Hereora	Dave		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Hobbs	Marian	Wellington Central	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Hodgson	Peter	Dunedin North	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Horomia	Parekura	Ikaroa-Rawhiti	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Hughes	Darren	Otaki	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
King	Annette	Rongotai	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Laban	Luamanuvao	Mana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X		
Mackey	Moana			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Maharey	Steve	Palmerston North	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Mahuta	Nanaia	Tainui	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Mallard	Trevor	Hutt South	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
O'Connor	Damien	West Coast - Tasman	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Okeroa	Mahara	Te Tai Tonga	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Parker	David		X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Pettis	Jill		X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Pillay	Lynne	Waitakere	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Ririnui	Mita		X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Robertson	Ross	Manukau East	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Samuels	Dover		✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X		
Swain	Paul	Rimutaka	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Tizard	Judith	Auckland Central	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Wilson	Margaret		X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Yates	Dianne		✓	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X		
Chauvel	Charles											X	X
Fenton	Darien										X	X	X
Jones	Shane										X	X	✓
Moroney	Sue										X	X	✓
Soper	Lesley											X	
Street	Maryan										X	X	X
MAORI													
Turia	Tariana	Te Tai Hauauru	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	✓		
Flavell	Te Ururoa	Waiariki									X	X	✓
Harawira	Hone	Te Tai Tokerau									X	X	✓
Sharples	Pita	Tamaki Makaurau									X	X	✓

			2002 - 2005						2005-2008		
Surname	First Name	Electorate	Prostitution	Civil Unions	Relationships	Parental Notif'n	Euthanasia	Care of Children	Marriage	Anti-Smacking	Drinking Age
NZ FIRST											
Brown	Peter		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Jones	Dail		✓	✓	✓	✓	Abstain	✓			
Mark	Ron		✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Paraone	Pita		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peters	Winston		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stewart	Barbara		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Woolerton	Doug		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓
UNITED FUTURE											
Dunne	Peter	Ohariu-Belmont	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Turner	Judy		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PROGRESSIVE											
Anderton	Jim	Wigram	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	✓
INDEPENDENT											
Field	Taito Phillip	Mangere	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Copeland	Gordon		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NATIONAL											
Ardern	Shane	Taranaki – King Country	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Brownlee	Gerry	Ilam	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Carter	David		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Carter	John	Northland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Collins	Judith	Clevedon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Connell	Brian	Rakaia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
English	Bill	Clutha-Southland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Goudie	Sandra	Coromandel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Heatley	Phil	Whangarei	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Hutchison	Paul	Port Waikato	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Key	John	Helensville	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓
Mapp	Wayne	North Shore	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
McCully	Murray	East Coast Bays	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X
Power	Simon	Rangitikei	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
Rich	Katherine		X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
Roy	Eric	Invercargill		X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Ryall	Tony	Bay Of Plenty	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Simich	Clem		X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X
Smith	Lockwood	Rodney	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X
Smith	Nick	Nelson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
te Heuheu	Georgina		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	✓
Tisch	Lindsay	Piako	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Williamson	Maurice	Pakuranga	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Wong	Pansy		✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Worth	Richard		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Auchinvole	Chris								✓	X	X
Bennett	David	Hamilton East							✓	X	X
Bennett	Paula								✓	X	X
Blue	Jackie								✓	X	X
Blumsky	Mark								X	X	X
Borrows	Chester	Whanganui							✓	X	✓
Clarkson	Bob	Tauranga							✓	X	✓
Coleman	Johathan	Northcote							✓	X	✓
Dean	Jacqui	Otago							✓	X	X
Finlayson	Christopher								X	X	✓
Foss	Craig	Tukituki							✓	X	✓
Goodhew	Jo	Aoraki							✓	X	
Groser	Tim								X	X	X
Guy	Nathan								✓	X	X
Hayes	John	Wairarapa							✓	X	✓
Henare	Tau								X	X	X
King	Colin	Kaikoura							✓	X	✓
Peachey	Allan	Tamaki							✓	X	X
Shanks	Katrina									X	
Tolley	Anne	East Coast							✓	X	✓
Tremain	Chris	Napier							✓	X	✓
Wagner	Nicky								✓	X	X
Wilkinson	Kate								✓	X	X

KEY

- ✓ = Family Friendly Vote
- X = Non-Family Friendly Vote
-

>> View back page for details of the law changes voted on.

Prostitution



Prostitution was made legal in New Zealand in 2004, after the passing of the Prostitution Reform Bill. The aim of the Bill was to try and protect the safety and rights of those involved in prostitution. In doing so it made it legal for small brothels to operate in residential areas next to family homes, and failed to protect communities and families from the effects of street and underage prostitution. The Bill was controversial and passed by only a single vote majority.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Oppose

Care of Children Act



The Care of Children Act made substantial changes to the way family is conceived in law by extending the state's authority over children and diversifying the description of families. Under the new law, parents only have 'day to day care' rather than 'custody' of their children; children's rights were emphasised and prominence was given to children's participation in decision making.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Oppose

Civil Unions



A new form of relationship was created when 'civil unions' were invented as a new legal category of relationship in 2004. The Civil Union Act made it possible for couples of either same-sex or opposite-sex to formalise their relationship without the religious or historical boundaries of marriage, through a solemnisation ceremony called a civil union. The number of people choosing these unions has been small, showing there was little demand for them.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Oppose

Marriage Amendment Bill



In 2005, the Marriage (Gender Clarification) Amendment Bill was put before the house. It attempted to clearly define marriage as a union between one man and one woman, in accordance with the common law understanding of marriage. The Bill was rejected making it possible for courts to re-interpret the way marriage is legally understood.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Support

Relationships Bill



Civil Union partners and de-facto couples were given the same rights and responsibilities as married people through The Relationships (Statutory References) Act 2005. The law now makes virtually no distinction between these different groups, with marriage no longer having the unique or special status it deserves.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Oppose

Anti-Smacking Law



In 2007, Section 59 of the Crimes Act was amended, removing legal protection from parents who exercise reasonable discipline over their children in the form of light physical punishment. The amendment makes parents who engage in such discipline liable for prosecution and unwarranted intervention by CYF. Meanwhile the actual root causes of child abuse, as identified by UNICEF and CYF reports, remain. The law was passed despite more than 80% of New Zealanders opposing it.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Oppose

Parental Notification



Currently in New Zealand, girls under the age of 16 can have an abortion, without their parents being informed. In 2004 an amendment to the Care of Children Bill (current section 38) was put forward to prevent this. The amendment would have allowed girls to make the final decision about whether or not to abort the unborn child, but would have ensured this decision did not happen in isolation from their parents. The amendment was voted against and did not pass into law.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Support

Drinking Age

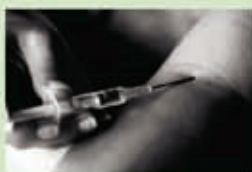


In 2006 a Bill was presented to parliament, to increase the age at which alcohol can be purchased, from 18 to 20. The Sale of Liquor (Youth Alcohol Harm Reduction: Purchase Age) Amendment Bill was not intended to be a cure-all solution to alcohol abuse, but was intended to challenge a liberal environment in which alcohol is easily accessible and too often abused, especially by young people. The Bill was rejected by parliament.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Support

Euthanasia Bill



The "Death with Dignity" Bill would have legalised euthanasia, by allowing people who are incurably and terminally ill, to request and receive medical assistance to end their life. The Bill was introduced in 2003 and was voted against. Pro-life groups advocated the alternative of proper palliative care, as provided by hospices, for management of pain for terminally-ill people.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Oppose

For more details on these bills and others which have affected families, plus policies of the political parties concerning other potential family related legislation, go to ➤

www.familyfirst.org.nz