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# GOVT SPINDOCTOR CAUGHT SPYING

## ACC executive impersonated journalist

By Ian Wishart

A senior media advisor for a government department impersonated a journalist at a court hearing in Dunedin this week, and failed to disclose her true identity or why she was there.

It happened during the hearing into whether Dunedin private investigator Peter Gibbons should lose his licence, after the release last month of a damning Independent Police Conduct Authority report into links between Gibbons and inappropriate actions by his friends and relatives inside Dunedin Police.

Gibbons and his company Mainland Investigations had a contract to investigate fraud on behalf of the Accident Compensation Corporation, worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. *Investigate* magazine discovered last year that Gibbons was obtaining police search warrants against ACC claimants – and therefore billable hours for his private investigation business – with the assistance of his son-in-law police officer, and mates inside the police.

The IPCA report made a number of major criticisms about the police failure to manage the serious conflicts of interest involved.

Sixteen ACC claimants laid complaints with the Registrar of Private Investigators, Gary Harrison, alleging Gibbons was not a fit and proper person within the terms of the Act to hold a licence.

However, when the hearing began in Dunedin this week, a number of senior ACC staff turned up, apparently in support of Gibbons.

One woman, who the objectors did not recognise, was taking notes and – when asked by objectors on Monday – told them her name was “Stephanie” and she was doing a freelance story on the case.

“Stephanie said she was interested in ACC and that she was doing some research,” one woman told TGIF Edition. “I asked what kind of research?”

“Stephanie said it was personal research, and she was thinking about writing a book.”

“Are you going to publish it?” asked another.

“I’m not but somebody else might,” Stephanie replied.

“Who would that be?”

“I would prefer not to say.”

Objector Bruce van Essen says Stephanie told him she was a journalist working on a story about the case, and he says she took down notes of her conversation with him.

On Tuesday, when the objectors withdrew amid claims that the court was permitting witness-badgering, the woman was seen talking to some of

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## “Wooooooooowwww!! Is she like the smartest moose hunter ever?”

### Palin wins VP debate

Conservative commentators and bloggers were doing symbolic hi-fives across the web this afternoon after Republican VP candidate Sarah Palin gave a strong performance in her one and only debate with Democrat VP hopeful Joe Biden.

Remaining punchy, focused and well-briefed, Palin more than held her own against Biden in a 90 minute televised showdown widely expected to reassure US voters that Palin can handle the pressures of national politics.

“Who won?” asked one commentator for AOL’s newsblog. “I liked Palin, I can see how Biden maybe won on points. But the bottom line here is that there can be no doubt that Palin is ready for prime time, she hung in there with him, had most of the energy, got a lot of licks in.”

“Wooooooooowwww!! Is she like the smartest moose hunter ever?” posted another.

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## Special report

# “We don’t know what to tell the public”

## NZ health officials sitting on cancer bombshell

By Ian Wishart

Editor, TGIF Edition

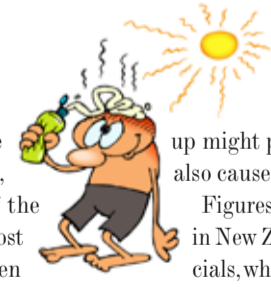
Millions of New Zealanders are about to be bombarded with another summer of “slip-slop-slap” safety messages, because New Zealand health officials are not sure how to break the news to the public that the decades-old sunsmart message is

flawed, and potentially fatal.

With daylight saving ushered in last weekend, the Health Sponsorship Council was quoted in numerous media reports urging the public to stay out of the sun again this summer, and ensure the slip, slop, slap and wrap message was adhered to for the sake of avoiding skin cancer.

But the Ministry of Health is sitting on an ava-

lanche of scientific data that suggests the sunsmart campaign is not only out of date, but it is dangerously so. At the centre of the scientific research is vitamin D, which is most easily produced by the human body when our skin is exposed to direct sunlight. Unless people are using sunblock, or covering their skin with clothing – according to the research covering



up might protect us from skin cancer, but it also causes vitamin D levels to drop.

Figures of up to 60,000 skin cancers a year in New Zealand are bandied around by officials, who say it’s the most common cancer in the country. But whilst skin cancers are common down under, they’re rarely fatal. Of those

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## off BEAT

### MILLION-POUND NOTE SELLS FOR 78,300 POUNDS

**LONDON, (UPI)** — A rare million-pound banknote sold for 78,300 pounds, or about \$138,000, at a London auction, but the price had nothing to do with the global credit crisis. The note — known as No. 8 and believed to be one of only two in existence — was valid for only six weeks after Britain issued it Aug. 30, 1948, as part of the U.S. Marshall Plan to rebuild and strengthen allied European countries after World War II, Spink auction house said. The series of eight U.S. and British banknotes was intended for internal use as records of movement, Spink said. No. 8 was originally given to British Treasury Secretary E.E. Bridges, whose signature it bears, but it left the family some years ago, Spink said. In any case, Bridges' signature was canceled by the Bank of England Oct. 6, 1948. The note — whose face value would be worth \$1.77 million today — had been expected to fetch around \$70,000, but competitive bidding pushed the price to \$138,300, *The Times of London* said. Spink — which specializes auctioning coins, stamps, medals and banknotes — did not say who the winning bidder was. A similar U.S. note sold at Christie's in 1991 for about \$40,000. Guinness World Records lists the British note as being the highest denomination in private ownership.

### TROLLEY WALLY

**BOSTON, (UPI)** — Transportation officials in Boston said a trolley bus driver was fired after he was photographed allowing two young children to take the wheel of the vehicle. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority said the 45-year-old driver, whose name was not released, was fired after pictures surfaced that depicted him allowing his young son and nephew to take the wheel of the trolley, *The Boston Herald* reported Wednesday. At the MBTA, we will not tolerate any behavior by an employee that may compromise the safety of MBTA customers and other employees, General Manager Daniel Grabauskas said. The photographs were first posted on Web site Craigslist by a passenger who said the pictures were taken on an outbound Green Line trolley at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 1. I don't take any joy in the firing of the driver, said Michael Critz, who took the photographs. My heart and prayers go out to him and his family during this trying time. However, there have been too many fatal accidents on the Green Line for passengers or the MBTA to allow a driver with a history of making bad safety choices to remain on the job. The controls of a trolley car are simply no place for children.

### SCHOOLGIRLS SUSPENDED OVER KATY PERRY SONG

**VAN, TEXAS, (UPI)** — Three Texas high school twirling team members were banned from performing at two football games for defying school officials by changing their routine's music. Van Independent School District Assistant Superintendent Suzie McWilliams said the three Van High School Twirl Team members were suspended for two games after a performance that included a song officials ruled was inconsistent with the student code of conduct, *The Dallas Morning News* reported this week. The students changed the music in their routine to I Kissed a Girl by Katy Perry even though school officials told them the lyrics were too suggestive. They did the same routine they perform every week, McWilliams said. They just changed the music. One of the twirlers, Jordan Downey, said she and the others did not expect their punishment to be so severe. It just got blown out of proportion, she said.

### BULLET STOPPED BY MAN'S DENTURES

**ZAGREB, CROATIA, (UPI)** — Police in the Croatian capital, Zagreb, said a couple survived a shooting when a bullet grazed the woman's cheekbone and was stopped by her husband's dentures. Investigators said Stipe Cavlovic, 37, and his wife, Mima, got caught up in an argument between two men and one of the men pulled out a gun and fired off a shot, *The Daily Telegraph* reported Wednesday. The bullet grazed Mima Cavlovic's cheekbone before lodging itself in her husband's mouth, where it was stopped by his false teeth. I thought I was dead for sure, Stipe Cavlovic told police. "I didn't even see the bullet hit my wife. I just saw the flash of the gun's barrel. The next thing I knew was something hit my false tooth and I spat out the hot lead. It hurt like hell but we're both still alive, he said. Police said the gunman fled the scene but a 58-year-old suspect was arrested soon after the incident.

# Storekeeper charged, another one stabbed

**WELLINGTON, OCT 3** — Another Auckland shopkeeper has suffered serious injuries after being stabbed tonight. The stabbing happened on the day police told retailers to use common sense when defending themselves after a 40-year-old man stabbed in a fight outside his liquor store was himself arrested.

Inspector Kay Lane, of police northern communications, said a man entered the Lotto shop in New Windsor Road, Avondale, about 5.20pm today and attacked the shopkeeper.

"He approached the male shopkeeper and stabbed him several times in the upper body area," she said.

"The victim has been taken to Auckland Hospital with serious injuries."

Shanti Lal told *Newstalk ZB* tonight the victim was his 55-year-old brother.

Mr Lal said his brother was stabbed in the neck and back. Police found a man and arrested him a short distance from the scene. A woman in a next-door takeaway bar told NZPA the stabbed man staggered into the shop and they phoned 111.

His alleged attacker, a teenaged Polynesian boy, stood outside and waited until police arrived and took him into custody.

Meanwhile, Varinder Singh appeared in Manukau

**“THE LAW STATES THAT REASONABLE FORCE AND REASONABLE STEPS FOR SHOP OWNERS IN DEFENDING THEMSELVES, ANY OTHER PERSONS OR THEIR PROPERTY IS ACCEPTABLE. THOSE THAT CLEARLY EXCEED THAT FORCE CAN EXPECT TO BE ARRESTED AND HELD ACCOUNTABLE BEFORE THE CRIMINAL COURTS**

District Court today facing two charges of injuring with intent to injure following the altercation outside his Gilbert Rd liquor store in Otara on Tuesday night.

Singh, 40, was remanded on bail. Detective Senior Sergeant Dave Pizzini said the charges related to separate victims, and that weapons were used in

both alleged assaults.

A 15-year-old youth is also expected to face charges over the incident. Mr Pizzini would not rule out other arrests.

"The arrest serves as a reminder to all who take the law into their own hands in some circumstances (it) cannot be justified," Mr Pizzini told a media conference today.

"The law states that reasonable force and reasonable steps for shop owners in defending themselves, any other persons or their property is acceptable.

"Those that clearly exceed that force can expect to be arrested and held accountable before the criminal courts ... people need to use their common sense."

He said shop owners who feared for their safety "need to get on the phone, dial 111 and the police will respond and deal with it".

Mr Pizzini said two of the five youths who were involved in the incident were injured and required hospital treatment.

"One of them received reasonably serious facial injuries. He had damage to his teeth and sustained very serious swelling to his nose and mouth area.

"The other one has sustained a number of bruises on his back and shoulders."

— NZPA

### FROM FRONT PAGE

the ACC staff and appeared to know them. When objectors again questioned her identity, she then confessed she was ACC's lead media advisor, based at head office in Wellington.

The allegation that a senior government official lied about her identity and impersonated a member of the news media was serious enough for *TGIF Edition* to phone ACC head office in Wellington.

Spokesman Laurie Edwards confirmed that Stephanie Julian was indeed with ACC, and that she had lied about who she was. However, Edwards claimed she had good reason:

"ACC had a number of staff in Dunedin to attend a licence review hearing in relation to Mainland Information Consultants. All but one of our staff were there because they had been 'summoned' by the Court Registrar. The 'Summons', being a Court Order, legally compelled them to be present and answer questions asked of them. The one ACC person not 'summoned' was Stephanie Julian, an ACC media advisor. She was there strictly in an observing role because there had previously been considerable media coverage of the issue.

"Despite the hearing being open to the public, Ms Julian was confronted by several of those objecting to the licence renewal, demanding to know her name, who she represented and why she was there. They were threatening, aggressive and used inappropriate language.

"This behaviour took place intermittently over both days, mainly in the public waiting area and during her entry to the court room. It is also suspected that Ms Julian was followed to her hotel and photographed without her permission. At one point the group numbered up to 40 people in the Court confines. Ms Julian was alone.

"At another point one of the group entered the witness room and attempted to interrogate the ACC staff who had been summoned to attend, in violation of normal court protocols.

"ACC is currently considering what response is appropriate to this clearly inappropriate treatment of its staff.

"In the face of this hostility Ms Julian was concerned for her personal safety and chose not to reveal her true identity. Her concern was also fuelled by the fact that some members of the "ACCForum" website were present. This website has previously featured personal threats against ACC staff members, including a member of Ms Julian's immediate team.

"This was the context in which Ms Julian chose not to provide her correct details.

"While it is not acceptable for a public servant to be untruthful in the course of their duties ACC believes these were exceptional circumstances," said



**“GIBBONS AND HIS COMPANY MAINLAND INVESTIGATIONS HAD A CONTRACT TO INVESTIGATE FRAUD ON BEHALF OF THE ACCIDENT COMPENSATION CORPORATION, WORTH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS**

the ACC's Laurie Edwards tonight.

But ACC's version of events received a devastating blow tonight from Michael Gibson, the legal advocate representing the objectors in Dunedin. Gibson told *TGIF* he was one of those who had questioned "Stephanie":

"I asked her to identify herself before the court reconvened after the lunch break.

**She said:** my name is Stephanie,

**I said:** Are you associated with Mainland?

**She said:** no

**I said:** How is it that people associated with Mainland know you by your first name?

**She said:** lots of people know me.

"When I got into court, I raised with the registrar that a member of the public, not a member of the media, was taking notes.

"The registrar said that was fine because it was a public hearing and he had allowed the media to attend."

Michael Gibson remained suspicious and made

further inquiries after Stephanie was seen meeting Gibbons and his lawyer, with senior ACC staff, in a closed room at the court building. It was then, he says, that he real identity came out.

"I went back into court and named her as an ACC employee and objected to her presence along with the objection to the apparent involvement of the ACC Staff. The registrar continued to say that it was a public hearing and he had no objection."

The objectors are already considering whether to lodge an application for judicial review, and Stephanie Julian's deception, with the apparent knowledge of the Registrar, could be material in that.

ACC have also claimed that the Registrar knew all along.

"It has been suggested that Ms Julian's presence somehow led to the proceedings being cancelled. That is untrue. The Registrar was aware of Ms Julian's presence and had sanctioned it," said ACC spokesman Laurie Edwards to *TGIF Edition*.

Back to the front page



## NZ sharemarket drops sharply

**WELLINGTON, OCT 3** – It was another horror day on share markets today as investors fretted about the state of the global economy, not just the US financial sector.

The NZX-50 index closed down 81.101 points, or 2.509 percent, at 3151.539 on a day that Asian share markets posted big losses in the wake of another dive on Wall Street.

“I think the main downward pressure on the Dow was concerns over their economy. The data coming out is showing very little growth,” said Grant Williamson, partner at Hamilton, Hindin, Greene.

“The market is now worrying about something else.”

Overnight in the US stocks slid as tight credit markets and bleak economic data forced investors to focus on the rocky road still ahead for the US economy even if Congress passes a rescue package for the financial sector this week.

The number of people filing for unemployment benefits hit a seven-year high and there was a steep drop in factory orders in August, signalling an “almost a perfect storm”, according to one broker.

The leaders took the hit in the New Zealand market with Contact down 27c to 761 and Fletcher

Building down 37c to 683.

Telecom fell 6c to 289.

Fisher & Paykel Healthcare lost 3c to 302. GPG fell 7c to 123 and Tower eased 7c to 178.

SkyCity was down 13c at 358. Auckland Airport fell 5c to 202. Infratil eased 1c to 206. Pumpkin Patch fell 3c to 130.

NZ Farming Systems Uruguay fell 10c to 120 and PGG Wrightson fell 14c to 171.

APN shares fell 8.25 percent to 367.

There were just 20 rises on the market and 72 falls and turnover was worth \$93.86m.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 348.22 points, or 3.22 percent, to 10,482.85, while the Standard & Poor's 500 Index slid 46.78 points, or 4.03 percent, to 1114.28. The Nasdaq Composite Index dropped 92.68 points, or 4.48 percent, to 1976.72.

Since the beginning of the year, the Dow has lost 21 percent, while the S&P 500 has dropped 24 percent and the Nasdaq has fallen 25 percent.

Declining stocks outnumbered advancing ones by about five to one on both the NYSE and on Nasdaq.

– NZPA



## Milk, cheese and butter prices expected to fall

**WELLINGTON, OCT 3** – Shoppers could soon be paying less for milk and items in supermarket dairy cabinets because international dairy prices are falling.

“The prices we charge our customers will fall and we expect that to flow through to the shopping aisle,” said Peter McClure, managing director of Fonterra Brands.

The ANZ Commodity Price Index, published yesterday, slumped 4.9 percent in September, and showed international dairy prices falling 7.9 percent.

Fonterra, the world's biggest dairy exporter, also reported a 10 percent fall in milk powder prices at its latest internet auction as financial market turmoil and an economic slowdown hit demand.

The dairy giant said the average selling price for whole milk powder for December delivery was \$US2865 (\$NZ4322) a metric tonne, the third consecutive monthly fall in prices.

It said the global financial crisis and slowdown

was curbing demand, while there was also an increase in supply.

Kaimai Cheese Company chairman Wyatt Creech said he expected the cost of Kaimai cheese to fall, reflecting market prices, *The New Zealand Herald* reported today. The fall in price related to milk powder, not cheese, and while the two were related, international price falls in cheese were not as great.

“It will mean a fall in the price of liquid milk: I expect the other dairy products will follow.”

Westpac economist Doug Steel said although the price of dairy products was likely to fall in New Zealand, the international price slump was not good news for the country.

Despite the slump, prices were well above what they had been in previous years, and were still a good platform for economic growth and a good source of cash flow coming into the country, he said.

– NZPA

## First senior counsel appointed – Sir Geoffrey is one

**WELLINGTON, OCT 3** – One of the first people to be appointed the new title of Senior Counsel is former Labour prime minister Sir Geoffrey Palmer.

Attorney-General Michael Cullen today announced the appointment of the first round of Senior Counsel.

The title replaces the Queen's Counsel title and can also be given to lawyers working in companies, unlike the QC title which could only be awarded to barristers acting on their own.

Sir Geoffrey has had a distinguished legal academic career and entered politics in 1979.

He was deputy prime minister and attorney-general (1984-1989) and prime minister from August 1989 until September 1990.

Sir Geoffrey was a founding partner of Chen Palmer, public law specialists, until 2005 and he is president of the Law Commission, chairman of the Legislation Advisory and Legislation Design Committees and NZ Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission.

Others to be awarded the SC title include:

▶ David Heaney established Heaney and Co in 1979 and specialises in the defence of liability claims against territorial and regional authorities, dispute resolution and mediation.

▶ Murray Gilbert is a litigation partner at Gilbert Walker. Mr Gilbert specialises in commercial litigation with an emphasis on defending negligence claims.

▶ Jan McCartney joined the independent bar in 1988 and specialises in equity in commercial dealings, fiduciary relationships and trust litigation.

▶ Jack Hodder became a Law Commissioner in 1986 and joined Chapman Tripp as partner in 1991. Mr Hodder specialises in civil, commercial and public law, involving advice, litigation and arbitration.

▶ Simon Moore has been Crown Solicitor for Auckland since 1994, leading major criminal trials and is also the public prosecutor for the Pitcairn Islands.

▶ Christine Gordon is a partner at Meredith Connell where she specialises in criminal law.

– NZPA

## Export sales rebound as NZ dollar falls

**WELLINGTON, OCT 3** – Export sales are growing on the back of a weaker New Zealand dollar while the domestic economy feels the pain of contraction, according to a New Zealand Manufacturers and Exporters Association survey.

The survey of business conditions completed during September showed total sales in August increased 19 percent. Export sales increased by 76 percent and domestic sales decreased by 6 percent.

Net confidence improved to minus 22 from minus

33 in the previous month.

The current performance index is at 97, down from the previous month's 98.5. Anything less than 100 indicates a contraction.

“This month's results have reinforced the divide between the domestic and export economies,” said association chief executive John Walley.

The big jump in exports is not across the board. Some substantial respondents have reported some huge increases.

– NZPA



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## Four more cars earn top safety rating

**WELLINGTON, OCT 3** – Four more cars available on the New Zealand market have earned top safety ratings in the latest round of crash testing.

The Toyota Highlander 4WD, Citroen C5, Renault Koleos and Mercedes M Class (with knee airbag) all achieved five star safety ratings for occupant protection after Australasian New Car Assessment Programme (ANCAP) testing.

Latest safety ratings released today on other vehicles available in New Zealand include:

VW Caddy Van (4 stars with side airbags); Holden Colorado 2-wheel drive (3 stars); Holden Colorado 4-wheel drive (3 stars); Holden Epica (4 stars); and Hyundai Getz 1.6 SX 5-door (4 stars with Protectz safety pack, 3 stars without).

“A five star safety rating for occupants is no longer unattainable, so it is disappointing to see there are still new cars coming on to the market

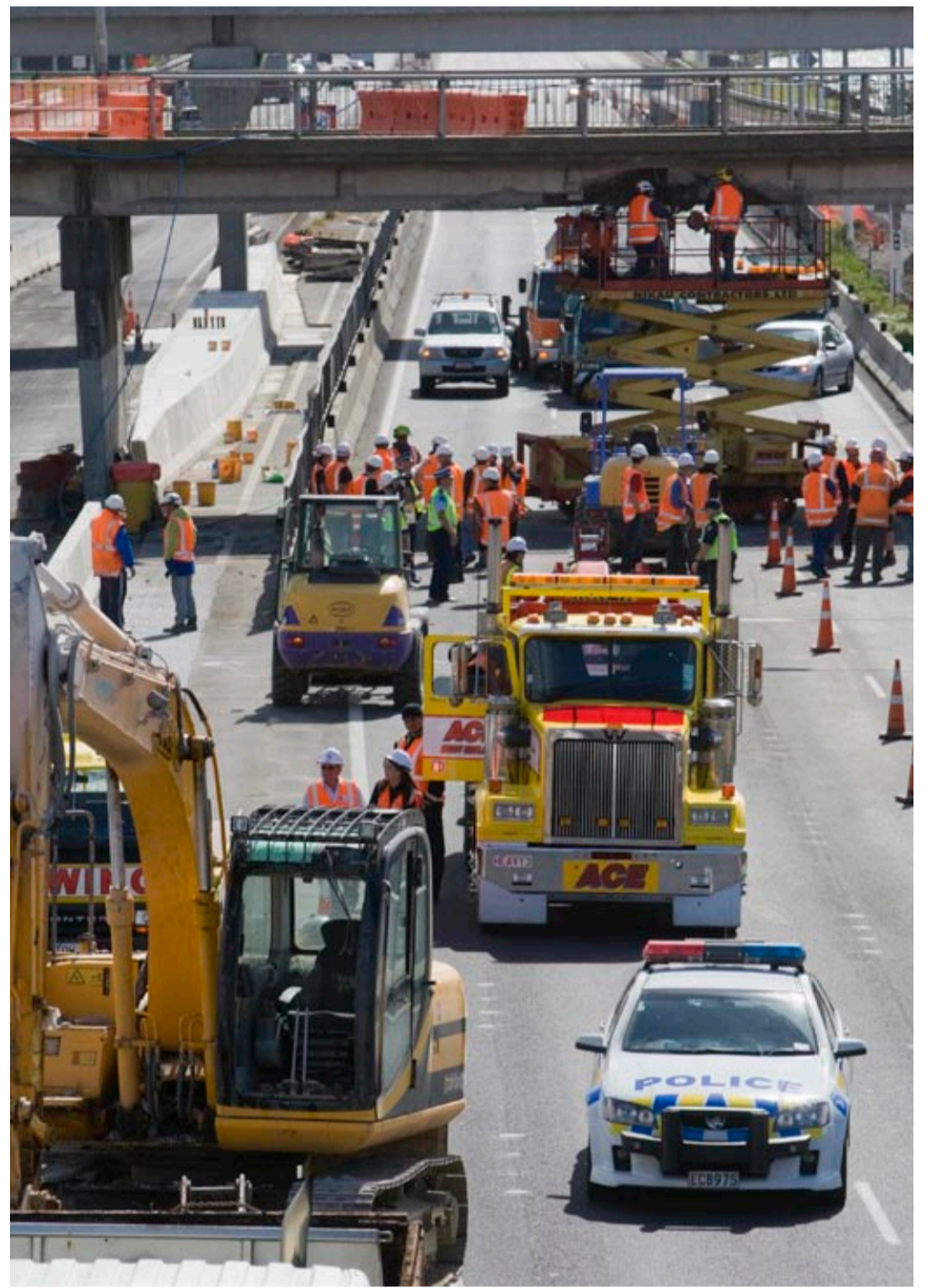
that are only scoring a 3-star rating,” said AA spokeswoman Stella Stocks.

While the trend towards higher occupant protection ratings was pleasing, many vehicles still scored poorly in separate ratings measuring the likelihood of injury to pedestrians struck by the vehicles, she said.

“The Toyota Highlander is an example of a car that scored the top safety rating for occupants, but scored poorly in the pedestrian safety rating. Improvements still need to be made in this area.”

The Highlander, a family four-wheel-drive, provides a range of safety features as standard, including dual front airbags, side airbags, head-protecting curtain airbags, anti-lock brakes, electronic brake distribution, electronic stability control, a rear view camera and seat belt reminders.

– NZPA



The Onewa Road Overbridge where an excavator collided with the underneath of the bridge, Northern Motorway, Auckland, Friday, October 03, 2008. NZPA / David Rowland

## More traffic chaos as damaged overbridge set to be demolished

**AUCKLAND, OCT 3** – A section of an overbridge on Auckland's Northern Motorway will be demolished overnight after it was hit by a digger on a truck about 9am today.

The incident led to total chaos with traffic backed for several kilometres as police immediately closed all southbound lanes into the city at the Onewa Rd exchange, just north of the Auckland Harbour Bridge. The southbound lanes reopened for this afternoon's rush hour but were due to close again at 8pm.

New Zealand Transport Agency spokesman Ewart Barnsley said the bridge would be demolished overnight.

He said the southbound lanes were likely to remain closed all night and most of tomorrow.

The overbridge was due to be demolished as part of the upgrade of the Onewa Rd interchange but

the damaged section would now come down earlier than planned.

“We are just not taking any chances...,” Mr Barnsley said.

Earlier today police advised drivers caught in the motorway chaos to turn off their engines and read a book.

Inspector Kerry Watson said drivers caught on the motorway could do little, other than wait for the chaos to clear. Meanwhile, a railway bridge over State Highway 1 near Tirau in the Waikato damaged after being hit by a truck will be replaced this weekend.

SH1 will be closed tonight and tomorrow night with diversions in place.

On track said the Kinleith Branch railway line would be closed for 36 hours from tonight until Sunday morning.

– NZPA

## Wage gap with AU has closed slightly

**WELLINGTON, OCT 3 NZPA** – Treasury statistics show the wage gap between New Zealand and Australia has narrowed slightly, although there are claims the official figures are a “jack-up”.

In 2006 wages in Australia were 30.7 percent higher than in New Zealand.

The latest figures for this year show they are 27.6 percent higher.

Radio New Zealand obtained the figures under the Official Information Act.

National's finance spokesman, Bill English, said the statistics were a political jack-up.

He released Treasury documents sent to Finance Minister Michael Cullen's office last month which

said the margin of error in the calculations made it difficult to draw firm conclusions about the wage gap.

Mr English said Dr Cullen ordered the Treasury to update the statistics anyway.

The Council of Trade Unions said the pay gap with Australia grew by 50.4 percent in the 1990s and had shrunk by 2.6 percent since 2000.

“The real issue is the gap in gross wages,” said CTU president Helen Kelly.

“Of course tax cuts help a tiny bit to close the gap, but that risks higher levels of public debt and cuts in public services.”

– NZPA

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## Editorial

# The true cost of greed

The events of the past week in the financial markets did not happen in a vacuum. Readers of *Investigate's* money columnist Peter Hensley will know he's been predicting financial Armageddon for nigh on three years because of the huge overvaluation of the US markets.

Readers of the magazine may also remember Selwyn Parker's prescient article at the start of 2007 on cheap Japanese 'uridashi' money driving the boom in the West, with chickens coming to roost when Ma & Pa Takimoto started getting nervous about their money.

When the western world embraced fractional reserve banking after the Great Depression, it signalled a major change in the way we did business. The widespread creation of credit – invisible money that existed only on someone's balance sheet, payable at some time in the future – fuelled an economic boom across the globe that lasted for decades.

For all its evils, arguably the world would be a very different place without credit.

However, it is one thing to borrow money and invest it in things of substance: your home, stock and machinery etc. It is entirely different to borrow money and invest it in the games on a casino table.

If your next door neighbour mortgaged their house and put the proceeds on a game of blackjack, you'd call them 'insane'. Yet when people borrowed money and invested it on the stock exchange or financial markets, we called them "business leaders".

Take a look at the financial markets long and hard, for a moment. In truth, there is little difference between the stock market and Sky City. The participants in the share-market are gambling on a rise or fall in their stocks, in most cases.

Sure, there are many investors hanging in there for the dividends, but they suffer the tidal flows of the market reef-fish. Apart from the initial float of a company, most other share sales after don't put cash anywhere near the company involved. If I was to buy Telecom shares on Monday, Telecom wouldn't see my cash, another gambler would. Nor would my purchase alter any fundamental within Telecom. Yet, if a bunch of reef-fish like me all buy or sell on the same day, Telecom's fate is suddenly in our hands. Bizarre.

Worse still, look at all the businesses that have popped up as ticket-clippers: brokers, dealers, middlemen. How many of these businesses actually make anything genuinely useful, as opposed to providing a money-sink?

Sadly, far too many businesses seem to rely on wheeling and dealing instead of producing. Manufacturing might be boring to the flash young city things in the suits, but it's where the real wealth is created. Everything else outside manufacturing and genuine service industries is parasitical on the economy.

In good times, there's enough cash to go around and keep parasitical companies gainfully employed. But when the money runs out, those offering the least in terms of genuine bricks and mortar are usually the first to go.

Whatever the fate of the world's economies, those who make products and services that people honestly need will survive

**IF I WAS TO BUY TELECOM SHARES ON MONDAY, TELECOM WOULDN'T SEE MY CASH, ANOTHER GAMBLER WOULD**

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## Comment

## Walker's World: Is the sky falling?

By Martin Walker

**WASHINGTON** – Something does not add up. We were all assured the sky would fall if Congress did not pass the US\$700 billion rescue package.

We were warned of credit drying up, of small businesses closing and payrolls not being met and rising unemployment. You could almost smell the soup kitchens, almost hear Franklin Roosevelt's patrician tones, almost hear that Buddy, can you spare a dime? music of the Great Depression.

President George Bush told us the rescue deal had to be passed. U.S. Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain, and the massed ranks of America's newspaper editorial boards all said the same.

America's elites had spoken as one. Grit your teeth, hold your nose, and pass the \$700 billion rescue package.

But the sky did not fall Tuesday. Despite Monday's 778-point drop in the Dow Jones, despite the \$1.2 trillion wiped off the value of American stocks, despite the failure of inter-bank lending and the anguished groans of the elite, the New York stock exchange recovered. It gained back almost 500 points of Monday's drop.

In Europe, the Dow Jones Euro Stoxx 50 was up 1 percent, London's FTSE 100 index rose 2.4 percent, and Paris rose 2.2 percent.

This was not supposed to happen. The 228 recalcitrant members of Congress who voted against the package were supposed to unleash fire and brimstone upon us all. It didn't happen, and this is very odd.

It may be that investors thought this but a momentary aberration on the part of Congress, soon to be repaired once the House of Representatives reconvenes on Thursday, with their more sensible Senate colleagues firmly expected to pass the rescue bill on Wednesday. Possibly the Europeans started putting money back into the markets because they assumed that after its brief rebellion, the U.S. Congress would dutifully do the right thing when it voted again.

Maybe, but European investors are not usually that gullible. The more likely explanation is that they thought a rescue package would eventually get passed, which would make stocks rise, so the moment when they had plunged in despair would be a good time to buy them cheaply.

But they had to take the risk that Congress might not in the end vote for a rescue package, at least one that looks like the bill that was rejected Monday.

And the interesting feature of the vote against the bill was that it was in effect bipartisan. A total of 133 Republicans and 95 Democrats voted against it. And while the Republicans have come in for most of the criticism for their irresponsible vote, the Democrats have been less closely studied.

It is interesting that majorities of both the black and the Hispanic caucus voted No, and even more interesting that a large number of Democrats were given a pass by their leadership to cast a No vote. They included 16 freshmen, all from seats that were won with small majorities in 2006 and could go Republican again. So with an eye to their re-election in November, they were allowed to vote against a bill that is highly unpopular in the country as a whole, where it tends to be depicted as a way to make taxpayers bail out Wall Street fat cats who deserved to lose their shirts anyway.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's own palace guard, her loyalist committee chairmen, were all given the nod and wink to vote No. John Conyers, chairman of judiciary; Collin Peterson, chairman of agriculture; Bob Filner, chairman of veterans' affairs; Bennie Thompson, chairman of homeland security; Gene Green, chairman of ethics -- all voted No, along with some of Pelosi's close friends from California.

There was another interesting group of Democrats allowed to vote No, even though the Democratic leadership was threatening that the economy would collapse and the sky would fall unless the bill

were passed. This group was the Chicago Democrats, Obama's friends and neighbours and home guard in the Democratic Party. And Reps. Jesse Jackson Jr., Bobby Rush and Dan Lipinski all voted No.

The Republicans could see the tactical way the Democrats were voting, and as politicians will, asked themselves why they should take all the flak for passing an unpopular bill when Democratic leaders were not exactly putting themselves out to enact it. And the Democrats asked themselves why they should take the flak for a mess that they blamed squarely on the Bush administration and vote for a bill that had none of the mortgage relief for individuals that their constituents wanted.

And there was a further calculation being made. For the Democrats, it was clear that Obama had begun to establish a lead over McCain in the presidential polls as the financial crisis began to dominate the headlines. The House Democrats were thus in no great rush to fix a crisis that was benefiting their candidate.

For some thoughtful Republicans in Congress, who are beginning to fear they could be on the wrong end of a landslide in November, a question is starting to form. Given that Obama has (according to National Journal) the most liberal voting record in the Senate, just how far to the left will the House, Senate and White House be moving next year? And just how big a Depression will America and the world be facing?



## Letters

### 60 Kiwis KIA?

Where does Helen Clark get off saying that if New Zealand had sent troops to Iraq, based off US casualties of all things, we would have lost 60 soldiers by now?

Obviously the leader of the country doesn't realise that we don't operate in the same ways as the Americans. Though, that being said, it is doubly apparent that there are those who wish that we did and are going to great lengths to ensure that we do when you look at purchases like the NZLAV.

There are clear cut reasons for our ways of doing things, not least of which are historical practices which have stood us in good stead, and our inherent limitations which make a different approach mandatory.

Second of all, had we lost that many soldiers it would have been primarily due to inept government spending, ill advice over the past two administration rounds, and not spending enough in so many other areas. The PM makes no comments on the 2007-8 NZDF Annual Report.

Thirdly, since the Aussies have sent more troops proportionally than we ever could, and have lost two\* personnel to date, I am at a loss once more as to how on earth our Prime Minister comes to these conclusions. Her primary advisors in Defence, I fear, must be quite Green indeed.

To cap it all off, her statement demonstrates how much reality bites in relation to her, and her party, and how little faith they collectively possess in NZDF personnel, to do their job, despite difficult conditions, lack of essential equipment, critical manning and having very stretched resources. Yet by the same government, all the same, they are expected to do so much.

It's really quite an appalling attitude. Any lip service is exactly that, and particularly from your average left wing politician.

*Leon Harrison, via email*

### A nuclear tradeoff

I am writing this because I thought you maybe be able to inform the public of New Zealand about Labour's two faced attitude to the nuclear issue.

I believe that the Labour Government, as part of International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], have acquiesced under pressure from the USA. [Condaleezza Rice's recent visit]

They have agreed, as almost the last member country to do so, to the exchange of nuclear material and knowledge from the USA to India. [prohibited under the IAEA treaty]

I imagine that the reward for such acquiescence is the proposed FTA with the USA. Also the US Government has coincidentally agreed to fast track the sale of the RNZAF mothballed Skyhawk fighters.

I am neither for nor against the USA-India agreement nor the FTA.

However if it was a National or National/coalition Government doing the same, all hell would break lose from the anti nuclear Labour opposition.

I am writing to you in the hope that you will be able to make what I call this deceit by omission, well known to the New Zealand public prior to November 8th

The above I believe is true, from reading various world wide papers and putting two and two together.

I get around the world in my job.

*Tony M, via email*

### Binding Referenda

If elected, National's John Key is promising voters a binding referendum on MMP by 2011. My election wish would be for him to add another question to the ballot. "Should all referendums be binding on the New Zealand government?" That way we can be assured all election promises will be kept.

*Steve Baron, [www.betterdemocracy.co.nz](http://www.betterdemocracy.co.nz)*

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# A perfect storm gathers in the Middle East

By Claude Salhani

**WASHINGTON** — Chances are the situation in the Middle East is going to get much worse before it gets any better. With the Bush administration, now in its final days in office, kept busy by the financial crisis that risked plunging Western economies into the business equivalent of the Dark Ages, we are entering a highly volatile period of political uncertainty.

The critical time to watch out for is the time between the Nov. 4 elections and Jan. 20, when the new administration is sworn in. The risks of situations derailing are compounded by the political paralysis during those nearly three months of transitional period, a sort of political Twilight Zone.

During this gray area in American politics — between the election and the time the new administration takes over — much can happen, given that the outgoing president is in essence a lame duck and the new president does not have control of executive power just yet.

And in the ever volatile Middle East, where all the ingredients of a perfect storm appear to be gathering more with each passing day, there are indeed high risks that the storm could turn into the proverbial hurricane.

What could go wrong? In the Middle East it would perhaps be safer to ask “what could go right?” Several situations could turn drastically wrong without the oversight of a dominant power keeping respective forces in line. Here are just a few examples.

First: As Iran continues to move ahead with its nuclear program, there are good to excellent chances that Israel will carry out a series of tactical strikes in an effort to destroy the Islamic Republic’s nuclear building ambitions. That possibility was just raised several notches after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s latest rant against the Jewish state in his speech to the U.N. General Assembly last month.

Israeli strikes on Iran at best would delay Iran’s march toward nuclear armament; they would not kill it. But they would succeed in rallying the people of Iran and indeed the Muslim world around Iran.

Perhaps anticipating a potential attack by the United States and/or Israel, the Iranians last month

transferred their Ministry of Defence to a new location, according to Iranian resistance sources inside the country. The ministry is now located in Langari Street, north of No-Bonyad Square. The sources say the Ministry of Defence complex occupies a very large area, and its office buildings are scattered with no central building.

Second: Palestinian-Israeli peace talks are going nowhere fast, and resentment in the occupied territories is reaching critical mass to the point where a third intifada could erupt at any moment. If that were to happen, expect Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Hezbollah in south Lebanon, at Iran’s behest, to participate, especially if attacks against its nuclear facilities are carried out.

What does that mean for Israel? That it would have to fight on three fronts at once: Hezbollah in the north, the intifada in the West Bank and Hamas in the south.

Hezbollah, armed with several thousand rockets, compliments of Iran, would cause much damage and casualties to the northern part of Israel. Hamas would pester the Israelis from the south, and the uprising in the centre would keep the rest of the Israeli military occupied and the civilian population preoccupied.

Third: Having failed to convince either the Israelis or the United States of the urgency in moving forward in negotiations over the future of the occupied Golan plateau, Syria is likely to plough ahead with its own initiative, which would hardly be peace-oriented. There are already reports of several thousand Syrian intelligence agents entering north Lebanon. It could only be a matter of time before they are followed by regular troops.

Syria’s reasons for re-entering Lebanon would be twofold: first to address an ever-growing threat in that part of the country where, according to recent eyewitness accounts, the Salafi/Wahhabi fringe is rapidly proliferating. And second, to increase the pressure on Israel by flanking it in Lebanon.

Ghassan Schbley, a scholar with the Rand Corp. in Washington, who has just returned from a fact-finding trip to the region, told this reporter that the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli has been taken over by dozens of Islamist groups. You see



A rocket, similar to the Al-Qassam rockets used against Israeli is prepared for launch as new members of the Islamic Jihad fighters show their skills in the former Israeli Jewish settlement of Atsmona last weekend in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza Strip. UPI Photo/Ismael Mohamad

flags from all sorts of Salafist organizations, while the Lebanese flag is nowhere to be found, said Schbley. And in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, Jamaa Islamiya (Lebanese Muslim Brotherhood) plans to have its representatives run in the country’s next parliamentary elections.

Meanwhile, Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Yemen are seeing a serious rise in the popularity of Islamist groups.

Indeed, if no attack has been perpetrated on U.S. soil since Sept. 11, 2001, al-Qaida has been far from dormant. These silent inroads made by Salafist

groups in traditionally non-religious states — with the exception of Saudi Arabia — represent as real a threat to the national security of the United States and its allies in the region.

Now if the above scenario looks dismal, all is not lost, at least so long as the next administration wastes no time in addressing the burning issues in the Middle East immediately upon entering the White House. The next administration will have a honeymoon period during which it can push the peace cart back on track. It should not be wasted.

Claude Salhani is editor of the *Middle East Times*

## Judges gone wild: When whales trump security

By James Jay Carafano

The Heritage Foundation

It’s a dangerous world out there. Iranian mullahs push forward their missile and nuke development programs while musing about a world without Israel ... or America. Russia rattles its sabre, invades Georgia, plants its flag in the Arctic and dismisses the United States as a has-been superpower. Islamists wage a “holy war” against “the Great Satan” with firefights in Afghanistan, bombings in the Middle East and plots around the world.

Perilous times, indeed. And while America is at war, environmental extremists are on a mission, too. Just not necessarily on our side.

Increasingly, environmental organizations have opted to advance their agendas with a single-mindedness that borders on blindness. Zealous dedication to The Cause has led them to wage legal battles even when victory means compromising national security to achieve little more than symbolic advances in environmental protection. Alarming, they have found common cause with a judiciary that has lost a sense of proportionality.

Case in point: The Navy has a whale of a problem. It uses sonar to detect underwater dangers and to navigate its own submarines. But sonar may adversely affect the navigational ability of whales and other sea creatures. In five different cases, environmental groups have sued the Navy to restrict testing low- and medium-range sonar frequency arrays.

The Navy tried to address the issue long before any suits were filed. Working with the National Marine Fisheries Service, it developed 29 opera-



In five different cases, environmental groups have sued the Navy to restrict testing low- and medium-range sonar frequency arrays

tional procedures to protect sonar-sensitive creatures. For example, when naval ships detect sea mammals within 200 yards during training exercises, they shut down the sonar immediately. Scientific experiments by the Navy determined that a 200-yard buffer minimizes the risk that whales will become disoriented by military sonar.

But instead of deferring to the service’s scientifically-based buffer zone, a U.S. District judge decided the Navy must turn off its sonar at a range of 2,200 yards. The new buffer zone — more than a two kilometre radius — appears based on nothing but the whim of the court. The Navy called the restrictions “crippling.”

As a result of this decision, the commander of the USS Ronald Reagan Strike Group recently had to slash sonar training. Meanwhile, China continues to build its super-quiet diesel submarines that are harder and harder to find — even with sonar up and running.

The Navy is not the only service losing “lawfare” battles to the enviros. Earlier this year, a U.S. district judge ruled the Pentagon violated the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) by failing to evaluate how a new air base, the Futenma Replacement Facility, might affect the Japanese dugong.

Since NHPA is intended to apply to historical property, not animals, the court’s decision is as strange as the unusual mammal it purports to protect.

More than odd, the ruling undermines security. A joint statement by U.S. and Japanese officials “reaffirmed that completion of the Futenma Replacement Facility ... by the target date of 2014, is the key to ... the overall realignment plan for Okinawa,” including relocation of a Marine Expeditionary Unit to Guam. The actions of an activist judge have now all but ensured this vital process will not be complete by the deadline.

Worse, the dugong decision may create a new

opening for environmental activists to target other U.S. bases around the world, re-labelling arcane animals as historic relics that must take precedence under the NHPA.

Judges gone wild is a symptom of a bigger problem. In the end, the greatest threat to American security may be constituent politics that puts narrow self-interest above the common good.

“Lawfare” advocates a constituent concern regardless of the cost. As long as stakeholders advance their agenda, nothing else matters. This problem can get out of control when judges cultivate a culture of litigation and creative interpretation of law.

The activists can rightly argue they are just doing their job, lobbying for their thing. Government, however, is supposed to be about more than just the sum of constituent politics.

Lawmakers have an obligation to give us laws that will keep us all free, safe and prosperous. Courts are obliged to protect us from those who would violate or abuse the law.

But when activists hijack the judiciary and advance one goal at the expense of another, justice is perverted. And when government’s fundamental obligation to “provide for the common defence” falls victim to perverse court rulings, the nation’s future is at risk.

James Jay Carafano, a senior research fellow for national security at The Heritage Foundation, is the author of the books *G.I. Ingenuity and Private Sector, Public Wars*. Readers may write to the author in care of The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: [www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org). Information about Heritage’s funding may be found at <http://www.heritage.org/about/reports.cfm>.

# Palin, Biden exhibit different styles at debate

By James Oliphant  
Chicago Tribune

**ST LOUIS** — They were in the same room Friday afternoon, but Joe Biden and Sarah Palin often seemed to be participating in separate debates.

One debate dealt with issues. The other served as a platform for Palin's unique brand of Alaskan-bred populism and twangy asides. On the campus of Washington University, the two vice presidential candidates showed off their wildly different styles born of disparate histories. The result was at times an oddly disjointed affair, where the two skittered and shifted off-topic.

With the GOP ticket trailing in national polls, Palin spent most of the time on the attack. She was armed with talking points involving tax increases, domestic drilling for oil, critiques of Democrat Barack Obama's record on the war in Iraq and stinging one-liners. And she repeatedly attempted to steer the debate to allow her to use that ammunition, regardless of the question at hand.

As a result, Biden, the longtime Washington insider, frequently was forced to explain the intricacies of congressional procedure and nuances of international diplomacy, often in a defensive posture.

For Biden, the debate served as much as an introduction to American voters as a test of his mettle. Although the Delaware senator has served in Congress for more than 35 years, he isn't well known nationally. Two attempts to run for president, 20 years apart, were unsuccessful.

His assignment today was simply to maintain the momentum the Obama campaign has been building during the last three weeks. But along with that came a challenge posed by Palin's sex. He needed to walk a line between respectful and combative - and avoid coming off as patronizing or condescending. The McCain campaign has made a habit of terming attacks on Palin sexist or elitist.

Palin was not burdened by such concerns and, as befitting her overnight rise from a state politician to a national star, she spent much of the affair showcasing her feisty, salt-of-the-earth personality, employing such phrases as "darn right" and "bless their hearts" and smiling and even winking at the audience. She referred to herself again as a "hockey mom" and said she was talking to "Joe Six-pack."

She said she appreciated the chance to talk to the country without "the filter" of the "mainstream media."

At one point, smiling at the crowd, she said, "How

long have I been at this, like five weeks? So there hasn't been a whole lot that I've promised, except to do what is right for the American people, put government back on the side of the American people, stop the greed and corruption on Wall Street."

Along those lines, she portrayed herself and her running mate, John McCain, as "mavericks" and populists, saying together they would fix broken government. "Change is coming," she repeated.

But her folksiness masked a willingness to use a broad brush to attack Obama and Biden, repeatedly suggesting that Obama didn't support the military, saying he sought to make the United States beholden to foreign oil and pushed to increase taxes at every opportunity. Several times, Biden seemed frustrated.

"Facts matter," he said at one point.

Palin seemed most comfortable talking about her work as governor of Alaska, dealing with the energy industry. "The chant is 'drill, baby, drill.' And that's what we hear all across this country in our rallies because people are so hungry for those domestic sources of energy to be tapped into," she said. "They know that even in my own energy-producing state we have billions of barrels of oil and hundreds of trillions of cubic feet of clean, green natural gas."

She succeeded today in one crucial respect: re-establishing herself as a charismatic, composed reformer. The evening had offered a needed opportunity to reverse a growing perception among voters that she lacks the intellectual firepower and experience to be a heartbeat way from the presidency.

Palin's command of the issues had come under heavy fire in the last two weeks, largely because of her interviews with CBS' Katie Couric. Those interviews showed a rambling, sometimes incoherent side of the Alaska governor that had not surfaced in pitch-perfect stump speeches crafted by the McCain campaign.

But after this afternoon, that question may recede a bit as an election issue, switching again to whether McCain and Palin can present a convincing case that their administration would offer something different than the current one.

And that's where Biden seemed the most commanding. Avoiding directly attacking Palin, he went after McCain again and again: on the economy, branding the Arizona senator as a deregulator who encouraged the current Wall Street crisis; on foreign policy by tying McCain to the war in Iraq; and on health care, where Biden labelled McCain's health care plan, which involves tax credits, "the ultimate Bridge to Nowhere."



Senator Joe Biden and Governor Sarah Palin square off against each other during the vice presidential debate at Washington University Field House Thursday night. (Robert Cohen/ St. Louis Post-Dispatch/Rapport Press)

"Look, all you have to do is go down Union Street with me in Wilmington or go to Katie's Restaurant or walk into Home Depot with me where I spend a lot of time and you ask anybody in there whether or not the economic and foreign policy of this administration has made them better off in the last eight years," Biden said. "And then ask them whether there's a single major initiative that John McCain differs with the president on. On taxes, on Iraq, on Afghanistan, on the whole question of how to help education, on the dealing with health care."

At one point near the end of the debate, Biden seemed to be overcome in referring to the car acci-

dent that killed his first wife and his baby daughter in 1972.

At the close of the debate, as they are wont to do, both sides claimed victory.

"All McCain and Palin are offering is more of the same," said Obama campaign manager David Plouffe. He said Palin "did a good job of articulating the McCain agenda - a failed agenda."

Meanwhile, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said he was "very pleased that (Palin) was able to articulate in a way that people can understand the differences between Senator McCain and Senator Obama."

**ON THE WEB:** [The debate transcript](#)

## Report: Pakistani intelligence linked to Taliban

By Nancy Youssef, Jonathan Landay  
and Warren Strobel

A Spanish radio station has published on its web site what it says is a 2005 Spanish Defence Ministry intelligence report - replete with official insignia and stamped "confidential" - that says Pakistan's premier intelligence service supplied the Taliban with explosives with which to assassinate senior Afghan officials.

News reports say the Spanish government declined to comment on the document. Such silences usually speak for themselves.

U.S. military and intelligence officials have long privately alleged that officials of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate continued supporting the Taliban after Islamabad officially ended its patronage of the Islamic movement following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The document published on the web site of Cadena Ser, Spain's main station for news and information, appears to be the first official report to enter the public domain that makes that allegation. There are more than 700 Spanish troops with NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Pakistan has repeatedly denied ISI complicity

with the Taliban post-Sept. 11, although the agency's director was replaced this week under pressure from the United States. The shakeup follows charges by unnamed U.S. officials that ISI operatives were involved in the July 2008 bombing of the Indian Embassy in Kabul. The Afghan government also accused the ISI of complicity in a June 2008 attempt to assassinate President Hamid Karzai.

The document published by Cadena Ser is dated August 2005. It says that the ISI supplied improvised explosive devices to the Taliban "to assassinate high-level" Afghan government officials "from a distance."

"They (Taliban) are going to place them (bombs) in vehicles although their targets have not been specified," says the document.

The document says it "is possible" that the ISI was training Taliban fighters to use improvised explosive devices at camps inside Pakistan.

The use of the devices in Afghanistan was "inspired" by the use of similar bombs in Iraq, it says.

*Nukes & Spooks* is written by McClatchy correspondents Jonathan S. Landay (national security and intelligence), Warren P. Strobel (foreign affairs and the State Department), and Nancy Youssef (Pentagon).

To read more of this blog, as well as those of other McClatchy foreign correspondents, go to <http://news.mcclatchy.com/>.

- MCT

## Cop in Taser death commits suicide

**NEW YORK** — The New York Police Department lieutenant who authorized the use of a stun gun during a fatal police confrontation last month with a naked Brooklyn psychiatric patient committed suicide early this morning, police said.

On his 46th birthday, Lt. Michael Pigott of Sayville, N.Y., fatally shot himself in a locker room at Floyd Bennett Field, the Brooklyn base for the elite Emergency Service Unit, police said.

Pigott "gained access to another officer's locker and gun and shot himself in the head," said Deputy Commissioner Paul Browne.

Another officer found Pigott, who used a 9-mm Glock, shortly after 6 a.m., police said.

In an interview with *Newsday* earlier this week, Pigott apologized for authorizing an NYPD officer to use the Taser on Sept. 24 on Iman Morales, 35, who was standing on a ledge three metres off the ground at the time and fell to his death. NYPD protocol states that when possible police should not use stun guns on anyone on an elevated surface.

"I am truly sorry for what happened to Mr. Morales," Pigott told *Newsday* this week outside his home.

The lieutenant's death came just hours before Morales' funeral Mass in Greenwich Village and burial in Linden, N.J.

"It's horrible," Morales' aunt, Ann DeJesus Negron, said after the funeral. "This is not the justice we want. This really disturbs the whole family. This is not something we would want anyone to go through."

Morales died last week after he held Emergency Services officers at bay for 20 minutes, standing on a vacant storefront's security gate container below a fire escape, and swinging a fluorescent lightbulb.

An officer shot Morales with a Taser, causing his body to stiffen and fall head first three metres to the ground.

When asked whether he wanted to give his version of events, Pigott told *Newsday* he couldn't talk about it.

"I've been a police officer for 21 years," Pigott said. "And I loved being with the Emergency Services Unit."

Police brass have conceded that the Taser, which sends 50,000 volts of electricity through its target, should not have been used until air bags were beneath the fire escape.





## EXCLUSIVE

# Obama foresees daunting troubles ahead

By Chris Christoff  
*Detroit Free Press*

**EAST LANSING, MICH.** — Barack Obama said he doesn't lose sleep over losing the presidential election.

"What keeps me up at night is winning the election," he told TGIF affiliate the Detroit Free Press this afternoon.

The Democratic presidential candidate said the next president will face daunting problems: two wars, the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, terrorist threats, a militarily resurgent Russia and pressing needs for education and health care.

In a far-ranging, 45-minute meeting with the Free Press editorial board, the junior senator from Illinois emphasized that providing health care to more Americans would be a top priority, despite what is sure to be a federal budget strained by a weakened economy.

He also left open the possibility that he would name his treasury secretary before the Nov. 4 election, acknowledging the greatly expanded powers of the job should Congress approve a financial bailout plan that gives the federal government sweeping power over financial markets.

He said there are three or four people he'd consider, though he wouldn't name them.

"This is going to have to be someone who knows their stuff and part of a larger economic team that can help drive an agenda I put forth," including overhauling the federal tax code to help middle-class families.

Obama said he would probably appoint Republicans to his cabinet. He also hinted that he'd consider Michi-

gan Gov. Jennifer Granholm for a federal appointment, praising her work as governor and adding, "I'm somebody who appreciates talent. I'll leave it at that."

He said he chose Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware to help him navigate the nation's many issues, not because of what he brought to the ticket in vote-getting power. Asked if he had considered a female running mate, he said former Democratic presidential rival Sen. Hillary Clinton was "on my short list," as was Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

In the meeting with Free Press editors and reporters after a rally at Michigan State University, Obama addressed questions about foreign trade, his preference for Supreme Court justices (he would not name candidates but said he likes current justices David Souter, a Republican appointee, and Stephen Bryer, a Democratic appointee), and what he called abuse of power of the presidency by the Bush administration.

Obama said he would end the practice of using signing statements that give the president power to enforce laws — or not — despite Congress' wishes, a practice that the Bush administration has used 150 times.

But Obama said his top priorities would be health care, education and pursuing new sources of energy, which he said was crucial to help kick-start the economy.

He said the financial rescue plan Congress is wrestling with is only the start of addressing crumbling financial markets that threaten not only the United States, but the global economy.

"We've got to have a restructuring of our tax code in a way that reflects bottom-up economic growth, that broadens our middle class and gives them more



disposable income, so that their wages, their take-home pay is not flat or even going down," he said.

Asked what qualifications he has to be president — he's been in the U.S. Senate fewer than four years — Obama replied that voters have so far determined that he and Republican rival Sen. John McCain are experienced enough.

"I've been running against all this experience for 21 months, and I haven't been voted off the island," he said.

He said his experience as a U.S. senator, Illinois legislator, civil rights and constitutional lawyer and community organizer is relevant for the job of president.

He added, "The question is who has the judgment to surround themselves with good managers, to identify the core issues facing country, to project a vision of where we need to go, to be able to delegate power to move the country in that direction."



Steve Fossett checks his airplane on the tarmac of NASA's shuttle landing facility after cancelling his record breaking flight attempt aboard the GlobalFlyer. The mission was scrubbed because of a fuel leak. Paul J. Milette/Palm Beach Post/ZUMA Press)

## Human remains confirmed in Fossett wreckage

**SAN FRANCISCO** — The enigma of the disappearance of adventurer Steve Fossett appeared to be resolved this afternoon as searchers positively identified the wreckage of his plane and found human remains strewn among the debris.

"We found human remains, but there's very little. Given the length of time the wreckage has been out there, it's not surprising there's not very much," said National Transportation Safety Board acting Chairman Mark Rosenker. "I'm not going to elaborate on what it is."

Searchers discovered the wreckage late yester-

day evening in a rugged wooded area in the Sierra Nevada Mountains after fanning out in a 15-kilometre radius from where hikers discovered ID cards, clothes and some 1,000 dollars in cash that appeared to belong to Fossett, authorities said.

Search teams matched the wreckage today with the plane that Fossett took off in before disappearing over the Sierra Nevada mountains last September, Madera County, California Sheriff John Anderson said in a news conference.

The plane was badly damaged on impact with wreckage strewn over a wide area and the engine

lying over 100 metres away from the disintegrated fuselage.

Search crews with cadaver dogs had searched the area for signs of Fossett's body. But rescuers dismissed speculation that he could possibly have survived the crash.

"It was a hard-impact crash, and he would've died instantly," said Jeff Page, emergency management coordinator for Lyon County, Nevada, who assisted in the search.

Ian Gregor, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Los Angeles, confirmed that the

copy of a pilot's licence he had received matched Fossett's details.

"The certificate number and date of issue on the document in the photo matches the information we have for Mr Fossett in our database," he said.

Other information, including Fossett's date of birth and his address, also matched, he said.

The items were found by ski-shop owner Preston Morrow near the remote recreation town of Mammoth Lakes close to the California-Nevada border about 500 kilometres north of Los Angeles. He handed them over to the police after an approach to the Fossett family was rebuffed.

The new information was enough to reconvene a search that was halted over six months ago when air and ground search failed to discover any trace of Fossett, 63, or the light plane that he was flying when he disappeared in September 2007.

The previous searches had not concentrated on the area around Mammoth Lakes.

Fossett's widow, Peggy, said she hoped the new discovery would help bring closure to her husband's disappearance.

"I am aware of the search underway for my husband, Steve Fossett, in the Mammoth Lakes area of Madera and Mono counties, California, following the discovery by a hiker of personal items that appear to belong to my husband," she said in the statement.

"I am hopeful that this search will locate the crash site and my husband's remains. I am grateful to all of those involved in this effort."

But for others the discovery was sure to fuel conspiracy theories that Fossett had staged the accident to fake his death and disappear because of failed business dealings.

Fossett disappeared as he was apparently trying to find a site to attempt an assault on the world land speed record.

A billionaire financial trader, Fossett set 116 records in sailboats, powered aircraft, balloons, airships and gliders.

He also swam the English Channel, drove in the 24 Hours of Le Mans car race, competed in Hawaii's Ironman Triathlon, sailed solo across both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, climbed Argentina's 23,000-foot Aconcagua peak and competed in Alaska's Iditarod Trail sled dog race.

— DPA

# Medvedev says no return to Cold War



**ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA** – Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said today that he was certain the world would never again see a Cold War, despite recent tensions between the U.S. and Russia over the recent conflict in Georgia.

“Perhaps certain parties would like to return to the primitive division of the world into ‘right’ and ‘wrong’, into ‘us’ and ‘them,’” he said, adding that, “In Russia we are certain that this time has gone forever.”

“Just as it is impossible to restore the Berlin Wall, it is impossible to return to the Cold War. The world is moving on, and we have to adapt and not become fixated on the past – it is much more productive to learn lessons from it,” he added.

The Russian leader, speaking in St Petersburg at

the Russian-German forum Petersburg Dialogue, attended by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, also made reference to Russia’s five-day war with Georgia, which began when Georgian forces attacked breakaway South Ossetia on August 8, killing hundreds of civilians and a number of Russian peacekeepers.

Speaking of “hypocrisy and recklessness, exacerbated by aggressive nationalism,” he said that, “this is not the first time that the world has faced such an aberration and not the first time that people have fallen under the influence of unscrupulous propaganda.”

Russia has criticized Western powers for their support of Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili in the war over South Ossetia, and also the Western media for what it calls “biased” reporting.

Russian political commentators have pointed out that the Georgian attack on South Ossetia, which led to Russia’s operation to “force Georgia to peace,” was barely mentioned in mainstream Western media reports on the war, and that Russia was portrayed as the aggressor in the conflict.

Russia Prime Minister Vladimir Putin earlier criticized the U.S. stance on the conflict, saying, “The very scale of this cynicism is astonishing – the attempt to turn white into black, black into white and to adeptly portray victims of aggression as aggressors and place the responsibility for the consequences of the aggression on the victims.”

Medvedev also warned world powers against playing the role of mega-regulators in the global financial system, and urged joint action to overcome the current financial crisis, which he said stemmed from “financial egoism.”

“The latest developments have proved that no economy, no matter how powerful and strong it is, may assume the powers of a mega-regulator,” he said. “We need new mechanisms for adopting collective decisions and collective responsibility.”

–RIA Novosti



## World War II hero dies

**BRUSSELS** – Belgium paid its final respects Thursday to the last survivor of a resistance team that in 1943 pulled off a daring raid, rescuing over 200 Jews from a train to Auschwitz with no more than a pistol, three pairs of wirecutters, a lantern and a red rag.

Robert Maistriau, who died last week aged 87, was 22 years old when he and two friends took the risk of hijacking a train departing over 1,600 Jews from Belgium to the Nazi death camp of Auschwitz in Poland.

On the night of April 19, 1943, the trio – Maistriau, Youra Livchitz (25) and Jean Franklemon (25) – bicycled from their Brussels homes some 40 kilometres to the town of Boortmeerbeek in Flanders.

There, they wrapped their lantern in a red rag and laid it on the eastbound railway track as an impromptu stop sign. Lying in the darkness, they watched in astonishment as the train ground to a halt.

“We were incredibly lucky,” Maistriau told *Deutsche Presse-Agentur* in a 2001 interview: the guards in the front and rear wagons seemed unaware of what was going on.

After a moment of hesitation, Maistriau crept out of hiding and ran to the darkened train, forcing the door on the nearest carriage with his wire-cutters while Livchitz fired the pistol to delay the guards – a sound which those who were inside never forgot.

“The train stopped, and from my wagon, in complete darkness and among dozens of men, women and crying children, I heard shots and shouts in German from the Nazi escorts,” Simon Gronowski, then an 11-year-old boy and now a Brussels lawyer,

wrote to newspaper *Le Soir*.

Seventeen deportees jumped out of the first wagon and fled as the guards opened fire – but one prisoner in the wagon shouted at the others to stay where they were, Maistriau told *DPA*.

While Livchitz fired, Maistriau and Franklemon broke open a second wagon, urging the prisoners to run for their lives.

As the guards closed in, the trio took to their bicycles, racing back to Brussels under the cover of darkness. When the train finally set off, the men in Gronowski’s wagon broke into the open cars and escaped as well.

In all, Maistriau’s team freed an estimated 230 deportees that night – although exact figures vary – of whom over 100 survived the war. It was the only time in occupied Europe that resistance fighters liberated a deportation train.

“I did it more out of the wish to do something against the occupiers than to do anything special. We knew the name of Auschwitz, but we didn’t know where it was – Livchitz just said it wouldn’t end well for these people,” Maistriau told *DPA*.

Livchitz was shot by the Nazis in 1943. Maistriau was arrested in March 1944 and deported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, from which he was liberated in April 1945. Franklemon died in 1977.

To his dying day, Maistriau continued receiving letters of thanks from the children of those whom he rescued.

He was buried in the cemetery of Woluwe-Saint-Lambert in Brussels yesterday.

–DPA

## WW2 WAR CRIMES TRIAL OPENS IN MUNICH

**Munich** – A German witness at one of the last Second World War atrocities trials described Wednesday how he rounded up village men in Italy, but claimed that he had only learned days later they had been massacred.

The former soldier, 83, pleaded “gaps in my memory” during his testimony to the Munich war-crimes trial of his unit’s former commander, 90. The lieutenant is accused of 14 murders in the Tuscan village of Falzano in 1944.

The officer allegedly ordered his company of Battalion 818 of the German Army mountain combat engineers to carry out the reprisal after

Resistance fighters killed two of the unit’s men in the village.

The former soldier in the company said they were told to “comb” the area and detain any men they found.

“I thought they were going to be interrogated,” he said, adding he only heard days later they were killed.

At key points in the testimony, the witness became vague, or said he could no longer remember.

“I don’t believe you,” replied the presiding judge,

Manfred Goetzl, several times.

The prosecution says the combat engineers first shot dead three men and a woman, then locked village men inside a Falzano house and dynamited it, killing 10.

–DPA

## NAZI WAR CRIMINAL, 91, ROBS STORE

**Recklinghausen, Germany** – An elderly convicted German war criminal was fined 1,600 euros (2,300 dollars) by a court yesterday for a hold-up at a Belgian pharmacy.

The man, who had been paroled after 22 years in prison for murdering six Jews in Gorlice, Poland during World War II, said he pointed a toy gun at a shop-owner in Eupen, Belgium as a protest against his 1968 conviction.

The 91-year-old former member of the SS admitted the wartime murders but claimed his sentence was unfair because he had just been “following orders”.

Fining him for threatening behaviour, a court in Recklinghausen, Germany refused his request to re-open the war crimes case.

The accused pointed a toy gun at a pharmacist last year and demanded money, but then left the shop empty-handed.

–DPA

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# Rules incident frustrates Campbell in Scotland

By Bernie McGuire for NZPA

**KINGSBARN, SCOTLAND, OCT 2** – Michael Campbell found himself at the centre of a frustrating rules incident during his opening round of the Dunhill Links golf championship in Scotland today (NZT).

Campbell carded a four-under par 68 at the Kingsbarns course, one of three courses hosting the \$US5 (\$NZ7.70) million event.

It left him lying four shots behind the leading duo of England's Ross Fisher and Denmark's Soren Hansen.

Teamed with Hollywood blockbuster star Samuel L Jackson, Campbell got off to a superb start when he eagled the par five 12th which he was playing as his third hole.

He hit a rescue club to 18 inches and rolled in the eagle putt.

But he was in trouble at the next hole, a short par three, with his tee shot missing the green and the ball coming to rest in a catchment area near the putting surface.

On closer inspection it was lying among some 50 divots.

"I couldn't believe the number of divots where my ball was lying and it was obvious that a member of Kingsbarns has been down to this part of the course practising his chipping," Campbell said.

He immediately sought a ruling and, not satisfied with the decision of the official, asked for John Paramour, the European Tour's chief referee.

Paramour could not attend the scene and Campbell spoke at length with him via a walkie-talkie.

"I tried to explain to John there is a part of the Old Course at St Andrews and on the seventh hole and in the middle of the fairway that is similar to the area where my ball came to rest at 13 that they have marked off and declared as 'ground under repair'," Campbell said.

"But as much as I tried to seek relief, J P (Paramour) wouldn't grant it and said that it was just unfortunate.

"So it's just one of those things that you have to accept, though it wasn't nice to walk off with



Michael Campbell in action at last weekend's British Masters. ZUMA

**“I COULDN'T BELIEVE THE NUMBER OF DIVOTS WHERE MY BALL WAS LYING AND IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT A MEMBER OF KINGSBARN HAS BEEN DOWN TO THIS PART OF THE COURSE PRACTISING HIS CHIPPING**

a bogey. It was a bit of shame but it's just one of those things."

After hitting a bogey at the last, Campbell walked off with his arm around Jackson, delighted with his effort.

"To shoot four under is not bad because I left a lot out there as I hit nearly every fairway and only missed two greens all day with one of those being the 13th where I had the trouble with the divots," he said.

"So four under is probably the worst I could have scored today."

Jackson enjoyed the occasion and was seen laugh-

ing and joking often with Campbell.

"Samuel was great and he's improved since last year and he's playing off a three handicap," Campbell said.

There were a few light-hearted moments, including at the first that Campbell and Jackson were playing as their 10th. One youngster holding a camera asked Jackson if he could have a photograph. Jackson responded: "I'm sorry, I don't have any photos on me."

However, Jackson took exception when one person called him Sam. "My name's Samuel, OK!" he said.

## Daubney pinged for cocaine, despite polygraph test



**AUCKLAND, OCT 3** – New Zealander Simon Daubney has been banned for two years after testing positive to cocaine while sailing for defenders Alinghi in last year's America's Cup.

The ban, handed down today by the international Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, was backdated and will end next July.

Daubney, 49, is understood to be overseas, while an Alinghi spokesman said the syndicate would issue a statement about the CAS decision.

The genoa trimmer was tested on June 23, 2007, the day of the opening race of Alinghi's cup match with Team New Zealand.

Last September, an America's Cup jury found that a drug violation had occurred.

But it cleared Daubney, who believed he had been the victim of a spiked drink bought for him by people still upset as his defection from Team NZ

seven years earlier.

However, the World Anti-Doping Agency appealed to the CAS, seeking a two-year ban.

A CAS panel of three lawyers from Germany, Italy and Switzerland heard the case last month.

The panel ruled that the CAS could not recognise the America's Cup jury's decision because cup organisers did not adopt rules that were consistent with the World Anti-Doping Code.

It found that the presence of cocaine metabolites in Daubney's urine was not disputed.

It said a two-year ban for a first offence could not be reduced or avoided because Daubney had not established that he bore no fault of negligence.

Because Daubney was an individual athlete, the CAS decision did not affect Alinghi's 5-2 victory over Team New Zealand.

Daubney has been a member of the last four

America's Cup-winning crews, beginning with Team New Zealand in 1995 and 2000.

After the 2000 regatta, he and five other Team New Zealand sailors, including skipper Russell Coutts and tactician Brad Butterworth, jumped ship and joined Alinghi, helping the Swiss syndicate to win the cup in 2003.

Coutts later quit Alinghi, but the rest of the group were back on deck in last year's victory over Team New Zealand.

When the positive test was announced, Daubney said he believed "a small unruly element" who opposed his switch to Alinghi were behind a spiked drink given to him.

He told the America's Cup jury that he had been subjected to considerable personal harassment over his move.

Adding further controversy to the affair is a polygraph test, undertaken as part of the original hearing, which established "beyond doubt" that although the banned substance was in Daubney's blood sample, he had not knowingly taken cocaine:

"The Jury notice also detailed the findings of a polygraph test (truth test) stating: 'Bruce Burgess, a polygraph expert explained the entire polygraph system in great detail and gave evidence that he had conducted a polygraph examination on Simon Daubney on 11th September 2007. During the examination Bruce Burgess had asked 3 relevant questions, including 'have you ever used cocaine?' to which Simon Daubney answered 'no'. The test was repeated for reliability. Bruce Burgess had no doubt that all answers were truthful and that the probability of deception was less than 0.01% which is the lowest probability on the polygraph scale used.'"

– NZPA



## Lee well back after first round of PGA event

**WELLINGTON, OCT 3** – New Zealand amateur golfer Danny Lee has left himself with plenty of work to do to make the cut in his second PGA Tour appearance in the United States.

Lee, who in August became the youngest US amateur golf champion in history, was in the bottom half of the field after the first round of the Turning Stone Resort Championship in Verona, New York, today after shooting a three-over-par 75.

He hit two birdies and a bogey on the front nine, but added another four bogeys on the back, to complete the round in a tie for 80th.

The 18-year-old said this week he was determined to finish the tournament strongly and was not there simply to make the second round cut.

American Jeff Overton had the outright lead after posting a five-under 67.

The tournament marks Lee's last outing before he joins New Zealand teammates James Gill and Jared Pender for the Eisenhower Trophy amateur teams world championship in Adelaide on October 16-19.

He made his first appearance on the PGA Tour in August at the Wyndham Championship where he finished in a tie for 20th.

– NZPA



Steve Matai walks past the Kangaroos as he leaves the field after being sent off for a high tackle on the Kangaroo's Mark Gasnier during their international centenary rugby league test at Westpac Stadium. NZPA / Tim Hales

## Anxious wait on Matai fitness

By Mark Geenty of NZPA

**SYDNEY, OCT 3** – Kiwis rugby league coach Stephen Kearney expects centre Steve Matai will be available for World Cup selection but has his fingers crossed for no injury drama on Sunday night.

That might be tricky, with Kearney sitting in the Melbourne Storm coach's box and Matai playing for Manly in the National Rugby League (NRL) grand final.

As Kearney prepares to name his 24-man World Cup squad on Tuesday, he said Roy Asotasi (pectoral) and Frank Pritchard (shoulder) were the only two definite scratchings from his list of contenders.

Matai requires end-of-season arthroscopic sur-

gery on his troublesome right shoulder to clean up bone fragments, but has stated his hope to delay it until after the World Cup, assuming he gets through the grand final unscathed.

The blockbusting centre played a starring role in Manly's 32-6 win over the New Zealand Warriors last Saturday, despite aggravating an old neck injury and appearing to struggle with his shoulder problem.

"I haven't been in contact with Steve this week for obvious reasons, but my reports are that he is available, and until I hear otherwise that's how it is," Kearney told NZPA.

"Steve's had a problem like that all year and he started the season late, but he's been able to manage it."

Kearney offered a hint of his plans in the All Golds squad named this week, including Nathan Fien who looks set to slot back into a Kiwis jersey after the Grannygate controversy of 2006.

He will likely contend with Thomas Leuluai for the No 7 jersey alongside five-eighth Benji Marshall, or back up first choice hooker Issac Luke. Bulldogs halfback Ben Roberts has been cleared to pursue a Samoan spot after being told he wasn't in the frame.

"Nathan's fortunate that he can play either position. It's no coincidence the form of the Warriors, him guiding the group around has helped," Kearney said.

In Asotasi's absence, Parramatta's 34-test vet-

eran Nathan Cayless will likely regain the Kiwi captaincy.

While prop Asotasi, first-choice second-rower Pritchard and code-switching star Sonny Bill Williams are huge losses, Kearney insisted the future looked bright for the Kiwis, who have a daunting start to the tournament against the Kangaroos at the Sydney Football Stadium on October 26.

"For the first time in a while it's all about who we're going to leave out. I don't think we've been in that position for quite some time, even taking into the account the guys who are unavailable. I'm very optimistic."

The 16 players named alongside Ruben Wiki, Logan Swann and Stacey Jones against New Zealand Maori on October 12 seem assured, leaving eight spots open.

Up to four of those could come from Kearney's Storm – forwards Jeremy Smith, Jeff Lima, Adam Blair and uncapped youngster Sika Manu, who made a big late-season impact.

Warriors forward Simon Mannering has been rested from the All Golds match after a torrid season but will also return.

Kearney said he would inform all his players of their selection this weekend, although World Cup organisers have requested the announcement be delayed until Tuesday so as not to clash with the Kangaroos' team naming on Monday.

Possible Kiwis World Cup squad (injury permitting): Nathan Cayless (captain, Parramatta), Adam Blair (Melbourne), Greg Eastwood (Brisbane), David Fa'alogo (South Sydney), Nathan Fien (Warriors), Lance Hohaia (Warriors), Krisnan Inu (Parramatta), David Kidwell (South Sydney), Thomas Leuluai (Wigan), Jeff Lima (Melbourne), Issac Luke (South Sydney), Simon Mannering (Warriors), Sika Manu (Melbourne), Benji Marshall (Wests Tigers), Steve Matai (Manly), Jason Nightingale (St George-Illawarra), Sam Perrett (Sydney Roosters), Sam Rapira (Warriors), Jerome Ropati (Warriors), Setaimata Sa (Sydney Roosters), Jeremy Smith (Melbourne), Iosia Soliola (Sydney Roosters), Manu Vatuvei (Warriors), Brent Webb (Leeds).

## Everton's UEFA hopes crushed

**HAMBURG** – Premier League side Everton were knocked out of the UEFA Cup this morning after going down to Standard Liege 2-1 to go out 4-3 on aggregate while a draw was enough to seal Aston Villa's place in the group stages.

Axel Witsel opened the scoring for the Belgian league leaders before Phil Jagielka levelled matters for Everton in the second half.

However, a penalty from Milan Jovanovic sealed the win for Liege to complete a miserable week for coach David Moyes, whose side lost to city rivals Liverpool at the weekend.

Villa entered their tie against Litex Lovech holding a comfortable 3-1 lead from the first leg and went further ahead on 27 minutes through Marlon Harewood. Wilfried Niflore equalized for Lovech from the penalty spot but Martin O'Neill easily held on to progress 4-2 on aggregate.

There was also success for struggling Premier League side Tottenham Hotspur who were held to a 1-1 draw at Wisla Krakow, but went through 3-2 on aggregate.

Tottenham went ahead through an own goal scored by Arkadiusz Glowacki on the hour. The home side then threw caution to the wind and were rewarded for their efforts seven minutes from time when Pawel Brozek levelled matters.

They then pushed forward even more in search of a second goal that would take them into extra time, but Spurs keeper Heurelho Gomes pulled off a number of classy saves to deny the home side.

It was also a good night for German clubs as VfB Stuttgart, VfL Wolfsburg, SV Hamburg and Schalke 04 also went through to join Hertha Berlin, who already qualified for the next round on Tuesday.

Stuttgart, who won the first leg against Chernomorets Varna 2-1, looked on their way out at home as the Bulgarian side were leading 2-0 with seven minutes to go, but Thomas Hitzlsperger levelled the tie.

In injury time Mario Gomez found an equal-

izer for Stuttgart to send the team through 4-3 on aggregate.

SV Hamburg, who managed no better than a goalless draw against Unirea Urziceni at home, won 2-0 in Romania on the night to advance 2-0 on aggregate.

Schalke 04 had already done all the hard-work in Cyprus in the first leg winning 4-1 against APOEL Nicosia were held to a 1-1 draw at home but went through 5-2 on aggregate.

Wolfsburg were held to a 1-1 draw at Rapid Bucharest to advance 2-1 on aggregate.

Wolfsburg had the ideal start in Romania taking the lead in the 15th minute through Grafite, giving the home side a tough task of having to score three goals to go through.

Although Vasile Maftעי equalized in the 70th minute, it was too late to allow the home side back into the game.

Borussia Dortmund pulled back a two-goal deficit against Italian side Udinese through two goals from Tamas Hajnal but ended up crashing out 4-3 on penalties.

Deportivo La Coruna needed penalties to overcome Norwegian side Brann Bergen while Sevilla eased into the group stages with a 2-0 victory to seal a 4-0 aggregate win.

Also through on the night were Sampdoria, who won 2-1 at Kaunas to advance 7-1 on aggregate, Lech Poznan, who needed extra time to dispose of Austria Vienna 5-4 on aggregate after a 4-2 victory.

Benfica beat Napoli 2-0 to go through 4-3 on aggregate while Valencia celebrated a 2-1 win to progress 3-1 on aggregate against Maritimo Funchal.

Two extra-time goals from Peter Crouch ensured English FA Cup winners Portsmouth's place in the Group phase, the English striker's goal ensuring Harry Redknapp's side progress 4-2 on aggregate after drawing 2-2 on the night.

– DPA

## Tough selection issues for Phoenix coach

**WELLINGTON, OCT 3** – Wellington Phoenix soccer coach Ricki Herbert says the side who ended Sydney FC's unbeaten run in the A-League last weekend are likely to remain largely unchanged against Newcastle on Monday.

The Phoenix leave for Australia tomorrow in a positive frame of mind after ending their own winless start to the competition with a 2-1 win over Sydney.

A pleasing aspect of the win was how the team worked as a defensive unit, led by central defenders Karl Dodd and Ben Sigmund.

The pair took over from the incumbent pairing of captain Andrew Durante and Jon McKain, who were both unavailable – McKain for personal reasons and Durante due to a bout of flu.

McKain remains out for Monday, and while Durante is back in the fold his role remains uncertain.

After a training session today at Wellington's Newtown Park, Herbert admitted the performance against Sydney made the selection process for Monday difficult and said competition for starting places was heating up.

"If he (Duranete) comes back into the side I think he will be desperate to continue with a decent performance," Herbert said.

"I think Karl and Ben showed everything that we needed and it would be difficult to present a case for them to not be part of what we're doing."



NZPA/Ross Setford

Newcastle are likely be short of a couple of key players on Monday, but Herbert said the Phoenix had already proved that did not necessarily equate to a weakened team.

"They are going to bring players into the side who will be hungry – probably haven't had a start this year – and will want to impress their manager as well.

"It's another good challenge and I think we're ready for this," Herbert said.

Meanwhile, striker Shane Smeltz, who has been at the centre of speculation about switching clubs, said the Phoenix had given him a "good offer" looking ahead, and he needed time to weigh that up with his

future.

"There are obviously personal things and footballing reasons (to consider), I don't think it's a decision I want to make right now," he said today.

Smeltz said he had not been personally involved with any negotiations with other clubs and had not been closely following any discussions his agent might have been having with them.

His immediate focus was on the Phoenix's upcoming matches.

However, he said he liked Wellington, was playing well and enjoying it.

"It's not all about the money, there's a lot more to consider."

– NZPA

## Obituary



NZPA/Wayne Drought

## The last Guest appearance

**WELLINGTON** – Claimed by both New Zealanders and Australians as their own, musical theatre star Rob Guest will be remembered best for his lead in *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Guest, 58, who died yesterday in a Melbourne hospital after suffering a massive stroke, holds the record for playing the longest running Phantom, with a record 2289 performances over seven years.

The professional and charismatic entertainer played more than 40 roles during his career, and was starring in the musical *Wicked*, playing the Wizard of Oz, in Melbourne at the time of his death.

But it's his Phantom role for most of the 1990s in Australia and New Zealand that made him known to so many people.

Born in Birmingham, England, Guest grew up in New Zealand, where he began his career as a pop singer. He rose to pop fame in the 1970s when he began performing on the television show *Happen Inn*.

He toured and was recognised around the world – in 1978 he picked up the Korean Song Festival Best Performance trophy and was voted New Zealand's Professional Performer of the Year.

Guest spent much of the '80s in the US working

as an MC at shows in Las Vegas.

The musical *Les Miserables* took him to Australia when he was cast as Jean Valjean.

He toured for three and a half years, gaining much attention, before going on to be cast as the Phantom in *The Phantom of the Opera*.

He played that role in the popular production from 1991 until 1998.

Guest also ventured into TV, hosting the short-lived 1994 Australian TV game show *Man O Man*, a type of men's beauty pageant. Throughout his career Guest was regarded as a true professional. He was

**“HE ROSE TO POP FAME IN THE 1970S WHEN HE BEGAN PERFORMING ON THE TELEVISION SHOW HAPPEN INN. HE TOURED AND WAS RECOGNISED AROUND THE WORLD – IN 1978 HE PICKED UP THE KOREAN SONG FESTIVAL BEST PERFORMANCE TROPHY AND WAS VOTED NEW ZEALAND'S PROFESSIONAL PERFORMER OF THE YEAR**

praised for taking on the role of Captain von Trapp in *The Sound of Music* less than a week before the start of the Brisbane season in 2000 after actor John Waters withdrew because of health issues.

Guest recently said he was thrilled to score his part in *Wicked*, in which he was winning over big audiences, proving he still had what it took.

“When they come around, certain roles are a gift and you jump at it,” he said.

Guest became an Australian citizen on January 26, 1996, but to New Zealanders he was still considered a Kiwi. Most of Guest's accolades came from New Zealand.

He was awarded Best Theatrical Performer of the Year twice for his roles in *Les Miserables* and *The Phantom of the Opera*.

In 1994, he was made an OBE for his services to the New Zealand entertainment industry.

He was remembered on both sides of the Tasman with great fondness and as a caring man.

Prime Minister Helen Clark paid tribute to Guest, saying: “For many years Rob Guest has inspired many New Zealand and Australian audiences with his remarkably powerful performances.”

Entertainer Ray Columbus described him as “a lovely guy, very professional, a fine singer and a great actor”.

Guest's Phantom understudy Tim Beveridge said he was a “great Kiwi bloke” who loved his fast cars.

His *Les Miserables* and *Phantom of the Opera* co-star Marina Prior also remembered him fondly and said she would miss him.

Musician and talent scout Gray Bartlett, who has been in the entertainment industry for 50 years, said it was a sad loss of a man he had known since the 1970s.

“I think the thing that was really key to him being successful – and he was really successful and probably one of New Zealand's greatest ever theatrical performers – was the fact that he had the two ingredients that make a great performer.

“That is the ability to convey his emotion on stage and to show his fantastic imagination for his work.”

Veteran singer and dancer Tina Cross was with Guest a week and a half ago after seeing his performance in *Wicked*.

She said he was “fantastic” when she saw him and his death today came as a shock she could not comprehend.

Cross and Guest worked together a lot in the 70s and 80s, performing here and in the United States.

Iconic pop singer Suzanne Lynch said Guest was at the top of his field when he died.

“There's not a bad thing I can say. He was one of life's gentlemen.”

Guest, a private man, was surrounded by his partner Kellie Dickerson, who is *Wicked's* musical director, two teenage children and other family and friends when he died.

A public memorial service featuring tributes and performances in Melbourne's Regent Theatre is planned for next week.

Guest's funeral is expected to take place early next week.

Rob Guest, Music of the Night

– NZPA

## Music

Courtesy of Wolf Trap



## If he could read his mind: The **Gordon Lightfoot** story

By Judith Newmark

Here, according to Toronto troubadour Gordon Lightfoot, is what it's like to wake up from a coma: "It's like you've been lying in a great big box – and suddenly, the box is turned over. My eardrums were crashing, like a cupboard fell over in my head and all the plates and cups shattered at once." Lightfoot paused to take a sip of tea. "Two days later, I was thinking of music again."

Lightfoot says the six-week coma itself remains a blank, but a rather pleasant one: "No visions, no worries." It followed an acute abdominal aneurysm that nearly killed him; he was in and out of the hospital for a year and a half.

And the moment he was out, he started recording again.

"I wasn't sure if I would ever get my voice back," he says now, six years after his illness. "Or my fingers. I practiced guitar for hours and hours every day.

"And now I'm doing 60 shows a year."

He's nearly 70, but he's recaptured the life he's led since he was a teenager – the life of the working musician.

Born in Orillia, Ontario, Lightfoot stands at the centre of the Canadian music folk-rock renaissance, a pantheon that takes in Leonard Cohen and Neil Young, Ian and Sylvia and Joni Mitchell, Robbie Robertson and k.d. lang. Many of them have covered each other's music (Lightfoot considers lang's rendition of "Hallelujah" the best version of Cohen's often-recorded song); most of them have covered Lightfoot's.

And so has everybody else. If he hadn't had the dreamy, potent voice and the Byronic Viking looks that first made him a star on the coffeehouse scene in the 1960s, Lightfoot could still have had a major music career strictly as a songwriter.

In fact, his songs were popular before he was. The folk music trio Peter, Paul & Mary, then at the height of their popularity, had a hit with "Early Mornin' Rain";

Marty Robbins took "Ribbon of Darkness" to the top of the country charts; Barbra Streisand discovered sophisticated possibilities in Lightfoot's touching ballad of heartbreak, "If You Could Read My Mind."

"I never heard a cover I didn't like," Lightfoot says of them (and the many, many others). "I feel deeply honoured when somebody else wants to sing my songs."

"If You Could Read My Mind" marked Lightfoot's U.S. breakout as a performer, 38 years ago. The 1970s also brought him three more major successes as a singer/songwriter: "Sundown," "Carefree Highway" and "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald," a song inspired by a real-life maritime disaster on Lake Superior.

At the same time, Lightfoot was leading the full-speed-ahead musician's life, drinking heavily and drifting from one relationship to the next. His six children, ranging in age from their teens to their 40s, have four different mothers. Lightfoot speaks

warmly of his late first wife, "a Swede named Rita. She was my muse – the best muse of all. But the marriage only lasted seven years.

"I couldn't hold on. I had albums to make, I had songs to sing, I had things to do."

He had drinks to drink, too, until he "just stopped" in 1982, helped by a physician and his sister. He said he leads a pretty quiet life now, living alone but enjoying, and valuing, the company of his family (five of his children also live in Toronto) and long-time friends, like the musicians he's performed with for years. Most of them have reunited for the tour.

"Everybody wanted to do this," he said. "Put all of our families together, and there are 30 or 40 people involved (in the tour schedule), but we're all feeling good. There's been a lot of trauma, but right now I'm happy. I'm in charge."

Gordon Lightfoot, "If You Could Read My Mind"   
"The Wreck Of The Edmund Fitzgerald" 

– St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

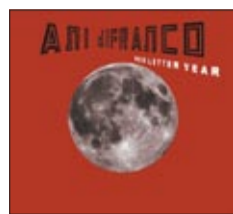
## NEW CD RELEASES

## Ani DiFranco

➔ **Red Letter Year**

➔ **Righteous Babe**

★★★★☆



"I've got myself a new mantra," Ani DiFranco announces in the early going of her new *Red Letter Year*. "It says, 'Don't forget to have a good time.'"

Lyrically, the songs are influenced by DiFranco's entrance into motherhood. "Present/Infant" revolves around the changes in attitude attached to the presence of her baby daughter:

"Now here's this tiny baby and they say she looks like me," she sings. "And she is smiling at me with that present/infant glee."

Introduced by a pensive marriage of plucked guitar and dissonant horns, the song joins initial images of celebration ("New Year's Eve we dropped mushrooms and danced 'round the house") with blistering couplets about the Katrina debacle in the final verse:

"Representing the white race, a man with a monkey for a face is flying over in a helicopter," DiFranco intones, her voice processed through what sounds like a bull horn. "Whistling Dixie and playing dumb in a town that might put a gun to your throat."

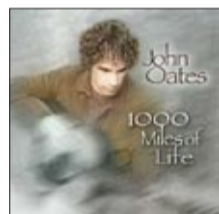
The harshness of the words is softened by the accompaniment: funeral horns by the Rebirth Brass Band that sound more noble than sad.

## John Oates

➔ **1000 Miles of Life**

➔ **Phunk Shui Records**

★★★★☆



John Oates knows something about blending.

He has always been the more anonymous, or at least understated, member of Hall & Oates, and there's a similar sense of community about the

new solo album *1000 Miles of Life*.

Oates is content to share the spotlight with guests on songs that showcase the range of his songwriting and performance.

At the top, there's an authentic slice of the blue-eyed soul that put Oates and Daryl Hall on the MTV and radio map back in the day. Introduced by a chunky "Man Eater" keyboard riff, the title track is powered by an infectious chorus and a solid, tuneful guitar solo.

For my money, I'd take Oates singing the upbeat songs over the ballads such as "The Good Son." In such moments, his voice drifts into a breathy whisper that makes it sound flimsy.

Aside from that quibble, it's obvious that the guy still knows how to make records. The diversity of styles on *1000 Miles* is impressive, including skillfully executed forays into folkish-country and traditional New Orleans styles.

In addition to high profile help from Bramlett, Bela Fleck, Blues Traveler's John Popper and the Blind Boys of Alabama, the studio band includes Dobro master Jerry Douglas and mandolinist/fiddler Sam Bush.

"Ghost Town," Oates' tribute to post-Katrina New Orleans, illustrates his range as producer, writer and performer. Although anchored in a pop framework, the song features the subtle flavor of Fleck's jazzy banjo, harmonica and the whiff of an old-school funeral march.

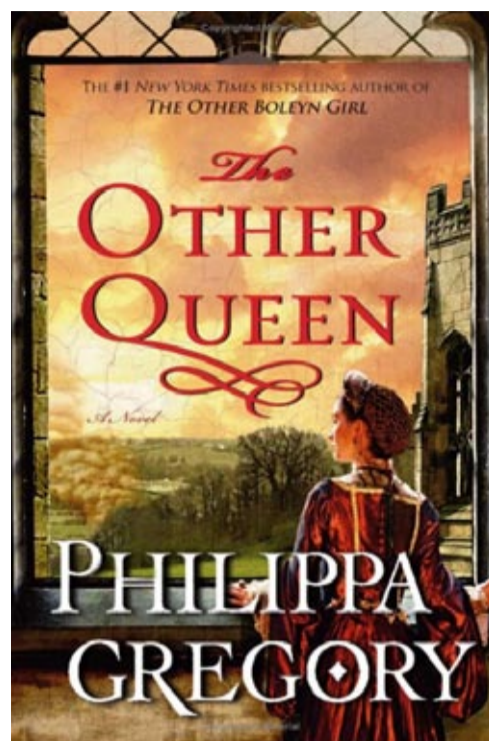
The best moments, though, are still the soulful ones: A cover of "Sending Me Angels," with the Blind Boys of Alabama is inspiring gospel.

The sassy, more sinful, "Carved in Stone," with Bekka Bramlett (Bonnie's daughter), is heavenly.

That would describe much of Oates' *1000 Miles*.

— Jim Abbott

## Books



## A scholar's novel approach

## The Other Queen

➔ **By Philippa Gregory**

➔ **HarperCollins, \$37**

Gruesome it may be to ponder, but it is a matter of fact that Mary, Queen of Scots, lost her head on Feb. 8, 1587. But when Philippa Gregory is writing one of her historical novels, she can't afford to lose hers.

"The history always comes first," Gregory said in an interview during a recent visit to America to promote *The Other Queen*. "The story is set for me by the historical record."

Make no mistake: The author of *The Other Boleyn Girl* and *The Constant Princess* loves being a storyteller. But Gregory, who lives in Yorkshire, England, also holds a doctorate in literature from the University of Edinburgh and takes a scholarly approach to researching her novels.

The latest, *The Other Queen*, focuses on the social, political and religious turmoil surrounding Elizabeth I and Mary. The latter was a Catholic when it was not exactly good to be a Catholic on English soil. Mary also was accused, perhaps falsely, of being involved in assassination plots against Elizabeth.

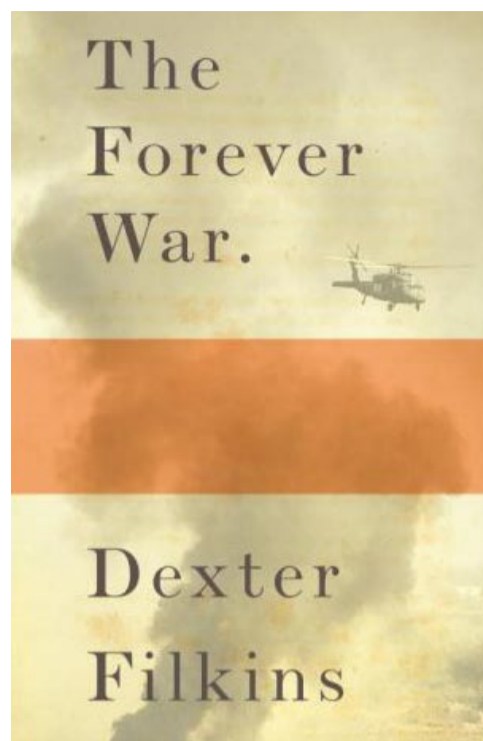
So how does a clear-eyed writer, faithful to history, find her way into the fiction side of the equation?

"One of the things about the Tudors is that they didn't (engage in) self-reflection," Gregory said. "You never get a diary which tells you about someone's inner life or thoughts or feelings; you only ever get a diary which tells you about events. So in a sense I have to analyze these people. I look at what they do, their published letters, and sometimes if I'm lucky I get their prayers; if they've written a prayer book, I know what they prayed. From that, I create a fictional character who I think is as close as I can get to the person from the past."

It must work: In the United States alone, Gregory has 6 million readers. I asked her, though, if her fans' enthusiasm ever intimidates or stymies her as a writer.

"No. I make a very clear distinction in my mind between the marketing of the object which is for sale, the book, and my job when I'm alone in my study, which is to create a work of art. When I'm at my work, a spinner at the loom, I don't think about anybody else — the market, the editors, the fans or anybody. I've got enough to worry about. It has to be absolutely accurate historically, beautifully written enough to satisfy me, the best book I've ever written. That's plenty. I can't be worrying about how it's going to go down."

Gregory's work has considerable range; some of her novels have focused on the 18th century. Of late, though, she has concerned herself with the Tudors — the fractious royal bloodline that lasted more than a



“DRIVEN IN EQUAL MEASURE BY PROFESSIONALISM, OBSESSION AND WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SUICIDAL DISREGARD FOR PERSONAL SAFETY, FILKINS GAINED AN ON-THE-GROUND PERSPECTIVE OF THE WAR AGAINST RADICAL ISLAMIC TERRORISM — “THE FOREVER WAR.”

examinations of what went wrong (*Imperial Life in the Emerald City*, by Rajiv Chandrasekaran).

If Dexter Filkins comes late to the party, it's only because he's been otherwise occupied. Since 2001 Filkins has reported from Afghanistan and Iraq for *The New York Times* — dodging bullets alongside U.S. forces and venturing among the Taliban and Iraqi insurgents, with no escort beyond a translator.

Driven in equal measure by professionalism, obsession and what appears to be a suicidal disregard for personal safety, Filkins gained an on-the-ground perspective of the war against radical Islamic terrorism — "the forever war." He uses his reporting skill and writing talent to expose the humanity of everyone involved: soldiers, insurgents, civilians, officials, clerics, children.

*The Forever War* opens with a scene from the American attack on Fallujah, then an insurgent stronghold, in November 2004. In a few pages Filkins delivers a white-knuckle account of urban combat: "The wind from the bullets brushed my neck. Marines were writhing in the street, tangles of blood and legs, while other Marines were stooping and helping them and also getting shot." It ends with U.S. soldiers throwing open the doors of a captured mosque to allow Iraqi troops, their uniforms clean, to march inside.

Later, he talks with Yacob Yusef, headmaster of Baghdad College, whose brother was tortured and executed by Saddam Hussein's government. When Yusef went to collect the body, he was charged for the two bullets used to kill his brother. "Iraq was filled with people like Yacob Yusef," Filkins writes. "They weren't survivors so much as they were leftovers. The ruined byproducts of terrible times."

During the 2004 Mahdi uprising in Najaf, Filkins crouched with a photographer in an alley behind a mosque while Apache gunships raked the streets: "A pair of Mahdi fighters entered the alley, carrying a bleeding comrade. 'No pictures, no pictures!' one of them cried, carrying their comrade past. His black tunic was soaked in blood. 'You are a hero,' one of them whispered to the wounded man."

Filkins' portrait of Ahmad Chalabi, the wealthy and brilliant Iraqi exile whose unreliable intelligence helped justify the American invasion, has been criticized already for being too positive. Yet Filkins reveals Chalabi as a double-agent working for Iran.

*The Forever War* eschews context, analysis, explanation, presenting instead a succession of crisp, unadorned images that gain in power as they mount. Filkins provides just enough information to make each scene intelligible, then allows the reader to project his or her own emotional response onto them.

This technique extends to Filkins' portrait of himself, presented with little commentary. He persists in daily fitness runs in Baghdad, long after the city has descended into chaos. "As an American — as someone who could leave Iraq any time I wanted — I sometimes found myself taking cheap thrills from my brushes with death."

By refusing to tell the reader what to think, and through his reportorial excellence and stylistic severity, Filkins bestows *The Forever War* with the moral and literary authority of fiction. This is a book that can stand alongside *The Red Badge of Courage*, *Dispatches* and other modern classics of war.

— By Chauncey Mabe

century, from 1485 to 1603, and included Henry VIII, the oft-married monarch who broke with Catholicism and established the Church of England.

Elizabeth I was daughter to Henry and one of his wives, Anne Boleyn. Mary was of a different line, the Stuarts, and was cousin to Elizabeth. Yet at one time under English law, Mary had a strong claim to the English throne. Henry's will, though, declared that no Stuart could ascend.

Add the religious tension of the Catholic/Protestant schism and the usual machinations surrounding the English monarchy before it became largely symbolic, and you get the tumultuous stage on which Gregory's *The Other Queen* takes place.

"The Tudor period is really interesting. From Henry VII right up to Elizabeth I, you really have the formation of England — we come out of being an island off medieval Europe and start to be a country with various satellite countries around us. It's the period when empire starts, when global trade starts. That all happens during the time of the Tudors — the increase in prosperity as a country that in time will lead to the Industrial Revolution.

"And the birth of Protestantism in England changes people's consciousness of themselves in the world, in relation to God and each other, forever. It's a revolutionary time. A lot of what happened then made us."

At 54, with more than two dozen books to her credit when one includes her works for children, Gregory radiates energy and confidence in her work. Fans will be happy to know she's already plotting her next move. If all goes well, *The White Queen* will see print in 2010.

"I'm starting on the Plantagenets now, so I'm looking at the Wars of the Roses. That's a period which is not nearly as well known as the Tudors, so it's going to be interesting to see if the readers will step back (further) in time with me. At the moment, I think the Plantagenets were everything the Tudors were — only more violent, more amoral, more dangerous. I think it's going to be a great book."

— By John Mark Eberhart

## Bringing the Iraq conflict to visceral life

## The Forever War

➔ **By Dexter Filkins**

➔ **Knopf, US\$25**

Like no war before it, Iraq has spawned a rich body of literature while still being waged. The resulting books vary greatly in quality and intent, from journalistic accounts of combat (Evan Wright's *Generation Kill*) to justifications by failed U.S. administrators (Paul Bremer's *My Year in Iraq*) to meticulous

# US introduces food country of origin labelling

By Paul Rogers

**SAN JOSE, CALIF.** – US food regulators have ordered what their New Zealand counterparts claim is impossible: country of origin food labelling.

Born in the USA? Made in Mexico? Picked in Peru? Cultivated in Canada? Supermarket shoppers across the US, now you know.

Starting this week, new federal rules take effect requiring all U.S. supermarkets and large food retailers provide labels telling consumers which country a wide variety of food came from.

Covered by the new rules: ground beef, chicken, pork, veal, steak, lamb, and goat, along with fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, macadamia nuts, pecans and peanuts.

Although there are some loopholes – for instance “processed foods” like bacon aren’t covered – consumer groups say the labels will allow shoppers to bypass foods whose countries have poor hygiene records, or to deliberately help American farmers and ranchers.

Retailers can comply with labels on meat packages, twist ties on asparagus, stickers on apples – it doesn’t matter. They simply must say where the food came from or face fines up to \$1,000.

“People really want to know ‘What the heck am I eating?’” said Naomi Starkman, one of the organizers of the Slow Food Nation conference in San Francisco earlier this month, which, among other things, encouraged people to eat locally-produced food.

“If you know that peppers from Mexico might have salmonella, then maybe you would say ‘I want to buy peppers from California.’ Or maybe you would want to know that your food has a smaller carbon footprint. You can buy apples from Washington instead of New Zealand.”

Starkman, who also works as a spokeswoman for Consumers Union, a non-profit group that publishes Consumer Reports magazine, said that in some cases, people may want to buy foreign food if U.S. companies are having safety problems.

For example, in 2006, spinach tainted with E.coli, possibly from the waste of wild pigs, was eventually traced to a Mission Organics farm in California. The outbreak sickened 201 people in 26 states and Canada, and resulted in three deaths.

This summer, Nebraska Beef, an Omaha meat pack-

ing company, recalled roughly 700,000 kilos of steaks, roasts and other beef after its meat was linked to E.coli an outbreak that sickened two dozen people.

Also this year, Mexican peppers were linked to salmonella outbreaks in the U.S.

Labels will be another tool to help investigators quickly track down the source of tainted food during illness outbreaks.

“In the global economy, food comes from all over the world. So when we run into a problem with a food outbreak it is helpful to know where it came from,” said Dr. Martin Fenstersheib, Santa Clara County’s public health officer.

“Even in a general sense, it gives the consumer an additional tool to avoid exposure.”

The rules were championed by small cattle ranchers in the 2002 farm bill after the outbreak of mad

**“MAYBE YOU WOULD WANT TO KNOW THAT YOUR FOOD HAS A SMALLER CARBON FOOTPRINT. YOU CAN BUY APPLES FROM WASHINGTON INSTEAD OF NEW ZEALAND**

cow disease in British beef. They were stalled for years in Washington, D.C., however, when the Food Marketing Institute and Grocery Manufacturers Association lobbied the Bush administration for delays, saying the labelling would be too costly.

But after a recent spate of food-borne illnesses, the U.S. Department of Agriculture unveiled the new rules this fall.

Similar “country of origin label” or “COOL” rules for fish took effect in 2005. There are loopholes. For example, butcher shops, fish markets, restaurants and school cafeterias are exempt, as are “processed foods.” That means pork must be labeled, but not bacon; corn, but not frozen corn and carrot mixes; raw almonds but not trail mix.

**IF YOU’RE INTERESTED:** To learn more, go to [www.ams.usda.gov](http://www.ams.usda.gov) or to see a Consumers Union synopsis of the rules, go to [www.consumersunion.org/pdf/CU-Cool-Tool.pdf](http://www.consumersunion.org/pdf/CU-Cool-Tool.pdf)

– San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.)



These discipline problems, therefore, are not going to be corrected by manipulating reward and punishment with clever behavioral methods. They will correct themselves when the dysfunction is corrected

## The parent trap

By John Rosemond

A journalist recently asked me to name the No. 1 problem facing today’s family. I think she expected me to address education, the economy, or some other “hot” topic. To her surprise, I said, “A confusion of roles.” In today’s parenting universe, married women with children think of themselves first and foremost

as mothers, and married men with children think of themselves first and foremost as fathers. This is confusion. If you are married with children, you are first and foremost a wife or a husband. In your wedding vows, you did not say, “I take you to be my (husband, wife) until children do us part.” Those vows, many generations old, read the way they do for a reason.

I’ve been telling recent audiences that parenting has become bad for the mental health of women. Today’s all-too-typical mother believes that whether her child experiences success or failure in whatever realm is completely up to her. If she is sufficiently attentive to her child’s needs and sufficiently proactive in his life, he will succeed. If not, he will have problems. The natural consequence of this state of over-focus is anxiety, self-doubt, and guilt.

Symptomatic of this ubiquitous state of bad mental health is mother-to-mother conversation, which will almost invariably be all about their children: what they’re doing for their children, their children’s latest magnificent accomplishments, and so on. That today’s mothers cannot seem to think of anything else to talk about is rather, well, sad. My mother once told me that when mothers got together in the 1950s, they talked about everything but their children.

“We talked about interesting things,” was the way she put it.

The more attention you pay a child, the less attention the child will pay to you. The 1950s mother went about her child rearing with an almost casual attitude. It was “all in a day’s work,” as opposed to being all of her day’s work. She exuded a sense of confidence in her authority; therefore, her child recognized her authority. She established a clear boundary between herself and her child (as in, “I don’t have time for you right now, so go find something of your own to do”) that today’s mother feels prohibited from doing. Thus, today’s mother often feels as if she is under assault from her children from the time they wake up until they consent to occupy their beds.

In any relationship, a well-defined boundary is

necessary to respect. For example, men may “like” women who do not establish clear boundaries, but they have no respect for them. In this regard, it is no mystery why so many of today’s kids seem to have no respect for their mothers, or any other adult for that matter.

A father told me that his minister often spoke from the pulpit of the need for parents to be involved with their children. This bit of conventional wisdom is rarely if ever questioned. If I ask someone to explain why a high level of parent involvement is good, the typical response is along these lines: “Well, I mean, they need to know you care about them, right?” I knew my mother cared about me, but she wasn’t involved with me. She was involved with other adults, and when she remarried she was primarily involved with her husband, my stepfather. I always knew that I could depend on her, but there was enough of a boundary in the relationship to prevent me from ever becoming dependent.

This state of affairs is healthy for both parent and child.

Most of the discipline problems today’s experience with their children have their genesis in this nouveau and very dysfunctional family model. These discipline problems, therefore, are not going to be corrected by manipulating reward and punishment with clever behavioral methods. They will correct themselves when the dysfunction is corrected. The problem here is that it’s difficult to accept that what one is doing is dysfunctional when everyone is doing it.

Family psychologist John Rosemond answers parents’ questions on his Web site at <http://www.rosemond.com>

– The Charlotte Observer



# Money management software becomes more user-friendly

By Andrew D. Smith

The first thing most people notice is the absurd amount they spend eating out. They assume it's a mistake. They reread the numbers. They swear at their computers. Then they start bringing lunch to work.

That's right. Money management software doesn't just track where money goes. It all but forces users to spend smarter. And it's finally easy enough for ordinary people to use.

Money management software such as Intuit's Quicken hit the market decades ago and promised to revolutionize personal financial planning. There was just one problem: The early software was maddeningly cumbersome. Recording a single cheque took longer than balancing a week's worth of cheques by hand.

Things are different today.

New competitors, some based online, have sprung up to challenge Quicken and Microsoft Money with innovative features. For example, modern software can import transaction information directly from your bank, brokerage and credit card company. That's right: no more manual entries.

"The easier we make it, the more users we'll get, and that's good for everyone. [People] really need help tracking their money," said Donna Wells, chief financial officer of the Web-based programme Mint (although US-based, once you sign up Mint turns out to have access to most New Zealand banks).

Restaurants and bars aren't the only surprisingly expensive habits. Some people notice that their innocent coffee habit costs several hundred dollars a year. Others find they could pay a small mortgage with the money they spend on shoes.

Money management software also leads many people to rethink their financial relationships.

"Our software detects how much interest you get from your bank and how much you pay to your credit card. Then it looks for better offers," Ms. Wells said. "The difference comes to hundreds of dollars a year."

Many new users limit themselves to informal changes. If, say, you're overspending at restaurants, you might stop ordering appetizers. If that doesn't cut your bills enough, you might substitute water for soda. Other folks set budgets.

Historically, money management software made



## MONEY-MANAGEMENT HELP

### Web-based software:

- ▶ Mint.com
- ▶ Yodlee.com
- ▶ Buxfer.com
- ▶ Geezeo.com
- ▶ Wesabe.com
- ▶ Quicken Online

All are free except for the online version of Quicken, which costs \$3 a month.

Mint.com generally gets the highest marks because it offers a lot of features, and it's easy to use. Geezeo.com and Wesabe.com try to stand out by combining financial management and social networking. Users who fall into a specific group – say, cash-strapped, single 20-somethings – can join groups designed for their demographic and share ideas for saving money.

### Desktop-based:

- ▶ Quicken 2008 Personal Plus (NZ\$160)
- ▶ Money Plus Home and Business
- ▶ SplashMoney

Critics have generally given roughly equal marks to Quicken and Money. That may change since Microsoft has stopped providing annual updates for Money while Intuit keeps rolling out new features for Quicken. Also, keep in mind that Money won't work on Macs and it's no longer available in stores; you have to download it from the Web.

SplashMoney lacks many of the features that come with the deluxe versions of Quicken and Money. However, critics tend to praise its ease-of-use, along with versions of the software developed for smart phones.

budgeting difficult. Not only did users have to enter expenses, they also had to classify each one. The only thing the software did was add the numbers quickly and correctly.

These days, programs automatically import and

characterize expenses. The only thing users do is set limits.

Web-based programs let users check their budgets via cellphone before making a big purchase. If users exceed their budget in any category, the soft-

ware sends out e-mail or text messages instantly.

Some say the convenience of Web-based services – which also are called account aggregators – comes at the cost of security.

"If someone sneaks into your aggregator's database, he isn't walking away with just your credit card number – he's walking away with all your financial information. Just one breach could mean financial ruin," said Arkadi Kuhlmann, chief executive of the bank ING Direct.

Worse, Kuhlmann said, "Most account aggregators claim no liability for lost or stolen information. They aren't legally obligated to reimburse customers in the event of a security breach."

That said, Web-based products use top-notch security. Indeed, most use the same security measures as banks such as ING Direct, and millions of users apparently were comfortable with them.

Even Intuit has launched an online version of its flagship program, Quicken. Overall, it's hard to say just how many people use money management software. Most of the big players refuse to disclose sales of specific products. Intuit, for example, has boosted sales 50 percent over the past three years, but it won't say exactly how much of the growth comes from Quicken and how much comes from other products such as TurboTax. It's even harder to answer the biggest question: How much can software improve a user's financial position?

"We only have anecdotal evidence from consumers, not hard data," said Melanie Flanigan, a spokeswoman for Yodlee. "We are starting to do more analysis and surveys, so we will, over time, have more data behind this."

Even academics confess themselves puzzled.

"We can't tell whether these programs appeal to people who wouldn't otherwise track their finances or whether they just make life easier for people who would track their money no matter what," said Conrad Ciccotello, director of personal financial planning programs at Georgia State University.

In his gut, however, Ciccotello suspects software provides real benefits.

"For the final project in one of my classes, students must prepare a detailed financial plan for themselves," he said. "The ones who use some kind of software always get it done in half the time, and they do much better work."

## E-mail accounts easy to break into

By Elise Ackerman

The hacker who infiltrated Sarah Palin's e-mail account last month may have intended to embarrass the Republican vice presidential candidate, but the prank also exposed one of the Internet industry's most uncomfortable secrets: It is remarkably easy for someone to break into your online e-mail account.

In a post on an online community bulletin board, the hacker, who called himself "Rubico," described how he broke into Palin's account at Yahoo by using an automated password recovery tool that asked for Palin's birthday, her zip code and where she met her spouse.

"It took seriously 45 mins on Wikipedia and Google to find the info," Rubico wrote.

"Account recovery is a problematic area from a security perspective," said Michael Barrett, chief information security officer at PayPal. "The problem is if you make the process too weak then people can get in at will and if you make it too strong then people can't recover their accounts."

Internet companies like Yahoo, Google and Microsoft, which own the biggest online mail services, don't disclose how often accounts are compromised but they acknowledge that it does happen.

"We know the bad guys are out there," said John

Kremer, vice president of Yahoo Mail. "Everyone is trying to figure out how to straddle the line between making an account recoverable and at the same time making it secure."

Kremer said the first line of defence is good consumer practices. He said users of Yahoo Mail should be careful when they set up their accounts not to choose security questions that can be answered through publicly available information.

In a statement, Google said it takes security seriously and asks for information, such as someone's frequent flier number, that isn't easy to find online. Google also notifies users if their account is open in another location.

Barrett, of PayPal, said the payment service, which is owned by eBay, employs different levels of security depending on whether someone has money in their PayPal account or has linked a bank account to their PayPal account. In that case, a person may be required to fax over a copy of a driver's license or a passport to regain access to an account, he said.

But Jon Fisher, who sold an authentication services company to Oracle last year, said there is no bulletproof solution. "The one-to-one attack, human being to human being, is very hard to defend against," he said.



## TECH Q&A

### End tyranny of software updates

By Anne Krishnan

**Q. Is there any way to know what is being updated when Microsoft updates come through? Being a learned – rather than born – sceptic, I'm suspicious each time an automatic update appears indicating that something is happening that will make it easier for somebody else to run my life or take more of my money or freedoms away.**

**A.** Scepticism regarding unknown software updates to your system has some merit, says Jeff Crume, executive IT security architect for IBM.

"There have been cases when bad fixes got propagated that left systems even more vulnerable," he said. "In other cases, privacy issues have been introduced, previous functions were removed or, worse still, the system became completely inoperable."

The truly paranoid or security conscious (depending on your perspective), could find it worthwhile to change the settings on the Windows Update feature to "download updates for me, but let me choose when to install them," Crume said.

To do this, go to the Start menu, then "control panel," "security centre" and then click to manage the security settings for automatic updates.

Choosing this option gives you time to investigate the nature of updates on Microsoft's Web site before installing them, Crume said. You also can subscribe to Microsoft's security bulletins if you want the company to send you e-mail about security-related fixes.

You can sign up for monthly newsletters at [www.microsoft.com/protect/secnews/default.msp](http://www.microsoft.com/protect/secnews/default.msp).

Manually installing updates also allows you to wait a few days to make sure the updates don't introduce problems for other users, Crume said, but if you fail to install needed security updates immediately, it also could leave you vulnerable for a longer period of time.



# The next epidemic

By Peter Curson

It may not be next month or next year, but soon a new and virulent strain of flu is likely to sweep the world. We are long overdue for another pandemic of flu. The last one occurred in 1968-9 and there have been seven such pandemics since the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The worst by far was in 1918-19 when roughly 50 million people were swept away, including more than 12,000 in Australia and 8,600 in New Zealand. This was a different sort of flu, mainly affecting young adults rather than targeting the old and infirm as flu epidemics traditionally do, and most of those who died probably did so from bacterial infections following exposure to the virus.

If it isn't flu that hits the world it may well be a new and particularly nasty strain of the common cold such as Ad14 which killed 140 people in the USA last year, or a 'newly emerged' infection along the lines of SARS or Avian flu, currently being nurtured among wildlife in Asia or Africa. Such infections come and go, and history is littered with them. Some persist in natural reservoirs among wildlife like influenza and bubonic plague. Others, like childhood infections such as measles, mumps and whooping cough, as well as HIV/AIDS, seem to have taken up semi-permanent residence in us. There is little doubt that we are engaged in a protracted war against the microbial world.

Sometimes we seem to make headway against a particular infection, but more often than not such victories are pyrrhic and short-lived. Only once can we claim total victory, as in the eradication of smallpox from the world. All other infections have continued to elude us. Largely this is because we have believed that we were facing an immutable enemy against which we could simply bring to bear our heavy artillery of antibiotics and anti-virals. Nothing could have been further from the truth. Microbes have a durability that we never expected. They evolve, and change in close accordance with changes in their micro-environment and their host's environment. The more we continue to pour antibacterial drugs into them the more likely they are to adapt, mutate, and develop resistance. Many common infections are becoming resistant to the drugs we once claimed would remove them forever. In some cases the microbes have bitten back and developed into far more aggressive and life-threatening forms. What is the message to emerge from all of this? Well, clearly we have severely underestimated the power of the natural world and our battle to subdue the microbial world is an unwinnable war. The sooner we realise this the better off we will all be.

There are other problems here as well. We still do not appreciate the close links that exist between our health and that of wildlife and domestic animals. Witness the way animal infections are surveyed independently from human infections in many developed countries. Probably 70% of all the 'new' infections that have emerged over the last half century have been 'zoonoses' or animal diseases. Many have circulated among wildlife in parts of Africa and Asia for thousands of years. Influenza and plague are good examples, but there are many others, including SARS from bats, Ebola from monkeys, AIDS from chimpanzees and Hendra virus from flying foxes. Influenza has circulated among various species of wild birds for centuries, only on occasions reaching out to affect humans. Plague, which is today more geographically widely spread than at any time in its previous history, is also permanently maintained in the burrows of a number of species of ground burrowing animals. And it is not simply Asia and Africa that we are talking about. Bubonic plague is permanently entrenched among prairie dogs and other small ground-living animals in most of the western states of the USA. It is not without notice that national parks regularly display notices warning campers and hikers to beware of over friendly small animals who may be hosts to plague fleas. Every year, a number of visitors to these parks

catch bubonic plague, many courtesy of their pet dogs which have accompanied them on their camping holiday. This latter point is not without significance, for it is our behaviour which forms the bridge between animal infections and human infection. It is when we intrude upon, or in some way disrupt, natural disease reservoirs that we place ourselves at risk. We do this through our agriculture (farmed chickens, ducks and pigs intermingling with wild birds), through urbanisation (the expansion of cities into former rural areas), economic development (the building of giant dams, highways and the destruction of forest lands), human conflicts (civil unrest and wars) and tourism (eco tourists visiting remote areas). Natural disasters also play an important part in disrupting natural disease systems and creating flows of human refugees.

Add human mobility into this equation, and it is small wonder that 'new' infections appear and move around the world easily and quickly. The forces of globalisation have transformed geographic and epidemiological space. Infectious diseases recognise no frontiers, and borders have become increasingly porous. More people now move than ever before, and more and more visit exotic remote locations. There are now few places in the world that cannot be reached within a 20 hour journey. Roughly two million people cross international borders by air every day, most undertaking journeys that are far less than the incubation time of nearly all infections. Tens of thousands of New Zealanders and Australians now regularly visit parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America, once thought remote and inaccessible. One can be in central Africa or at the headwaters of the Amazon one day and walking around the centre of a New Zealand or Australian city the next, possibly incubating a rare and exotic infection. In such a context how do we control the entry of new infection? Once we relied on the protection of distance, whereby infections would 'burn themselves out' on the long sea voyage from the Old World, and if they didn't, then we could formally incarcerate sick arrivals in special quarantine stations. No longer can we rely on such defences.

Now we do not have formal quarantine stations and even if we did, the rapidity of air travel, and the fact that most people exposed to infections remain symptom-less on arrival, would mean that immigration authorities would be hard pressed to identify human vectors of disease. Herein lays our dilemma. How do we quickly identify and control infectious disease in an era of extraordinary personal mobility, in an interconnected world. There are no easy answers, and the surveillance and response systems that we have established and rely on, only go so far in protecting us.

While the primary threat for New Zealanders and Australians comes from diseases arising naturally, there also remains the possibility that an infectious agent might be released intentionally for political or other purposes. While this threat is considered low, both countries have prepared emergency surveillance and response plans. A potential bioterrorist event might take one of four possible forms. Firstly, the deliberate release of a weaponised pathological agent such as

anthrax or smallpox. Secondly, the deliberate release of an endemic infective agent such as Q Fever in Australia. Thirdly, the use of infected humans as vectors of disease, such as a dengue infected person being bitten by a mosquito in Queensland and ushering in a major epidemic. Fourthly, there is the risk of agro-terrorism with the deliberate release of a pest or pathogen into livestock or crops.

Finally, we should also realise that a change in human behaviour can very quickly transform the disease situation, moving a disease from relative insignificance to epidemic status almost overnight. The resurgence of measles in the USA and Britain this year is a case in point. Community concern about the safety of the MMR vaccine and possible links to autism has seen many people decline to have their children vaccinated. Largely such fears are without foundation, but the result has been the largest number of measles cases in both countries seen for decades. In many ways this is a rerun of what happened 30 or so years ago, when concern

about the safety of the whooping cough vaccine was widely canvassed by many of the world's leading women's magazines, resulting in droves of women refusing to let their children be vaccinated. This produced the largest whooping cough epidemics seen for decades with a number of deaths.

The infectious disease pendulum is finely balanced, and in a crowded, interconnected world, where people and animals regularly interact, there are many opportunities for infectious agents to multiply, mutate and spread, and embrace new human and animal hosts on the way. Our battle with the microbial world continues, but we have so misunderstood and misused our chief antibacterial and antiviral weapons, as well as continually ignored the link between animal and human health, that it may turn out to be a war where the odds are heavily stacked against us.

About the writer: Peter Curson is Professor in Population & Security, at the Centre for International Security Studies, Faculty of Economics & Business, the University of Sydney. He is also a *TGIF Edition* subscriber



# Cannibals!

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](#).

Will Halley and his crew, taking advantage of the darkness of night and the sleep of the passengers, had fled with the only boat. There could be no doubt about it. The captain, whose duty would have kept him on board to the last, had been the first to quit the ship.

"The cowards are off!" said John Mangles. "Well, my Lord, so much the better. They have spared us some trying scenes."

"No doubt," said Glenarvan; "besides we have a captain of our own, and courageous, if unskilful sailors, your companions, John. Say the word, and we are ready to obey."

The Major, Paganel, Robert, Wilson, Mulrady, Olbinett himself, applauded Glenarvan's speech, and ranged themselves on the deck, ready to execute their captain's orders.

"What is to be done?" asked Glenarvan.

It was evident that raising the *Macquarie* was out of the question, and no less evident that she must be abandoned. Waiting on board for succour that might never come, would have been imprudence and folly. Before the arrival of a chance vessel on the scene, the *Macquarie* would have broken up. The next storm, or even a high tide raised by the winds from seaward, would roll it on the sands, break it up into splinters, and scatter them on the shore. John was anxious to reach the land before this inevitable consummation.

He proposed to construct a raft strong enough to carry the passengers, and a sufficient quantity of provisions, to the coast of New Zealand.

There was no time for discussion, the work was to be set about at once, and they had made considerable progress when night came and interrupted them.

Toward eight o'clock in the evening, after supper, while Lady Helena and Mary Grant slept in their berths, Paganel and his friends conversed on serious matters as they walked up and down the deck. Robert had chosen to stay with them. The brave boy listened with all his ears, ready to be of use, and willing to enlist in any perilous adventure.

Paganel asked John Mangles whether the raft could not follow the coast as far as Auckland, instead of landing its freight on the coast.

John replied that the voyage was impossible with such an unmanageable craft.

"And what we cannot do on a raft could have been done in the ship's boat?"

"Yes, if necessary," answered John; "but we should have had to sail by day and anchor at night."

"Then those wretches who abandoned us -"

"Oh, as for them," said John, "they were drunk, and in the darkness I have no doubt they paid for their cowardice with their lives."

"So much the worse for them and for us," replied Paganel; "for the boat would have been very useful to us."

"What would you have, Paganel? The raft will bring us to the shore," said Glenarvan.

"The very thing I would fain avoid," exclaimed the geographer.

"What! Do you think another twenty miles - after crossing the Pampas and Australia - can have any terrors for us, hardened as we are to fatigue?"

"My friend," replied Paganel, "I do not call in question our courage nor the bravery of our friends. Twenty miles would be nothing in any other country than New Zealand. You cannot suspect me of faint-heartedness. I was the first to persuade you to cross America and Australia. But here the case is different. I repeat, anything is better than to venture into this treacherous country."

"Anything is better, in my judgment," said John Mangles, "than braving certain destruction on a stranded vessel."

"What is there so formidable in New Zealand?" asked Glenarvan.

"The savages," said Paganel.

"The savages!" repeated Glenarvan. "Can we not avoid them by keeping to the shore? But in any case what have we to fear? Surely, two resolute and well-armed Europeans need not give a thought to an attack by a handful of miserable beings."

Paganel shook his head. "In this case there are no miserable beings to contend with. The New Zealanders are a powerful race, who are rebelling against English rule, who fight the invaders, and often beat them, and who always eat them!"

"Cannibals!" exclaimed Robert, "cannibals?" Then they heard him whisper, "My sister! Lady Helena."

"Don't frighten yourself, my boy," said Glenarvan; "our friend Paganel exaggerates."

"Far from it," rejoined Paganel. "Robert has shown himself a man, and I treat him as such, in not concealing the truth from him."

Paganel was right. Cannibalism has become a fixed fact in New Zealand, as it is in the Fijis and in Torres Strait. Superstition is no



doubt partly to blame, but cannibalism is certainly owing to the fact that there are moments when game is scarce and hunger great. The savages began by eating human flesh to appease the demands of an appetite rarely satiated; subsequently the priests regulated and satisfied the monstrous custom. What was a meal, was raised to the dignity of a ceremony, that is all.

Besides, in the eyes of the Maoris, nothing is more natural than to eat one another. The missionaries often questioned them about cannibalism. They asked them why they devoured their brothers; to which the chiefs made answer that fish eat fish, dogs eat men, men eat dogs, and dogs eat one another. Even the Maori mythology has a legend of a god who ate another god; and with such a precedent, who could resist eating his neighbour?

Another strange notion is, that in eating a dead enemy they consume his spiritual being, and so inherit his soul, his strength and his bravery, which they hold are specially lodged in the brain. This accounts for the fact that the brain figures in their feasts as the choicest delicacy, and is offered to the most honoured guest.

But while he acknowledged all this, Paganel maintained, not without a show of reason, that sensuality, and especially hunger, was the first cause of cannibalism among the New Zealanders, and not only among the Polynesian races, but also among the savages of Europe.

"For," said he, "cannibalism was long prevalent among the ancestors of the most civilized people, and especially (if the Major will not think me personal) among the Scotch."

"Really," said McNabbs.

"Yes, Major," replied Paganel. "If you read certain passages of Saint Jerome, on the Atticoli of Scotland, you will see what he thought of your forefathers. And without going so far back as historic times, under the reign of Elizabeth, when Shakespeare was dreaming out his Shylock, a Scotch bandit, Sawney Bean, was executed for the crime of cannibalism. Was it religion that prompted him to cannibalism? No! it was hunger."

"Hunger?" said John Mangles.

"Hunger!" repeated Paganel; "but, above all, the necessity of the carnivorous appetite of replacing the bodily waste, by the azote contained in animal tissues. The lungs are satisfied with a provision of vegetable and farinaceous food. But to be strong and active the body must be supplied with those plastic elements that renew the muscles. Until the Maoris become members of the Vegetarian Association they will eat meat, and human flesh as meat."

"Why not animal flesh?" asked Glenarvan.

"Because they have no animals," replied Paganel; "and that ought to be taken into account, not to extenuate, but to explain, their cannibal habits. Quadrupeds, and even birds, are rare on these inhospitable shores, so that the Maoris have always eaten human flesh. There are even 'man-eating seasons,' as there are in civilized countries hunting seasons. Then begin the great wars, and whole tribes are served up on the tables of the conquerors."

"Well, then," said Glenarvan, "according to your mode of reasoning,

Paganel, cannibalism will not cease in New Zealand until her pastures teem with sheep and oxen."

"Evidently, my dear Lord; and even then it will take years to wean them from Maori flesh, which they prefer to all others; for the children will still have a relish for what their fathers so highly appreciated. According to them it tastes like pork, with even more flavour. As to white men's flesh, they do not like it so well, because the whites eat salt with their food, which gives a peculiar flavour, not to the taste of connoisseurs."

"They are dainty," said the Major. "But, black or white, do they eat it raw, or cook it?"

"Why, what is that to you, Mr. McNabbs?" cried Robert.

"What is that to me!" exclaimed the Major, earnestly. "If I am to make a meal for a cannibal, I should prefer being cooked."

"Why?"

"Because then I should be sure of not being eaten alive!"

"Very good, Major," said Paganel; "but suppose they cooked you alive?"

"The fact is," answered the Major, "I would not give half-a-crown for the choice!"

"Well, McNabbs, if it will comfort you - you may as well be told - the New Zealanders do not eat flesh without cooking or smoking it. They are very clever and experienced in cookery. For my part, I very much dislike the idea of being eaten! The idea of ending one's life in the maw of a savage! bah!"

"The conclusion of all," said John Mangles, "is that we must not fall into their hands. Let us hope that one day Christianity will abolish all these monstrous customs."

"Yes, we must hope so," replied Paganel; "but, believe me, a savage who has tasted human flesh, is not easily persuaded to forego it. I will relate two facts which prove it."

"By all means let us have the facts, Paganel," said Glenarvan.

"The first is narrated in the chronicles of the Jesuit Society in Brazil. A Portuguese missionary was one day visiting an old Brazilian woman who was very ill. She had only a few days to live. The Jesuit inculcated the truths of religion, which the dying woman accepted, without objection. Then having attended to her spiritual wants, he bethought himself of her bodily needs, and offered her some European delicacies. 'Alas,' said she, 'my digestion is too weak to bear any kind of food. There is only one thing I could fancy, and nobody here could get it for me.' 'What is it?' asked the Jesuit. 'Ah! my son,' said she, 'it is the hand of a little boy! I feel as if I should enjoy munching the little bones!'"

"Horrid! but I wonder is it so very nice?" said Robert.

"My second tale will answer you, my boy," said Paganel. "One day a missionary was reproving a cannibal for the horrible custom, so abhorrent to God's laws, of eating human flesh! 'And beside,' said he, 'it must be so nasty!' 'Oh, father,' said the savage, looking greedily at the missionary, 'say that God forbids it! That is a reason for what you tell us. But don't say it is nasty! If you had only tasted it!'"

60,000 cases a year, fewer than half a percent – 300 people – will die.

In sharp contrast, while only 2,400 women contract breast cancer each year – around 600 (25%) die from it.

Similar figures underpin the 600 prostate cancer deaths in men each year. Although only 1,500 kiwis are diagnosed with lung cancer each year, the disease is so often fatal that it is the leading cause of cancer death in men and is expected to become the leading cause of cancer death in women in the next decade.

Given that you can only die once, there are a wide range of cancers waiting to kill you. According to Ministry of Health briefing papers, cancer fatalities in New Zealand are edging towards 9,000 deaths a year. Of which skin cancer will account for only 300 people. Based on those figures, New Zealanders are 30 times less likely to die from skin cancer than other forms of cancer.

Which makes the information the Ministry of Health is currently sitting on vitally important for the public.

Over the past ten years, a string of scientific studies have now established that unprotected exposure to sunlight every day has a big impact on your risk of dying from cancer – but not in the way you think.

In June 2007, the results of a four year clinical trial involving 1,200 women were published, revealing a stunning 60% reduction in cancer incidence among the group getting adequate vitamin D exposure.

That study, and others, have led northern hemisphere cancer researchers to a heretical, politically incorrect conclusion – that low vitamin D levels may actually cause cancer.

“If vitamin D deficiency becomes accepted as the major cause of cancer and other serious illnesses,” reported Toronto’s *Globe & Mail* newspaper last year, “it will ignite the medical equivalent of a five-alarm blaze on the Canadian health front.”

And not just Canada. Since that June 2007 study, even more have been published that show high vitamin D levels offer huge protection against breast, lung, prostate and colo-rectal cancers – all of which are far more lethal than skin cancers.

As the *Globe & Mail* put it, “Those studying the vitamin say the hide-from-sunlight advice has amounted to the health equivalent of a foolish poker trade. Anyone practising sun avoidance has traded the benefit of a reduced risk of skin cancer – which is easy to detect and seldom fatal – for an increased risk of the scary, high-body-count cancers.”

*Investigate* magazine published a major cover story on the sunbathing/reduced cancer risk link in February this year, and alerted the New Zealand Ministry of Health.

The Ministry promised to review the studies. So what’s happened in the interim?

In May this year, yet another study was published confirming a “clear association” between unprotected sun exposure and a reduction in women’s risk of developing breast cancer.

Another report last week suggests women with low vitamin D levels at the time they’re diagnosed with breast cancer are nearly 75% more likely to die from it than women who’ve been getting plenty of sun, without the sunscreen, or vitamin D supplements of more than 1000 units a day.

Remember, breast cancer alone kills around four times as many women as skin cancer.

A study released in June shows sufferers of colo-rectal cancers (responsible for around five times as many deaths as skin cancer) were 50% more likely to survive if their vitamin D levels were high. In other words, a boost in sunbathing without sunscreen for a few minutes a day could save more than two and a half times the number of lives lost by skin cancer – and that’s just for colo-rectal tumours alone.

Once you add in vitamin D’s impact on survival rates for breast, prostate and others, it appears sunbathing could save around 4,000 lives in New Zealand each year.

Expressed another way – and this is the horror story the health officials don’t know how to break to the public – the publicity campaign to reduce New Zealand’s 300-a-year skin cancer mortality rate is quite possibly a factor in the deaths of 4,000 other New Zealanders each year. That would make the sunsmart message one of the worst own-goals in the history of medical science.

If you think a glass of vitamin-D fortified milk will protect you, forget it. You would need to drink 25 glasses of fortified milk a day to reach a cancer-protecting level. In contrast, just ten to 15 minutes of direct sun exposure each day to hands, arms and face produces enough vitamin D in the body to protect most people. The middle-aged and elderly, and those with darker skins, need a longer time in the sun because they don’t synthesise vitamin D as quickly.

It’s not just cancer. The avalanche of studies buried in the Ministry of Health’s Wellington headquarters reveal a massive drop in heart disease rates for people with high vitamin D levels, so it appears the sun plays a crucial role in protecting humans from our two biggest killers.

Children too, benefit from sunbathing. The latest studies suggest low vitamin D levels in kids could be causing the big increase in childhood Type-1 diabetes.

So why isn’t vitamin D being publicly shouted from the rooftops by health officials?

The New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation appears to be in a dangerous state of denial, with not a single item on its website alerting women to the benefits of vitamin D in both helping prevent breast cancer and helping cure it. Yet the BCF threw a lot of support into the failed bid to extend hereceptin treatment for breast cancer sufferers, even though hereceptin’s benefits are not exactly huge, according to some reports.

We asked BCF’s executive trustee, Heather Shotter, for an explanation in a series of written questions, supplied at her request:

1. As Executive Trustee charged with guiding NZBCF and implementing its mission statement, have you personally been briefed on the studies proving a definite link between breast cancer rates and low vitamin D levels?

2. Were you aware, for example, that leading journals now call it a “clear association”? (see <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/05/080515174000.htm>)

1. What is your reaction to a study this year revealing women with low vitamin D levels who contract breast cancer are 75% more likely to die from it? (see <http://www.naturalnews.com/024324.html>)

2. What is your reaction to scientific studies that show a proven reduction in the risk of a woman developing breast cancer at all of more than 20%, and additional studies now suggesting a possible risk reduction of 70%? (see this report [http://foodconsumer.org/7777/8888/C\\_ancer\\_31/100106422008\\_Study\\_Vitamin\\_D\\_cuts\\_breast\\_cancer\\_risk.shtml](http://foodconsumer.org/7777/8888/C_ancer_31/100106422008_Study_Vitamin_D_cuts_breast_cancer_risk.shtml)) See also this report [http://foodconsumer.org/7777/8888/C\\_ancer\\_31/091911022008\\_Vitamin\\_D\\_cut\\_risk\\_of\\_dying\\_from\\_cancer\\_by\\_55\\_percent.shtml](http://foodconsumer.org/7777/8888/C_ancer_31/091911022008_Vitamin_D_cut_risk_of_dying_from_cancer_by_55_percent.shtml)

3. If you were aware, and you have been briefed, then why has NZBCF singularly failed to issue so much as one “position statement”, and why is there NO reference to this earth-shattering scientific discovery on the NZBCF website as of this morning?

4. What confidence can the women of New Zealand have that NZBCF is genuinely working in their best interests, when you have failed to tell them on any occasion that sunbathing for a few minutes a day will greatly increase their survival chances – more so than hereceptin or any other drug on the market?

5. The BCF’s silence on the proven benefits of vitamin D is made more ominous by its prominent support for hereceptin, despite scientific studies of hereceptin recording the following: “Repeated, large-scale studies show that it is usually necessary to treat between 25 and 100 patients to prevent a single death during the next two to four years. For each life saved, between ten and 25 patients will develop heart disease; despite effective treatments, some of these patients will die from heart disease. For example, in the N9831 (arm C) and NSABP B31 joint analysis, approximately two patients died of excess heart disease or other complications for every three lives saved by reducing breast cancer. The excess heart disease induced by the drug explains why it is necessary to treat up to 100 cancer patients to save a single life during a two-year study period.” Please explain why BCF supports mostly ineffective pharmaceutical solutions for cancer, and not vitamin D?

“As I said, I would have thought the BCF would have been screaming this news from the rooftops. I’m extremely curious to know why you’re not,” *TGIF* concluded.

The Breast Cancer Foundation chose not to



answer the questions directly, and issued only the following brief response:

“The public health messages on breast cancer and breast health from The New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation (NZBCF) rely on good scientific evidence using randomized, control placebo, double-blinded studies. None of these studies have been applied in relation to the study of Vitamin D and breast cancer,” claimed spokeswoman Heather Shotter.

“We believe the reduction in the death rate from breast cancer is due to early diagnosis through screening mammograms and better treatments using radiology and Tamoxifen.

“The Medical Review Committee of the NZBCF do review the studies on Vitamin D regularly and would issue a policy statement around its links to breast cancer if there was good scientific evidence to do so.”

It comes down to a question of whether the public believes the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation’s analysis, or the scientific reports from international medical journals.

In sharp contrast to the Breast Cancer Foundation’s claim that the scientific studies on vitamin D are worthless, both the Health Sponsorship Council’s Wayne Beckman and the Cancer Society’s Dr Jan Pearson admit they’re aware of the vitamin D studies, and taking them extremely seriously.

“Absolutely, you can be absolutely sure we’re taking it seriously, as a sector. We are yet to arrive at a consistent message across the sun safety sector, however,” admitted Beckman, who added there are top level talks underway on this exact issue.

“Wednesday last week we got together and looked at our advice and messaging around sun safety, from what we were currently saying and taking into account this relatively new complexity with vitamin D, and it’s agreed we need to be addressing this.”

The problem, he says, is figuring out how to explain the need for greater vitamin D exposure without people taking it as an excuse to get their kit off and ignore sunsmart messages entirely.

“There’s no point at this stage changing the message, until we’re really clear about it, otherwise we’ll just end up confusing the public even more. Our key message in the meantime is avoid getting sunburnt. It doesn’t mean hide from the sun.”

To its credit, The Cancer Society has posted a position statement on the front page of its website on the vitamin D issue, based on information from earlier this year and prior to the latest studies. The society’s health promotion manager, Dr Jan Pearson, is keen to emphasise that people can be sunsmart this summer, and still get vitamin D.

“The slip slop slap campaign is solely focused on protecting people at the times when they are at very high risk. People can still get their vitamin D at other times. Therefore, it is ridiculous to suggest that the slip slop slap campaign is the thing stopping people from having high vitamin D.

“It only goes through the daylight saving months, in summer, from 11am to 4pm is the advice – it’s

incorrect, it’s actually quite dangerous information [to challenge it],” said Dr Pearson.

“For the first time this year, at the end of daylight saving, we had a hats-off campaign, deliberately to address this issue so that people had a raised awareness about their need to get vitamin D, and their need to go out at times when it’s safe for their skin, so that they can actually address this issue.

“As the Cancer Society, we are very aware that this is a growing body of evidence. We are not about to give up protecting people against skin cancer, but we are now moving into the conversation about how people can address their vitamin D levels.”

And it’s a conversation New Zealand needs to have. Vitamin D supplements are one answer, but people couldn’t be relied on to take them every day. The other danger with supplements is that too much oral vitamin D is poisonous, whereas the body does not overdose on sun-induced vitamin D. Five minutes a day of topless sunbathing in the noonday sun is estimated as sufficient to produce a statistically protective effect against cancer. But scientists still are not sure how much vitamin D we carry forward. It’s known that our bodies can store vitamin D for between 30 and 60 days, which means a good dose of sunlight in autumn may well protect you into mid winter, but not beyond, without supplements.

Dr Pearson says the Cancer Society is not government-funded, and doesn’t have the cash for the kind of sophisticated advertising campaign needed to educate people about getting vitamin D while avoiding getting sunburnt. Yet with the hundreds of millions of dollars that could be shaved off the health budget if cancer rates were halved, it’s something the government is becoming increasingly aware of, she says.

“The Ministry are far more aware and alert to the whole vitamin D conversation now than they were, with all this evidence. I mean, it’s not something that people are ignoring and denying, but it is something that takes a lot of consideration, and certainly those conversations are occurring – be assured.

“The public can only cope with fairly basic messages... what it’s actually coming down to is it’s almost like we all need to know exactly what our skin type is, exactly where we live, what the UV index is each day, and therefore how many minutes to expose ourselves so we get our vitamin D. At the moment, while we’re tussling with it, we have yet to come up with a simple way of informing New Zealanders with that information.”

In the meantime, the message is still simple: try and get five minutes of topless sunbathing a day, or ten to 15 minutes if just arms and face are exposed – but avoid getting sunburnt and ensure you use sunscreens and appropriate clothing to protect through the hottest time of the day.

Based on the latest science, regular short sun exposure will not only build a slow tan, it may well be the difference between developing cancer and not, and surviving cancer, and not.

The situation is expected to get a further public airing at a major world melanoma summit in Wellington next month.