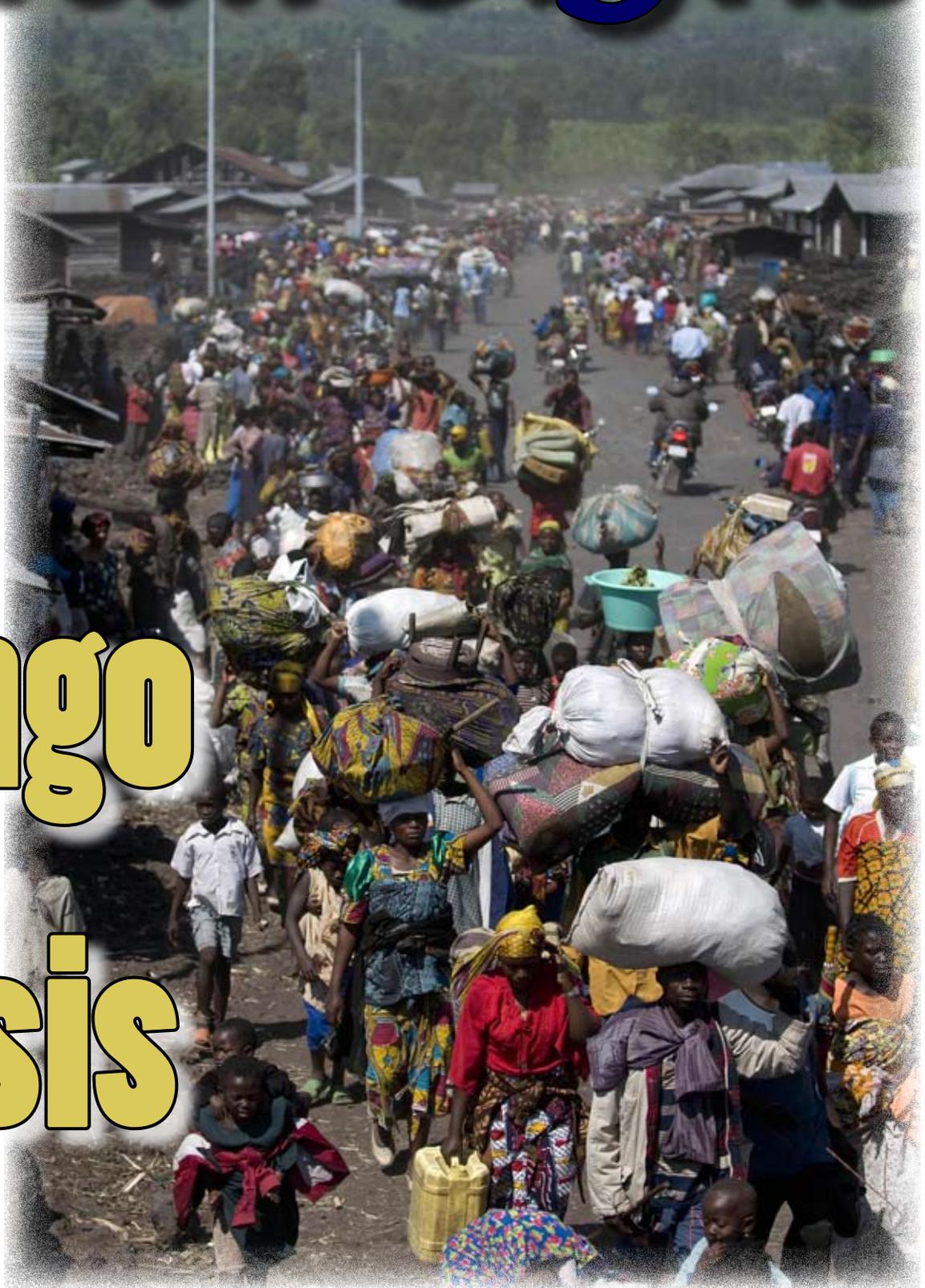


Vital Signs



Congo *in* Crisis

WALTER ASTRADA/GETTY IMAGES

INAUGURATION • MUMBAI • GREEK RIOTS



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Beyond Partisanship

By MAC CORDREY

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On Thursday, February 5, 2009, in a Washington Post op-ed, President Barack Obama called for "action that's swift, bold, and wise enough for us to climb out of this [economic] crisis." With the recent passage of Congress's 787 billion-dollar stimulus package, it looks as if his urgent call for immediate—and bipartisan—action has come to fruition. But how bipartisan, exactly, is the stimulus package? Well, it has shown that the ideological stalemate between the Democrats and the Republicans has become deadlocked and dire for our nation's future.

The Republicans believe that tax cuts are the most effective way to create permanent jobs and reignite economic spending, while the Democrats take a Keynesian approach—government spending on infrastructure projects will fight unemployment and stimulate the economy. Congress was also quick to note that history, too, can be read selectively: JFK ended the recession of 1960 with large tax cuts, and FDR's New Deal massive government spending brought America out of the Great Depression. There is no clear-cut way to end a recession, but that does not warrant the ideological absolutism



present in Congress. If anything, history has clearly shown us that lopsided partisanship never has yielded good results—one only needs to review George W. Bush's administration's policies to understand the foolhardiness and danger of ideological zeal.

Obama won 53 percent of the popular vote; McCain won 46 percent. Zero House Republicans voted in favor of the recently enacted stimulus. Blame whomever you would like, but the stimulus bill echoes partisanship on both sides of the aisle. Though President Obama has placed a considerable amount of effort into making the bill appealing to both parties—he called for the allocation of 275 billion dollars of the stimulus to go towards tax cuts—neither side of the House has been helpful in his efforts. Maybe the Republicans are simply too adamant to compromise, or maybe the Democrats, who lacked both power and control during George W.'s eight years, are abusing their power as majority. Either way, it is evident that neither side is willing to buy into the "post-partisan" Washington envisioned by President Obama.

Republicans are already labeling the bill as a failure by targeting "liberal" provisions and classic Congressional "pork" spending. For example, Senator Dodd's limit on bonuses for companies receiving aid is viewed as a potential "brain drain" on a sector that has the potential to spark the economy. Republican critics maintain that these financial leaders will leave their companies if deprived of bonuses. Who exactly will be offering them high paying jobs with large bonuses in this economic environment? Republicans have also been quick to criticize the "pork" spending in the bill, funding experimental "pet-projects" such as magnetic trains and research on wool, as well as making low or no-return investments, such as \$1 billion in Amtrak, which

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On the Cover

Thousands of Congolese arrive at a refugee camp in Goma.



Government of Murderers

A riot policeman clashes with a demonstrator during student protests in Athens.

BY ANISHA MOHIN

IN which country does one in five residents pay a bribe each year to a public or private official? Which country is ranked # 5 on the European Union's list of most highly corrupted countries? If you guessed Greece, you're right. Corruption in Greece is nothing new. Greece has vowed to combat this corruption since Vasso Papandreou, the former Interior Minister, promised in 2000 to eradicate corruption in government offices. However, no efforts seem to be working, and Greeks have had enough of a government ridden with scandal and further impaired by the current economic recession.

Alexandros Grigoropoulos was just a normal fifteen-year-old boy living in Greece, but on December 6th, he was shot to death in a confrontation between youths and police in the Athens neighborhood of Exarchia. This violence, which many viewed as random police

killings, triggered some of the worst riots in Greek history: masses of citizens gathered to protest government corruption and a slumping economy. A group of students interrupted a news broadcast to go on the air and protest Grigoropoulos' death.

More demonstrations followed through December. In one incident, one hundred youths attacked an Athens police station to trash the officers' vehicles. The rioting has also affected cities such as Thessaloniki in the north as well as the island Mae, a popular tourist destination. In these regions, protesters burned street barricades, looted stores, and overturned cars. At least 70 people have been injured, and hundreds of stores have been looted. Over two hundred people have been arrested throughout these riot sprees. Petros Constantinou, an organizer with the Socialist Workers Party, claimed, "We are not in this for the short term. We want the protests to continue after Christmas and the New Year, until this government of murderers goes."

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~~NEVER AGAIN~~



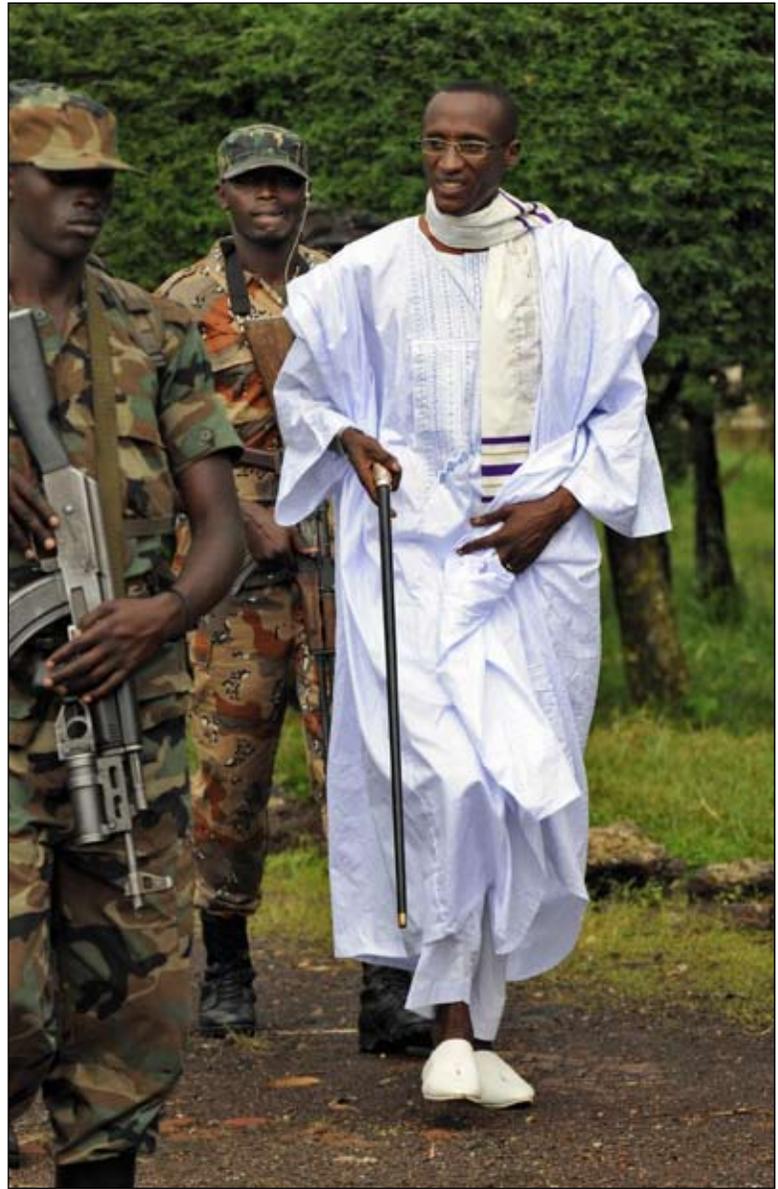
AFTER the 1994 Rwandan genocide, world leaders were quick to promise “never again.” This was an echo of the cry after the Holocaust. Never again would we permit such an atrocious crime to be committed against humanity; never again would we allow a conflict to escalate to the point of millions of innocent people dying. And yet we have.

Over the past decade, 5,000,000 people have perished in the unstable, war-ravaged Democratic Republic of Congo although genocide is not the major cause of this crime against humanity. Despite a formal end to civil war in 2003, chaotic violence continues to trouble the eastern region. Little civilization is left of the society in which there is virtually no viable economic system, no sustainable health care program, and no accountability for war crimes. Without other opportunities for survival, a disturbing majority of children have joined in the hostilities, swiftly morphed into soldiers through drug use. The use and abuse of child soldiers is rampant. The disputes among rebel groups and government troops have made the burning of civilian homes and sexual abuses ubiquitous. Unsurprisingly, three quarters of the devastated population are malnourished, and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are commonplace.

For the opportunistic neighbors and greedy criminal networks that seek to usurp the Congo’s rich resources, the constant uproar and instability are an alluring incentive. However, the Congo has been taken advantage of for far too long. Somehow, we have muted “never again” and have permitted the greatest massacre of humanity since World War II. It may not be genocide (which is the deliberate and systematic destruction of a people based on its ethnic, racial, religious, or national identity) but it is about time for the suffering to come to an end.

The conflict in the Congo is a direct outcome of the genocide in Rwanda. The victims were the minority Tutsis. When the war came to a close with the Tutsis seizing power in 1994, over one million Hutus fled Rwanda to inhabit refugee sites along the borders of neighboring Congo. The bitter perpetrators of the genocide attacked their homeland from these boundary sites. However, after two years of cross border hostilities, Rwanda defended by invading Congo. Most of the Hutu refugees returned to Rwanda, however 100,000 remained, along with exiled Hutu genocidaires, creating a foreign population that has caused tension in the Congo ever since.

Moreover, Rwanda’s destruction of the Hutu refugee camps was the first step in its broader effort to oust the thirty-year Congolese dictatorship of Mobutu Sese Seko. Indeed, Rwanda found success, as a feeble Mobutu eventually relinquished his power to Laurent Kabila, a rebel leader hand-picked by Rwanda. Over the years, the Rwandan government has clung to its control over the Congo, supporting rebellions to overthrow inconvenient regimes whenever necessary. In fact, Rwanda’s influence remains strong in eastern Congo



TONY KARUMBA/GETTY IMAGES

Rebel leader Laurent Nkunda

today, the region of current havoc. Despite the violence and disorder that Rwanda’s presence provokes, the government is not willing to resign its power because Congolese mineral wealth has provided prosperity to its nation. Besides, maintaining Rwandan control has been relatively easy since the Congo’s capital, Kinshasa, is conveniently located a thousand miles away from the eastern provinces.

Nevertheless, the succession of a new Congolese leader challenged Rwandan power in 2001. Unlike his father, current President Joseph Kabila focused on finding a solution to the disaster in eastern Congo, even holding the first democratic multiparty elections in forty years. However, democratic practices have not been implemented since and the temporary efforts to promote stability only led to further hardship.

The most destructive rebel faction in eastern Congo, known as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

5,000,000 Dead in Congo

TOYING *with our* SAFETY

By SUSAN CONTESS

AUGUST 2008: China was at the top of the world, having hosted the 29th Olympic Games and staging the most elaborate opening and closing ceremonies of all time. Barely weeks later, however, thousands of Chinese babies were stricken with kidney stones and several died from having consumed contaminated formula. Despite China's impressive face to the world in Beijing, the corruption of its milk manufacturing industries and its government's negligence in regulating quality control by enforcing standards and inspection was a major setback and continues to make it difficult for China to be regarded as a respected member of the global community.

Melamine, a toxic chemical that is used to produce plastics, was illegally added to milk products. The melamine was added to infant formula because it contains nitrogen. Simple protein tests only look for the level of nitrogen, so this serves to "pad" the numbers and, in this case, the baby formula passed the government tests by registering falsely a high protein content. This isn't the first time Chinese products have been found contain-

ing this noxious substance. Two years ago, pet food was recalled in North America due to a presence of melamine that had caused kidney problems and death in cats and dogs throughout Canada and the U.S. Also, Mattel recalled Chinese-produced toys two summers ago due to the high lead content of the paint used to decorate the various playthings.

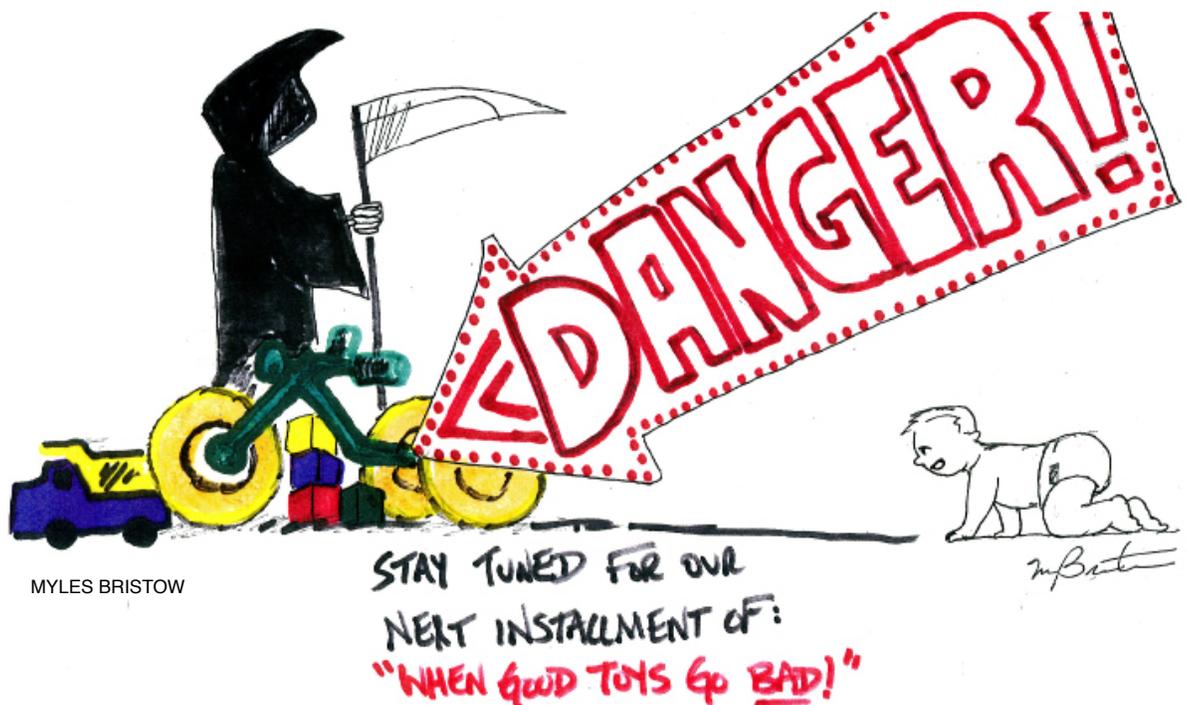
As America imports more and more goods from China, big questions remain. Is our safety at risk? And who is responsible for these problems? This most recent scare — melamine in milk — fortunately has had little effect on the U.S. market, for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has "contacted the companies who manufacture infant formula for distribution in the United States and received, from the companies, information that they are not importing formula or sourcing milk-based materials from China."

The FDA has also halted any untested dairy-related imports to the U.S. to ensure there is no contamination. These measures, however, are not enough. Melamine in baby formula should be a warning to the U.S. of other potential dangers of imported food and goods from China. Contaminated wheat gluten, at the heart of the melamine pet food scandal of 2007, is still imported from China

and fed to livestock that later ends up on our dinner tables. Eggs in Hong Kong found to have high melamine levels were traced back to the feed eaten by the chickens that laid the eggs. High levels of melamine cause kidney stones and lifelong kidney problems, especially in infants and young children, and can even lead to death. Excessive exposure to lead, a result of tainted paint used in toy production, kills brain cells and causes mental retardation as well as behavioral disorders in children. There is no foolproof way to protect oneself from contaminants, such as melamine and lead; the U.S., in conjunction with other countries that import goods from China, must take a stand and force developing countries' exports to meet health and safety standards.

The problem with countries like China is not low national standards; it's an inability to enforce them. Ironically, China's regulations call for 90 or fewer particles of lead per million in household and consumer-product paint, whereas in the U.S., it's 600 parts per million — nearly seven times more. In the end, it's not what the country's codes call for, but rather, how its factories are regulated. Chen Tao, the sales manager at a toy factory in China, said, "There is a national standard on the lead level

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MYLES BRISTOW

STAY TUNED FOR OUR
NEXT INSTALMENT OF:
"WHEN GOOD TOYS GO BAD!"



New suburban housing near Shenyang International Airport outside Beijing

CHINA: RISE *of the* BOURGEOISIE

BY MAC CORDREY

IN late 2002, German conglomerate ThyssenKrupp Steel in the Ruhr region completely disappeared off the face of the continent. The Ruhr region had been producing iron and steel for over 200 years, and the ThyssenKrupp steel mill employed around 10,000 people in Germany. Less than a year before, the Chinese steel company Shagang bought the steel mill from ThyssenKrupp. The Chinese immediately sent over 1,000 workers who worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week (until German workers forced them to take a day off due to local laws) in order to disassemble the plant and move it to China.

In half the time the Germans expected the Chinese would take to complete the deconstruction, the Chinese had already finished and left no trace but a pair of boots as evidence of their time in Germany.

China is, on average, buying one European company every six days. It is rapidly transforming from the industrial workhorse we know into a balanced economic power that will soon rival the U.S. Deng Xiaoping, the Secretary of China's Communist Party and who held power from 1978 through the early 1990's, started a program of economic liberalization that drastically reshaped China and improved the general welfare of hundreds of millions of people. His policies vitalized the economy, triggered urbanization, motivated its people but, most importantly, created a middle class, the effects of which we are only beginning to grasp.

Thirty years ago in China, one could not freely speak about a

middle class. Not only was there no free speech, but communism is based on a "classless" society. Ironically enough, the bourgeoisie, exactly whom Mao had sought to wipe out, has become one of China's most integral elements. Today, the middle class holds the key to China's future success. Stuck between the end of an era and the dawn of a new one, this thriving demographic wants new and luxurious lifestyles; China is rapidly trying to emulate the quintessential American Dream. Last April, a group of Chinese delegates traveled to Phoenix, Arizona, on a mission to study and eventually imitate the epitome of the American Dream: the suburbs. As the population has urbanized and the cities have begun to overpopulate, China is adopting a trend exemplified by 1950's America. Today, Chinese Levittowns are sprawling out around cities at an alarming rate to satisfy the demands of the middle class. As Haya El Nasser wrote in USA Today, "Outside Beijing and Shanghai, tract-home developments designed to mimic Spanish or Italian architecture have all-American names: Yosemite and Napa Valley." This is China at its best—studying and copying.

But China's middle class is a lost generation. Many of their parents were victims of Mao's Cultural Revolution, and virtually none of the middle class knows anything of the social and political freedoms that the Western middle class enjoys. China's middle class lives under a government that is sending a very different message than what was communicated to the older past generation. University of Southern California professor Stanley Rosen states in Time Asia, "It used to be bad to be rich, now it is bad to be poor." One cannot help but wonder that, if this economic modernization continues, will it undermine

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The Western Wall at night

BY ERIKA LAMPERT

ON May 14, 1948, a clandestine, invitation-only meeting, announced just hours before the ceremonies began, was held in Tel Aviv. In what is now called Independence Hall, the future Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion declared Israel an independent nation. But why did he insist on such urgency and secrecy? For the very same reason the momentous ceremony was held in an unspectacular and small room that functioned as a bomb shelter: Ben-Gurion knew what was to shortly follow. Just the day after Israel declared independence, the Arab armies of Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq invaded Israel.

Ever since Israel declared its independence in 1948, the nation has not stopped defending itself and its autonomy; this acceptance that the survival of Israel is dependent on fighting and defending the nation is evident in the war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip that began while I was in Israel this winter break.

Every Independence Day in Israel is marked by an annual poll including the question, “Do you believe the country will still exist 50 years from now?” This prospect of national mortality is not surprising coming from a country whose borders are not internationally recognized by many of its neighbors and which has always been willing to offer tangible assets in exchange simply for recognition of its existence. Despite these daunting facts, Israelis continue to answer affirmatively, a response consistent with the strong nationalism and

pride I encountered in Israel.

Just like in America, Israel has a left and right wing: the left wing supports compromise with the Palestinians in hopes of achieving peace, and the right wing believes that Israel should not cede any land to the Palestinians. Yet, both parties agree on one thing: the survival of a Jewish nation is paramount to all other issues. However, what most Americans fail to understand, including me before my trip, is that a Jewish nation has nothing to do with religion. On the contrary, it is an ethnicity and a culture—like Italian or American or any other. Imagine if the countries surrounding Italy or the

United States refused to acknowledge their existence as nations and constantly launched missiles at them— that is exactly Israel’s situation. Hamas, an acronym representing Islamic Resistance Movement, is a Palestinian organization with one major grievance against Israel: its existence. Israel gave the Palestinians their first sovereign territory ever (Gaza), an act never done by the Turkish, British, Egyptian and Jordanian rulers of Palestine. Yet, Israel and Hamas have been fighting in an eight-year war of attrition.

Over the past three years, 6,464 rockets have been launched from Gaza into Southern Israeli cities, and on December 27th, 2008, Israeli troops began fight back in what is being called “Operation Solid Lead.” Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced that the main objective of the attack would be “to restore normal life and quiet to residents of the south.” Israel has since begun a ground offensive to further the operation. While this war is very grave and significant for Israelis, the American news depicts

Every Independence Day, Israelis are asked, ‘Do you believe the country will still exist 50 years from now?’

Israel as having dropped everything else to focus on the war, when in fact, this is the antithesis of life in Israel during wartime.

It was clear from my experience that Israelis are very committed to upholding a Jewish nation and have an extremely strong sense of nationalism. They have come to accept the constant possibility of war against their neighboring countries that refuse to recognize Israel's legitimate right to exist, because the survival of their land is essential. In acknowledging this harsh reality, Israelis have come to believe that life must go on despite the constant threat of attack. An obvious example of this acceptance of constant war is that every 18-year-old must serve for at least a two-year term in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), which explains why I saw countless uniformed teenagers along the streets carrying rifles around their shoulders. Serving in the IDF is merely a transition period of every Israeli's life, both men and women. And despite what the news media around the world portrays, life in Israel does not simply shut down. Those not in the vicinity of Gaza, beyond approximately 25 miles (where rockets cannot reach as of now), still go to work, attend school, go out to restaurants, and live life as normally as possible



Israel-Jordan border crossing

in a country under constant threat. I did not notice a drastic change in the Israeli life when the war began except for an increased level of anxiety over the wellbeing of the soldiers going off to fight. Just like the rest of Israel, my tour group continued with our normal and original plan, except for one alteration: the day we traveled from Tel Aviv to Eilat, we took a longer route in order to avoid going within 20 miles of the Gaza Strip.

Israel is fighting in the name of tikkun olam, a Hebrew phrase meaning helping to heal the world. Tikkun olam is central to Jewish



A view of the Dome of the Rock at night



Tel Aviv, looking out over the Mediterranean

Facing page: A major tomb at Petra, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

culture and belief. This tiny nation, merely the size of New Jersey, has come to terms with the constant attacks from its surrounding enemies who threaten to “drive the Jews into the sea.” This term has been used repeatedly by Arab leaders for decades and most recently by the Hamas.

Being in Israel during this war against Hamas has opened my eyes to the reality of Israeli life. However, while this article has focused on the challenges Israel faces everyday just to survive, there are examples of how Israel has overcome Arab hostility and can coexist with its neighbors peacefully.

Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty in 1994 that normalized relations between the two countries and resolved territorial disputes as well. I personally experienced crossing the Israeli-

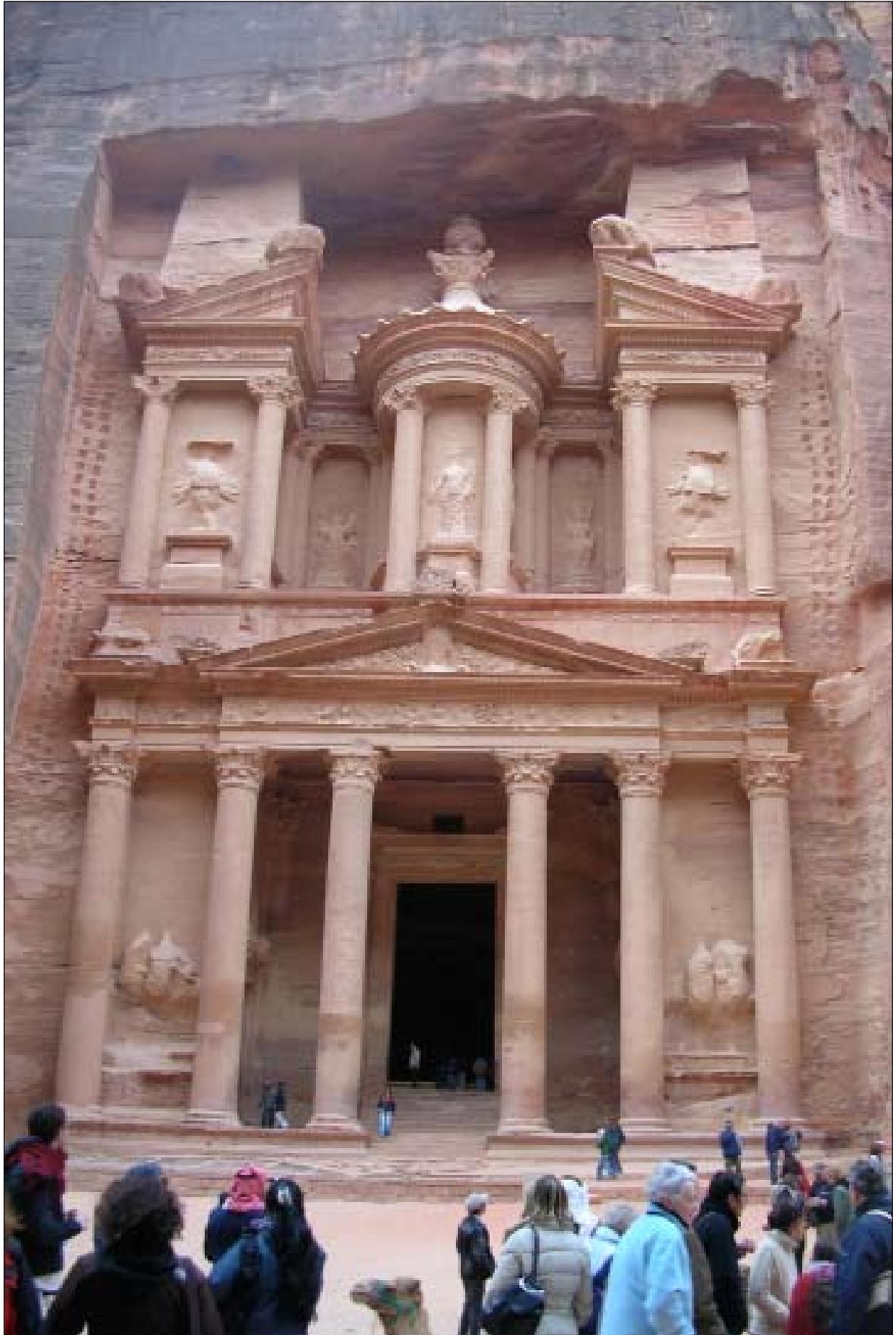
Jordanian border as I traveled to Petra, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. I expected the transition from Israel into Jordan to be difficult and possibly dangerous; however, the process took just thirty minutes for my group of forty, and was as easy as crossing into Canada from the U.S. While

Jordan and Israel are not allies, their friendly relationship and peace treaty brings hope for peace in the future for Israel and its other Arab neighbors.

In fact, as of now, Israel and Hamas are in a short-term ceasefire, but who knows when the war will end, that is, if it ever does. Even



View from the top of Masada, site of the historic massacre, where Israeli soldiers now take the oath “Masada shall not fall again”



with the disheartening possibility of being at war forever to preserve their independence, Israelis maintain an attitude of optimism and strength that has carried them through the past 60 years, and will continue to do so in the future.

Sources: bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7835794; worldpoliticsreview.com/article.aspx?id=3106; jpost.com/servlet/Sa tellite?cid=1211288129459&pagename=J post%2FJPArticle%2FPrinter;seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2008584181_opin04krauthammer

Underground tunnel to a bunker on the Israeli side



ALL PHOTOS BY
ERIKA LAMPERT

Amphitheater at Petra

Cartoon Commentary

SEAN SALAMON



SEAN SALAMON



Ever Again

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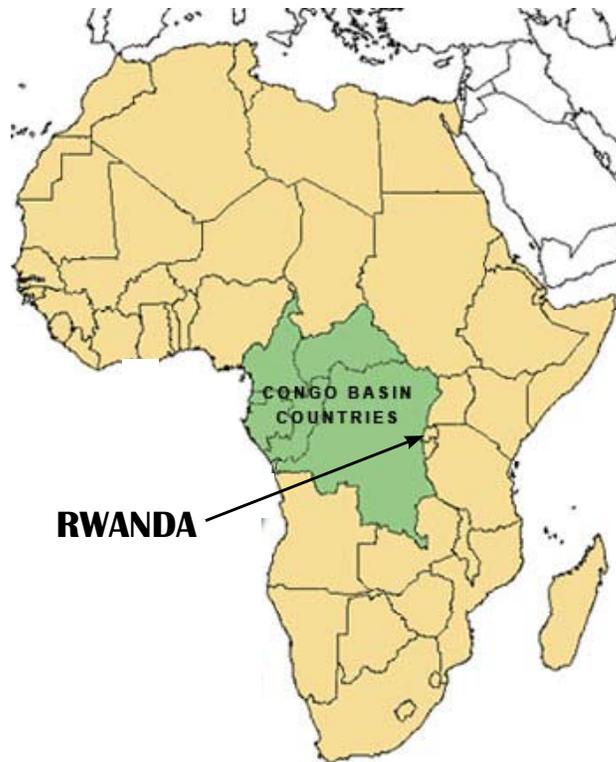
The Congress for the Defense of the People, has gained considerable power in recent years. General Laurent Nkunda, the cultish leader of the group who notoriously refers to himself in the third person, was arrested this past January after singlehandedly subverting the security of Central Africa. For years, Nkunda's troops have tramped about the Congo, pillaging villages, raping women, and attacking civilians. Although his rebellion is clearly connected to the Rwandan government, perhaps even orchestrated by them, his alleged intention is to protect Tutsis from the Hutu genocidaires that still linger in the jungles of Congo.

The ethnic tension between the Hutus and Tutsis is certainly an underlying cause to the disorder. Nkunda is correct — an anti-Tutsi sentiment has swept the nation. As one displaced citizen vehemently cries, "We must crush the inyenzi!" (the cockroaches); we cringe as we are reluctantly brought back to the nineties, when the same insult was thrust at Tutsis in the Rwandan genocide. Yes, the word Tutsi has become a synonym for a Rwandan, an enemy in Congolese culture. However, the anger towards the Tutsis is not so much a reflection of their status as wealthy minority citizens, but rather a reaction to Nkunda, the face of evil that claims to represent them.

Nkunda's brutish attacks and his undeniable connection to the Rwandan government is the real source of the fury. If Nkunda's sole aspiration was to defend Tutsis, he might have joined forces with the national government to do so. Instead, Nkunda's attacks have directly aimed to destroy the Congo's army. The Congo may deny any connection with the Hutu genocidaires, but in reality, the army has been so weakened by Nkunda that they are forced to rely on Hutu militiamen. Thus, Nkunda's complaints stem from a self-fulfilling prophecy. His chief aim is not to protect the Tutsis, for their suffering is essential to his ambitious ascendance to power. Nkunda has provoked the proxy wars between Rwanda and the Congo, perpetuating the Tutsi struggle to gain prestige and power. In defense of the deaths of fewer than 20 Tutsis over the past two years, Nkunda has initiated attacks that have killed hundreds of people and displaced hundreds of thousands. General Nkunda deserves to be punished for the inexcusable war crimes that he has self-

ishly committed.

Unfortunately, Nkunda's arrest in January is only a minor sign of progress. Alison Des Forges, senior advisor to the Africa Division of Human Rights watch, notes, "So long as Nkunda is at large, the civilian population remains at grave risk." Not only have Nkunda's loyal soldiers continued to cause strife as they are integrated into the national army, but the Rwandan government is stalling any interrogations of the convicted. The connection between Nkunda and Rwanda has been denied, but satellite phone records, among other obvious evidence, have made it absolutely clear that Rwanda uses Nkunda to aid its interest in manipulating the Congo's wealth and security. Thus, it is rumored that Nkunda will only be sentenced to an extended house arrest,



for Rwanda is eager to keep the secrets it has shared with the General for as long as possible. When Nkunda's comrades were interviewed by the New York Times, they even laughed at the proposition of their leader's arrest, instead revealing that Nkunda was persuaded to leave with the Rwandan government and is in "negotiations" for the time being.

Hopefully, Rwandan officials will do the right thing by fully prosecuting the criminals that have wreaked havoc on the African continent for years. The issue is no longer a matter of allegiances or party politics — it is a humanitarian crisis. With government and rebel armies alike raping and looting villages,

the Congolese people have nowhere to turn for protection. Their only hope is the United Nations troops stationed sparingly about the area. MONUC, the region's UN peace keeping organization, has deployed 17,000 agents to the Congo, yet there are severe restrictions of finances and limitations on where agents can travel in the eastern provinces. The U.S. must put serious pressure on the UN to act quickly, for its mediocre efforts thus far have been slow and painful to witness.

It is the innovative solutions of former Secretary of State Madeline Albright that warrant attention instead. The Obama administration is currently hearing her suggestions for "a mechanism for looking at genocide in a systematic way." Mrs. Albright has recognized that the world tends to intervene in foreign crisis only after it has spiraled out of control, faced with the unbearable decision to either become involved military or sit back and witness the killing. Thus, she suggests the prevention of genocides before they occur, calling on the U.S. to spend an additional \$250 million annually on preventing and responding to crisis like the genocide in Congo.

Perhaps such funding might contribute to plans for economic intervention in central Africa. New York Times writer Herman J. Cohen has wisely suggested the creation of a common market in which free movement of people and trade might mitigate the economic tensions between Rwanda and the Congo. Rwandans could continue to use Congolese minerals in the eastern provinces; however they would be required to pay royalties and taxes to the Congolese government. Cohen's call for free movement of people would empty the remaining refugee camps and allow much needed labor to spread through the Congo and Tanzania. His plan would also eliminate the proxy wars over natural resources between Rwanda and the Congo. Once both nations stop financing their rebel groups to fight their battles, and once Rwanda cooperates in the proper arrest of war criminals like Nkunda, the factions would have no choice but to dissolve. Cohen's call for U.S. mediation brings hope for a new horizon of transformative peace in the Congo.

If the U.S. prioritizes and actively works for such potential plans, there is a possibility that we can genuinely promise "never again." As human rights activist Joseph Ruyenzi says, "Our only option is to be in this together."

Sources: nytimes.com;hrw.org

BY WILL PINKE

READY TO REINTEGRATE ?

FOR over 20 years, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) of Uganda has been waging a relentless war against the Ugandan government. The LRA, originated in 1987, is a terrorist organization led by Joseph Kony, a self-proclaimed "spokesperson" of God intent on establishing a theocratic state in Uganda based on the Ten Commandments. In December, 2008, the armies of Uganda, southern Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo staged a military offensive that ended the LRA's insurgency. Now, with more than 70 percent of the camps used by the LRA destroyed, the war is effectively over and the government of Uganda faces a new problem: how to reintegrate these rebels and their victims back into society.

The LRA, over a span of two decades, relentlessly committed egregious war crimes and inhumanities against the people of northern Uganda, eastern Congo, and southern Sudan. This has been one of Africa's longest and most brutal insurgencies. According to Edith Lederer, a writer for the Associated Press, the LRA has been accused by the U.N. and human rights groups of "cutting off civilians' tongues and lips and kidnapping thousands of children for soldiers and sex slaves." The rebels have left at least 100,000 people dead and forced over two million to flee their homes.

The International Criminal Courts have accused Joseph Kony and other top LRA members of crimes against humanity. They are still at large and will not cooperate in

peace talks with the government without guarantees that they will not be arrested under international warrants. While Kony refuses to sign final peace agreements calling on the LRA to "begin disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating its rebels," the insurgents are being reintegrated into northern Ugandan society anyway.

Poverty and unemployment increased drastically during the fighting. On a visit to the northern town of Gulu, Vincent de Visscher, head of the European Union (EU) delegation to Uganda, said, "The reintegration of former LRA combatants was being hindered by the high level of poverty." The government of Uganda must bring over 150,000 former fighters into a peaceful and productive civilian life. To do so, they created the Uganda Veterans Assistance Board (UVAB) which has made great progress over the last ten years towards promoting social and economic development. In April 2006, an effort to help the UVAB, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) launched the *Skills for Peace and Income* project, now a central part of the reintegration and reconciliation effort.

UNIDO says that the project is aimed at "providing complementary, community-based, non-formal training that focuses

mainly on practical knowledge and marketable skills to make work economically rewarding and improve rural life." The long-term goals are not only to contribute to the peaceful stabilization of the country, but to reduce its dependence on humanitarian aid. In July of 2007, four community productivity and training centers and a vocational training institute were inaugurated, all of which offer production-oriented training programs which hope to help create a network of micro and cottage industries.

De Visscher confirms that "progress has been made" in areas of industrialization, but health services, schools and clean water are still needed, and there is also the task of keeping peace in the reintegrated regions. De Visscher has launched a conflict-resolution program for northern Uganda, aimed at fostering dialogue among communities who have been affected by the conflict. Legislators and local leaders from northern Uganda have tabled a bill in the Ugandan parliament that, if passed, will see that all victims of the LRA conflict be compensated so that they can more comfortably and securely adapt to their new lives.

While Joseph Kony and a few other LRA leaders have yet to concede to peace, the conflict between the LRA and the Ugandan government is nearly over. Uganda's darkest hour is behind it, and this war-torn nation can now look towards a bright future with a new sense of hope. With help from the U.N. and other world humanitarian organizations, all of the victims—as well as the rebels—will be reintegrated into society as peacefully as possible. Rather than guns, these former rebels are now being armed with an education and marketable skills. Hopefully, both they and their victims will raise the standard of living for themselves and their nation.

Sources: google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gsojM6cIv-Z66FB-6VMF0hYTIEWbw; newsvine.com/news/2008/12/17/2224364-un-commends-action-against-ugandan-rebels; [internal-displacement.org/idmc/website/countries.nsf/\(httpEnvelopes\)/2C03AD918EBD8066C12574DE0044DCE2?OpenDocument](http://internal-displacement.org/idmc/website/countries.nsf/(httpEnvelopes)/2C03AD918EBD8066C12574DE0044DCE2?OpenDocument); unhcr.org/refworld/topic.4565c2254d.4565c25f5bd.488f18091e.0.html; unido.org/fileadmin/import/82876_uganda_Factsheet.pdf





A baby who suffers from kidney stones after drinking tainted milk powder gets IV treatment at the Chengdu Children's Hospital in Sichuan Province.

Toying with Our Safety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

whatever paint they want." In a country as competitive as China, manufacturers are always looking to bring their costs down, either to meet the price demands of U.S. companies or to increase profits. Lead-based paint is 30 percent cheaper than other paint and offers more vivid colors; therefore, many factories use it—some telling their clients, others not. Milk products are watered down, and melamine, which can be bought relatively cheaply, is added because, as mentioned earlier, like protein, it is high in nitrogen and makes the milk appear rich in nutrients. While all of this is illegal and detrimental to public health, greediness and the pressure to keep prices low can often come before ethics in a country where there are little or no regulations to keep manufacturers in check. In regard to the sheer quantity of production, China has made great leaps in past years; but as for quality, progress is still elusive. In the end, it is China's desire to be the world's lowest cost provider and its people's quest to modernize and advance that hurts the country the most.

Sources: nytimes.com/2007/09/11/business/worldbusiness/11lead; time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1856168,00;iht.com/articles/2008/11/16/opinion/edmcwilliams.php?page=1; usatoday.com/news/health/2008-10-03-melamine-fda_N; fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2008/NEW01891; cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/11/13/china.melamine.milk.fda/index

China: Rise of the Bourgeoisie

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

the authoritarian Communist Party? So far it has, as contempt for authorities is rapidly growing. Last year on July 1 (the day the Communist Party was founded), an unemployed Beijing man stabbed six police officers to death and wounded four. Outside the police station, middle class protestors marched in support of the killer, denouncing the Communist Party.

The size of China's middle class is around 65 million, less than 5 percent of its population. Though a small minority now, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences predicts "the middle stratum will keep expanding and finally become the most important part and the most stable force in China's modern social structure." Though the middle class is quickly growing, will it be able to handle the responsibility of driving China's economy forward? More than 70 percent of the nation's population consists of farmers, who, on average, make \$317 (U.S.) annually. Unless this is changed, China's middle class will fail to meet its enormous expectations. The Communist Party is tenuously gripping onto its power in China, and as the middle class grows, the Party will need to restructure itself to give the middle class political power if it wants to survive. History teaches us that once a group has economic power, it wants a political voice. China's middle class will transform the country into something unpredictably profound; and, very likely it will change the world we live in.

Sources: nationalgeographic.com/2008/05/china/middle-class/leslie-chang-text; chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2004-10/27/content_386060; time.com/time/asia/features/china_cul_rev/middle_class.html

Unionized We Fall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

The government entrusted GM and Chrysler with \$9.4 billion and \$4 billion, respectively, from TARP. Ford stated that it would try to recover without government assistance. But these automakers have proven themselves unable to use their funds responsibly. U.S. Representative Michael Capunano fears the automakers will "take this [bailout] money and continue [to make] the same stupid decisions [they have] made for 25 years."

In 1999, Delphi, a supplier for GM and then the world's second largest auto parts manufacturer, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy after the UAW refused to cut union wages. Can GM and Chrysler restructure without concessions from the UAW for wage cuts or lay offs? It is hard to believe that the UAW will grant concessions now, despite impending bankruptcy since they did not for Delphi.

Under the present UAW contracts, the Big Three cannot restructure. Unfortunately, they received bailout money which now may be wasted. It would have been better to declare bankruptcy and kiss the unions goodbye once and for all.

Sources: money.cnn.com/2008/11/19/news/companies/auto_hearing/index.htm; newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/7791999.stm?ad=1; cbc.ca/money/story/2009/02/17/f; bigthreeupdate.html; cnbc.com/id/27803683; forbes.com/2008/11/10/flint-cars-automakers-biz-cz_jf_1111flint.html?partner=relatedstoriesbox; nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/12132008/news/politics/auto_union_roadblock_143949.htm; nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/12132008/news/politics/auto_union_roadblock_143949.htm

BY ALBERT MAGNELL

NUCLEAR proliferation is a problem with potentially explosive consequences. Because of the increasing availability of nuclear weapons, we become less and less secure. But, increasing security can bring about restrictions on freedom. Although enforced laws, locked doors, and guards on duty restrict how people act, this is necessary when safety is at stake. In searching for a solution to nuclear proliferation, freedom and security are both issues to consider. We need to find a solution that we can put into effect quickly and that remains effective for many years.

With each passing year, more and more countries are able to afford nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. Recently the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), usually referred to as North Korea, one of the most impoverished countries in the world, has developed a fission bomb. They already have intermediate range missiles which they could sell to other countries and buy nuclear weapons themselves. Moreover, North Korea may have the technology to produce its own nuclear bombs.

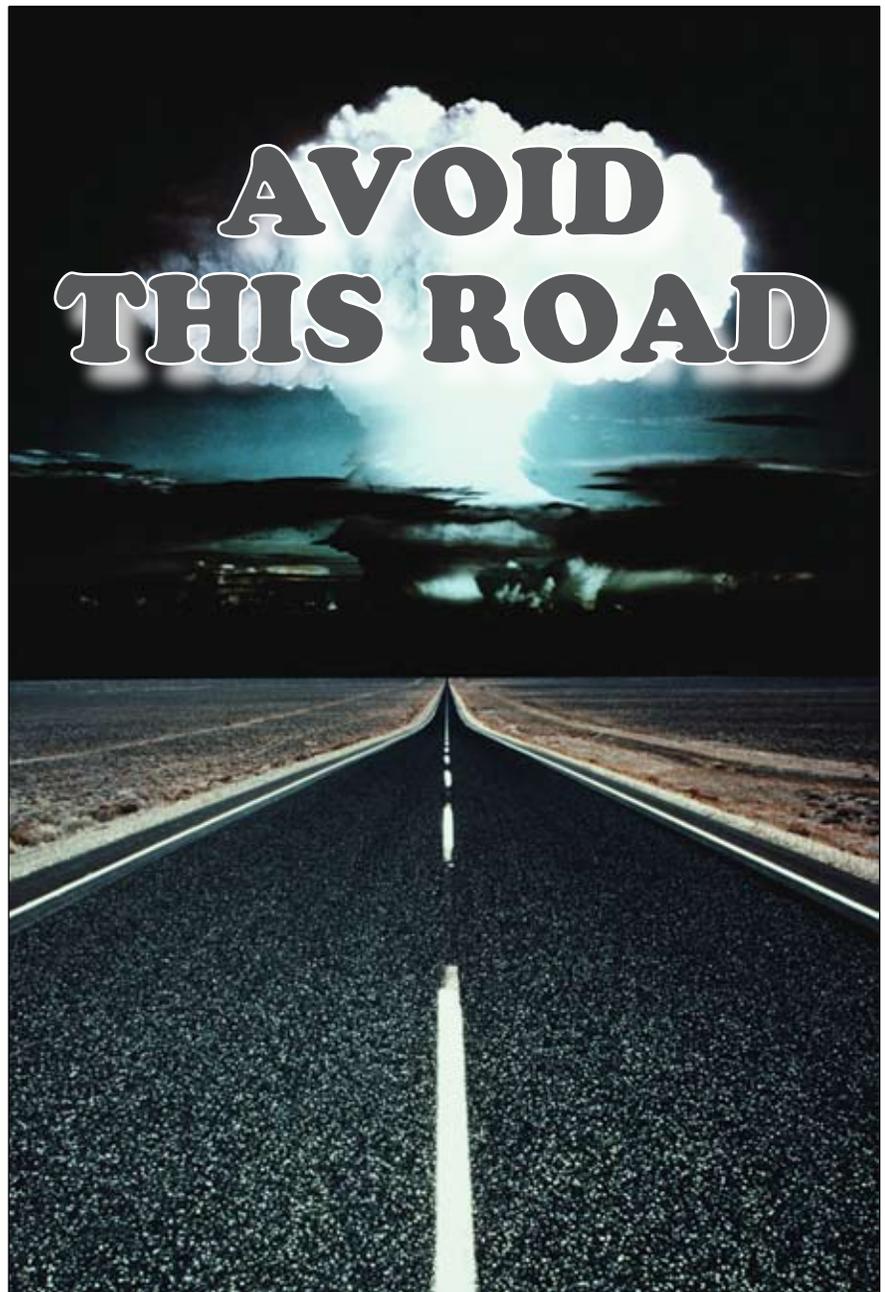
The Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism, established by the U.S. Congress in 2007, warned in a recent report that a nuclear or bio terror attack on the U.S. is likely by 2013. Although terrorist organizations lack the necessary technology and scientific knowledge to make nuclear weapons, as the production cost goes down, it may soon become possible for a group to buy a weapon. With trade in all manner of weapons common, no one should be surprised that the trade could extend to nuclear weapons.

If we do not take action now, we face the prospect of horrific losses of life and possibly great losses of freedom resulting from an increase in security. That would be the worst of both worlds. According to Albert Einstein "The release of atomic energy has not created a new problem. It has merely made more urgent the necessity of solving an existing one. One could say that it has affected us quantitatively, not qualitatively." Einstein concluded that "So long as there are sovereign nations possessing great power, war is inevitable. That is not an attempt to say when it will come, but only that it is sure to come. That was true before the atomic bomb was made. What has been changed is the destructiveness of war." Einstein was right. Because of the increasing availability of nuclear weapons, there is an unyielding urgency to address their proliferation.

One way to tackle the problem of nuclear proliferation is for nations to form alliances to prevent the spread of the weapons. In the short term, alliances can be good. However, over time, shifts in alliances will decrease their reliability. Alliances did not prevent World War I or World War II and may have even spurred them on. It is also not clear how much control an alliance would exert. Alliances are too ephemeral to address nuclear proliferation. At best, forming alliances simply buys time; it does not really solve the problem.

Another dubious way to deal with the spread of nuclear weapons is for one nation to try to exert its power throughout the world and form a worldwide hegemony. This would be expensive not only in dollars but also in lives. For one nation to try to control the spread of nuclear weapons on its own would probably result in enormous debt. The United States' efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq have been highly costly and unpopular among Americans, and these are just two incursions in one part of the world. Also, for one nation to try to stop proliferation by requiring other nations to contribute money and forces to its efforts would be taxation without representation, a form of tyranny similar to the Stamp Act of 1765 in the U.S. The very attempt would undermine ideals of freedom. In addition, other

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



PETE TURNER/GETTY IMAGES



BY HENRIETTA HAKES

ON January 20, 2009, I stood on the National Mall in Washington D.C., surrounded by millions of strangers, and felt the excitement and hope of the nation on a visceral level. Freezing and barely able to hear the inaugural address, I maneuvered through the crowd for a better vantage point. Through tree branches and spectators perched on top of porta-potties, I attempted to view the Jumbotron, which broadcasted the far-away event; thankfully, the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States, was not an event that needed to be viewed up close.

Situated right in front of the Washington Monument, we were approximately a mile from the stage. However, despite our distance, the intimacy of the moment could be felt in the reactions of the crowd. A woman next to us clutched an out-dated radio, and everyone nearby strained to decipher the static sounds emanating from the little box. Her impossibly tall son, a recent veteran of the Iraq War, stood protectively in front of his mother and shielded her from the dense crowd. Slightly intimidated by the multitude of people we latched onto the pair, and took advantage of the soldier's guardianship, in exchange for Skittles.

People, thrilled with the election of Barack Obama, were determined to be part of this historic inauguration. An elderly African American couple — the man dressed in a suit and using a walker, the woman in a floor length fur and pearl earrings — had painstakingly wended their way to the Mall. More than four decades earlier, the husband had been in Washington to witness Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a Dream" speech. Despite the proud elderly man's infirmities he was resolute in his desire to behold another turning point in American history.

Younger generations hoping to create memories were also represented. One family had traveled from California. The father held a sleepy two-year-old swathed in a fuzzy Obama scarf, and the mother clutched a leash attached to a rambunctious seven-year-old, whom the couple was afraid of losing in the crowd. Walking through the streets, we met



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people from Arkansas, New Mexico, Connecticut, and even a family from France. People who could recall the civil rights movements in the sixties stood side by side with college kids and groups of third graders. It was impossible to typify an average attendee.

The swearing in, the address, the music, the poem, the prayer, all came to an end. It was time to return to the reality of overloaded public transportation and streets packed so tightly with people that it took an hour to walk two blocks. Despite people's frustration at the traffic and bitter weather, the crowd remained cordial. A massive cheer was raised as the helicopter bearing now former President George Bush back to Texas flew overhead. People were not looking behind, but ahead. Despite the many difficulties facing America, from the economy to the loss of international prestige, the inauguration was an optimistic event. Barack Obama carries the hopes of millions of Americans, and standing on the Mall that day, it felt as if he would fulfill every one.

BY JENNY PALACIOS

THIS past year Presidential fever seemed to have swept the country and everyone, whether young or old, had an opinion about who would be the best man or, (can you believe it) woman for the country. I hate to admit it, but even my younger brother and I had ongoing spats, in which my poor mother had to break us apart after our encounters became a bit too violent (What can I say?)

NT AT EATION

He's a nine-year old know-it-all). However, it was not just my own family that became passionate, if not slightly obsessed, with this election. Everywhere, Americans became adamant in their support for their preferred candidate and they viciously tore apart Sarah Palin, or mocked Obama's idealistic and over-ambitious goals, or even lost their cool during an impromptu debate with their nine-year old brother. *Everyone* had something to say, but, most importantly, *everyone* said it. This was a very heated election and discussions among Pingry kids reflected what was being said everywhere else.

As I sat on the train headed to Washington, I wondered what the reactions would be like on Inauguration Day when President George W. Bush would peacefully relinquish his position as leader of the country and Barack Hussein Obama would take the oath to become America's first African-American President. Would there be protesting? Would McCain-supporters in my youth group continue to sulk

and complain? Did this election really rip apart the country? Well, it turned it that I needn't have worried.

The first sign that assured me of America's continued unity came during my train ride. I kept noticing that there were people along the railroad tracks holding cameras and waving flags. Completely confused, I turned around and

inquired about the crowds. "Don't you know?" was the answer. "Obama's train is behind us." My jaw dropped just as I heard a

shrill coming from outside. A group of about fifty people hoping to catch a glimpse of the President-Elect's train were holding a huge American flag with signs that read "We Love Obama!" I was stunned and overwhelmed by a surge of patriotism. At that moment, it became clear that Obama was not just our President-Elect: he was a revolutionary icon and symbol of, you guessed it, change.

Eyewitnesses to the Inauguration



When I finally got into Union Station, I realized Washington, D.C. was the place to be and the term "Obama-Mania" was an understatement. There were Obama shirts, Obama Pepsi, Obama buttons, and Obama masks. I guess D.C. area hustlers know an economic opportunity when they see one (can't really blame them . . . We are in a recession, after all).

After I made my way through the hordes of people and found my group, the Inauguration festivities finally kicked off. I had the honor of meeting a slew of incredible and successful people including former Vice President Al Gore; Linda Lin, correspondent for The Oprah Winfrey Show; Colin Powell, American statesman and a former four-star general and former Secretary of State; Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln"; Desmond Tutu, the famed South African political activist and Nobel Peace Prize Winner; and Chris Daughtry of . . . (don't ask). My experiences were amazing, but the highlight, of course, was Inauguration Day.

I woke up at four in the morning, sat in bumper-to-bumper traffic for three hours, and walked two miles in thirty-six degree weather with thousands of my fellow Americans, (and some non-Americans) but, man, was it worth it. The energy was absolutely amazing and people were . . . well . . . crazy. Some were climbing trees just to catch a glimpse of the



Jenny with DBA, whom she ran into in the crowd.

new President, and, at some point, a woman climbed on top of a port-a-potty and proceeded to fall through it. The crowd cheered when Obama stumbled over his words during the oath and some burst into tears during his speech.

All in all, Inauguration Day was the most powerful and awe-inspiring experience of my life. I never felt so American and so proud to be a citizen of the United States, a nation that, yes, has made some pretty bad mistakes in the past, but, on that Inauguration Day, proved that it truly gave equal opportunity to all. During the Inauguration, I did not see one hateful sign, I did not hear one racial slur (or any negative comments for that matter) and, best of all, those who did not support Obama during his campaign came to accept him as their President. I even found myself among some former McCain supporters who admitted that “Obama at least deserved their respect and support.” And, especially at that moment, I was more than sure that, despite our differences, we Americans could rise above it all and truly be a people under the leadership of one President Obama.



BY DENISE BROWN-ALLEN

The following are remarks at a Pingry assembly made by Upper School Director Denise Brown-Allen on January 21, 2009 after attending the Inauguration in Washington D.C.

YESTERDAY I prepared breakfast for my family in D.C. at 5:00 a.m. in preparation for our trek to the National Mall. The day before, accompanied by my cousins who graciously agreed to host us, we had practiced our route and scoped out possible access points to the Capitol. There were hundreds of other people at the Capitol on Monday who seemed to have the same idea. There was a sense of joy and electricity in the air.

The significance of Obama’s Inauguration and the celebration of Dr. MLK Jr’s Birthday could not be missed — especially given the number and variety of colorful t-shirts and pins emblazoned with the images and quotes of King and Obama hawked on the streets by local vendors. We set out about 6:30 a.m. and soon our anticipated 25-minute walk to the Capitol became a frustrating, tense and sometimes frightening

two-hour trek: streets were blocked off and access points to the Mall were closed due to the number of people who flocked to witness history. We literally walked with thousands of people. There were people as far as we could see in front and behind us. Often at intersections we collided with other parades of people creating a gridlock. We waited once in the middle of an intersection immobile pressed up against strangers and an ambulance, no where to turn, no where to move. I admit I wondered a few times what the heck I was doing there, dealing with the unbearable cold* and crowds and I pictured myself at times sitting here in Hauser experiencing the event with you or on my cousins’ couch — but the elderly woman pushing her walker, the senior couple arm in arm moving at a snail’s pace, the grandmother literally being carried by her grandsons, the families pushing loved ones in wheel chairs, young couples with children in tow made it clear why I was there, why we

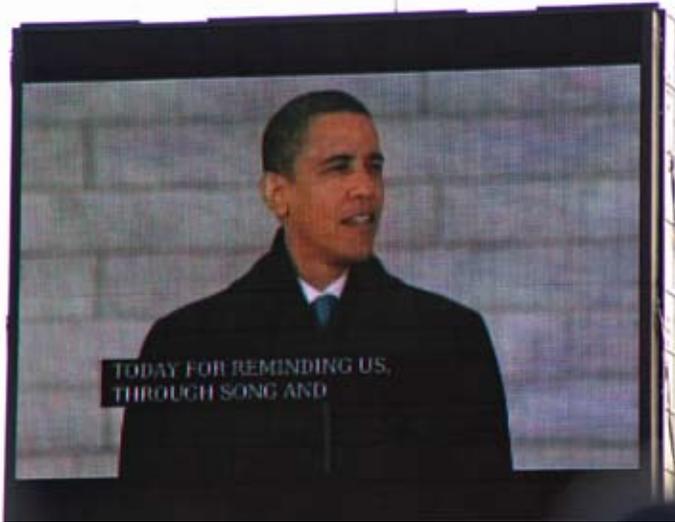


Sunday, January 18

WE leave Maplewood, New Jersey, at 1:15 p.m. and arrive in Washington, D.C., 4:30 p.m. at Susan's (our host, Denise's cousin). Wow! Three hours, no traffic — off to a great start. After settling in we are off to a local establishment for dinner and end up sitting next to a group of about seven who have just biked from the free concert at the The Mall. "It was great."

Monday, January 19 — MLK Day

With Daniel, who has come up from UVA with a friend and cousins Susan, Karen, and Kebren, we tour D.C. and strategize for viewing points for the next day. A beautiful sunny 40-degree day. Could this be a sign for a nice day tomorrow? We walk from Susan's home to the Capitol, etc., and visit the Newseum, a must-see. My favorite exhibit is the Pulitzer Prize photos and accompanying stories. Reflective moment: sitting in the back of a room with some high-school students, we watch MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech, and yes, there are some watery eyes in the room, including mine. The pre-inauguration day crowd and euphoria are amazing. We see/hear rehearsals on Capitol Hill. The street vendors are selling all sorts of creative Obama T-shirts and spectacular paraphernalia. Everyone is



were all there black, white, Asian, Latino, German, Lithuanian, young, old from all walks of life. We were there to see and hear this dream realized with our own eyes and ears.

When we finally made it to our spot in front of a Jumbotron, a stone's throw from the Washington Monument, once again I found myself shoulder to shoulder with strangers, now friends. When [President] Obama recited his oath of office the crowd was hushed, some folks held one another, some hugged their chests, thousands stood with their eyes fixed on his face, some stood with their eyes closed in silent prayer of thanksgiving. When we heard him speak the final words of the oath, the crowd erupted, there was a ripple of hugs, cheers, high fives, applause, smiles and tears, shouts and my son's** whisper "Mom, this is awesome." And it was. And it is.

*Dorian was treated for hypothermia. When we got him into one of the first-aid tents stationed throughout the mall, his temperature read at 90. While Dorian was being treated a woman reportedly had a stroke; a woman had tripped, fallen and someone had accidentally stepped on her neck; another woman had a nose bled that would not stop and the medical staff was overwhelmed with cases of hypothermia. The museums and adjacent federal buildings were to be available as warming stations, but many did not open. There was a 30-minute wait to enter the Smithsonian, a designated warming station. Dorian's souvenir from the experience is the silver foil blanket that he received when he was released from the tent once his temperature reached 95.

** Daniel (19) voted for the first time in the November election.

BY DOUGLAS ALLEN

The following are excerpts from a journal kept by Douglas Allen, husband of Upper School Director Denise Brown-Allen, of his family's experiences at the Inauguration. Mr. Allen, a senior tax analyst, also provided many of the photos for our Inauguration spread.



just in a great mood, whether black or white, young or old, gay or straight, born American or immigrant, Democrat or Republican. We see a guy wearing a T-shirt saying “It’s great to be a Republican.” All I can say is, “It’s all good, we still luv ya, my brotha.”

Tuesday, January 20 — Inauguration Day

We rise at 5:00 a.m. Denise prepares breakfast and, like a true mom/teacher, has individual goody bags for the day. Now about that nice weather ... It’s a beautiful day, but, man, it’s COLD. Susan has already left at 4:30 as she is a volunteer — not a good experience, and thus she comes back home early. We bundle up and venture out at 6:30 a.m. for what should be a 25-minute walk to our spot. 2 ½ hours later, with two million of our closest friends, we arrive at the base of the Washington Monument. All you can see in every direction is people everywhere.

We view the JumboTron (we’re not close enough to see the Capitol) and watch all the pre-swearing-in activity. We listen to the music (some old soul and folk tunes) and we (the crowd and, yes, I) sing along to the great embarrassment of Daniel and Dorian.

Dorian is not looking good; he is shivering and dizzy. We maneuver through the crowd and summon a National Guardsman (they’re great) who gets us to a first-aid tent. Lo and behold, Dorian is suffering from hypothermia (good thing it happens now, because one hour later they can’t handle any more folks). His temp is only 90 degrees, and they won’t let him leave until it reaches 95. That’s two hours later.

I witness a heart attack, stroke victim, broken ankle, stepped-on neck injury, and multiple hypothermia cases ... lost children too ...



talk about frightening.

We agree after an hour or so I will stay with Dorian. Denise and Daniel will go back and see/hear the swearing in. Two hours later (swearing-in has not happened yet) I get hold of Daniel on the cell (not easy, as they are periodically jamming all cell service) and we agree I will try and head back to Susan as the medic has advised. We try to meet up again but to no avail. This is where our nightmare begins. The crowd is just ridiculous — no longer my closest friends. With streets closed and Metro trains not running near “ground zero,” we are not making any progress. Dorian is crying at times (me too because I can’t help) and we are packed like sardines at some intersection.

We see many older folks walking very, very slowly, with walkers or in wheelchairs (you tear up because you know what this means to them, especially if they are African-American) as well as couples with very young children. Thus I tell Dorian, “Come on, we can do this, hang in there.”

After about three hours (at times just going in circles) we make it to Union Station; Susan lives about half a mile from here, so progress finally. When we get there, it’s closed and we can’t go near it. Teary-eyed and begging, I get a police officer to let us sit in his cruiser for twenty minutes to warm up and he directs me how to maneuver around Union Sta-



tion. A woman absolutely beside herself gets to the cruiser with two elderly people who are wheelchair bound and desperately need an elevator. I tell Dorian, "Let's leave and let them get in the cruiser for warmth because they can't go anywhere." We continue our journey (now four blocks backwards to go around Union Station). We make it to a coffee shop. Most businesses are closed, and after another policeman won't help us we cry again. We're just eight blocks away, but Dorian is really struggling now. I get someone to lend me a cell phone (Dorian's cell is dead, plus I've lost mine on this journey) and I get hold of Denise as they have made it back before us: PLEASE come get us as we are now away from the closed zone.

Four hours later we make it back to Susan's ... survivors. I've been on my feet for almost eight hours straight. Funny moment: passing Georgetown Law Center, Dorian says, "I don't like D.C. and never want to go to this school or visit when my time comes to look at schools." I know he's fine then.

Even at my worst moment, I envisioned the older generation experiencing this historic event. I kept telling myself, I'm doing this not just for myself but also for my older family members and all the folks who wanted to be here but couldn't make it. My pilgrimage is theirs too, and it has all been worth it. This is a day I will never forget. As I have not seen the swearing in, Denise sums it up for me: "When Obama recited his oath of office, the crowd was hushed. Some folks held one another, some hugged their chests, thousands had their eyes fixed on his face, some stood with their eyes closed in silent prayer of thanksgiving. When we heard him speak the final words of the oath, the crowd erupted. There was a ripple of hugs, cheers, high fives, applause, smiles and tears, shouts, and my son's whisper, 'Mom, this is awesome.'"

We leave D.C. at 5:00 p.m. and get home at 10:15. At the Dela-



ware Memorial Bridge, a big sign says "NJ TPK CLOSED." We detour because it's closed from Exit 1-4 (a long stretch) due to a bomb scare. I keep saying, "It's all worth it."

Wednesday, January 21

Back to work. A co-worker mentions she is having a bad day. I mention I was in D.C. and I talk about my experience. She says, "Thanks for making my day so much better." Like I said, it was all worth it. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." My pilgrimage, my Mecca.

*The Allen family:
Dorian, Daniel,
Denise, and Douglas*



PHOTOS COURTESY
OF DOUGLAS ALLEN

BY CAROLINE DREYFUSS

SINCE the 2000 release of the Toyota Prius, hybrid cars have been a force in the United States auto industry. Although other hybrids had been released before, none had ever produced the same excitement as the Prius. Sporting features like a push-button start, a dashboard energy monitor, and a sleek appearance, this year's Prius is just as coveted as the first model, even though there are now many other hybrids available. The hybrid is just not a token of environmental awareness. It is an impetus for the creation of improved vehicles that can fight climate change and insure America's energy independence.

But not everything about hybrid cars is advantageous. First, they're expensive. The Toyota Camry hybrid costs about \$1,000 more than its highest-end non-hybrid counterpart and is over \$5,000 more than the lowest-end non-hybrid. In these hard economic times, many potential buyers are looking at less expensive cars. In fact, studies have shown that it would take five years, with gas prices around the \$2.65 mark, for a Prius buyer to recoup the extra cost through gas savings. Yet the warranty for a Prius is three years, 36,000 miles, so it is unlikely a buyer would keep it

long enough to break even.

To combat this well-known statistic, car companies are choosing the most energy-inefficient cars for the addition of hybrid technology. This tactic seems designed to convince consumers that the most inefficient cars can suddenly benefit the environment. The fact remains, however, that inefficient gas-guzzlers become inefficient hybrids. Moreover, the recent drop in gas prices, however temporary it may be, is not helping hybrid sales. It is true that the auto industry needs a boost, but hybrid car manufacturers should still aim for lower prices to make environmentally friendly cars accessible to all customers.

The plug-in hybrid is still in development in the United States, but BYD Auto of Shenzhen, China, began selling the first mass-produced plug-in hybrid in December 2008. The F3DM can be charged from a wall outlet, a major advantage over other battery-powered hybrids. The car has a 60-mile range when its lithium-ion batteries are fully charged, and can be 50% recharged at special stations in ten minutes (a full charge takes about seven hours).

BYD claims that a one-liter gas engine also recharges the batteries to lengthen the range. Priced at \$22,000, the F3DM is cheaper than both the Prius and the Camry hybrids. Although not as inexpensive as previously

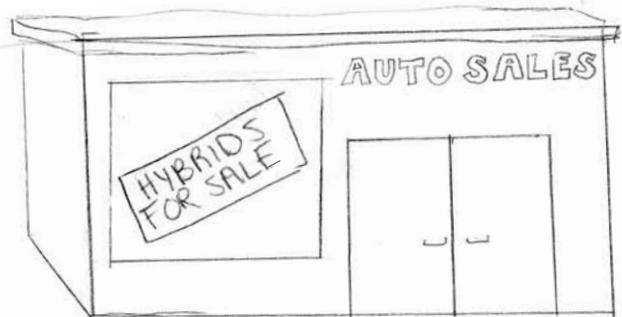
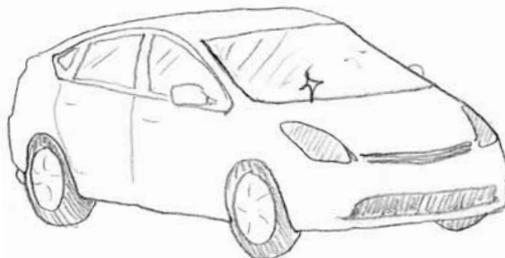
hoped, the F3DM paves the way for the Chevy Volt and a Toyota plug-in hybrid, which are expected to on the market in 2010.

Most consumers do not yet have hybrids, but these innovative cars have the potential to make a massive environmental difference. Hybrids currently emit 30-50% less greenhouse gases than non-hybrids. If every new automobile used technology like that of the new Prius, America could not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions drastically but also save three times more oil by 2020 than the U.S. currently imports from the Persian Gulf.

For every gallon of gas saved, a driver prevents 19 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere. If only half of the over 250 million registered cars in America saved only ten gallons of gas a year, 23.75 billion pounds of warming gases would not be emitted. In this way, hybrids solve two of America's most significant problems: they help fight climate change and promote U.S. energy independence.

Sources: hybridcars.com/history/history-of-hybrid-vehicles; newdream.org/newsletter/hev.php; newdream.org/marketplace/cars; greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/12/19/byd-markets-worlds-first-mass-produced-plug-in-hybrids; greenliving.lovetoknow.com/Investment_Return_on_Hybrid_Car; toyota.com/prius-hybrid/warranty

HYBRIDS IN



I GUESS THIS IS WHY THEY CALL IT "GOING GREEN."



OUR FUTURE

By ANDREW YOUNG

RECESION, housing crisis, financial institution meltdown, market crash, and volatility—these are just a few keywords that will certainly make 2008 stand out as a memorable year for a very long time to come. The wild oil price fluctuations of last year epitomized the economic uncertainties of 2008. In terms of history, oil prices rose in 2003 from an inflation-adjusted price of \$25 per barrel to over \$30. Since then, they have only gone up. This same trend appeared to hold true for the first part of 2008. But after having doubled and peaked at \$147 per barrel in July, prices have since unpredictably fallen to under \$40 per barrel as of the end of December — a nosedive that has come to reflect the economic troubles witnessed this past year.

Analysts have used these same oil price fluctuations as indicators for the world economy and for the delicate balance of global supply-and-demand. According to the same experts, the unprecedented peak in oil prices can be explained by the steady yearly increase in global demand for oil. This increase is outpacing the world's total oil production capacity, which peaked around 85 million barrels a day in 2005. And the recent, drastic drop in oil prices has been viewed as a clear reflection of the weak demand for oil generated by the global recession. Others have pointed out that the price hike itself has curtailed the uninhibited oil consumption that characterized consumers in the past.

Due to the economic recession, the cutback in the consumption of oil by Americans may not represent a temporary change, but rather, a long-term modification in the lifestyles of average Americans. Oil analyst Greg Priddy said that there was a “psychological shift into the sense of crisis.” As of the first ten months of 2008, Americans had driven over 100 billion miles less than in those same months in 2007. This reduction in consumption has resulted in a decline in the demand for oil, which in turn has caused the price of the oil to drop. This dwindling demand has been furthered by the deceleration of the growth of many economies

around the world; countries such as China and India, whose increased consumption of oil over the past few years had increased demand, now have begun to experience a significant slowdown their economic growth.

Oil prices have also been affected by speculation in the “futures” market: individuals and companies invest more money in oil with the hopes that its price will rise, which is often the case because these investments raise demand. However, if investors begin to pull out of the oil market fearing price instability, demand drops and prices fall. Some analysts point out that the fall in oil prices could be the result of this kind of speculation.

The Price

As Americans rejoice at the idea of fewer dollars spent at the gas station, this drop in the price of oil is hitting producers hard. In fact, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is finding ways to raise prices. OPEC is a cartel of 12 countries consisting of Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela. The OPEC countries accounted for 36% of the world's oil production in 2008 and they hold two thirds of the world's oil reserves. The countries meet to set international oil prices by control-

ling production levels to maximize profits.

OPEC is not only worried about the economies of its constituent countries, but is also trying to end the price slump in order to bring investors back into oil markets. In October, OPEC cut oil production by 1.5 million barrels a day, but the reduction has not yielded any rise in prices or even significantly slowed their drop. Thus, as of January 1st, OPEC cut output by an unprecedented 2.2 million barrels a day in hopes of getting the price to about 60 to 80 dollars per barrel. This cut was assisted by decreases in production in several other countries that are not in the cartel.

As Americans yearn for lower oil prices, OPEC is manipulating production to try to raise them. Perhaps as consumer and producer come to a tacit consensus on a suitable price, the wild fluctuations in these prices will gradually come to a halt. We can only hope that 2009 yields a more stable outcome for oil prices.

Sources: time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1849215,00; time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1852607,00; time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1859380,00; time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1865971,00.html; time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1867160,00; opec.org/aboutus/history/history; hearth-policy.org/Updates/2007/Update67.htm



Murderers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Where has the government in question been throughout all this violence? Though Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis uttered the now-familiar promise to tackle corruption, he is under scrutiny for his hands-off reaction to the riots. His unpopular conservative government has been hit hard, both by the riots and the current economic crunch. While Karamanlis said helping poverty-stricken Greeks, about a fifth of the population, was high on his list of priorities, he also acknowledged that the country's large debt of about 12 billion Euros would make this objective more difficult to accomplish.

Some of the large national debt of Greece is also being attributed to corrupt governmental practices. Inquiries have been made into a deal where a Mount Athos monastery acquired pricey state property in exchange for cheap farmland, costing the state millions of Euros. Other examples of corruption have been common and are the cause of the constant protests in Greece.

Perhaps Greece's debt wouldn't be so high if money wasn't going directly into the officials' pockets. Although the government is taking active steps to help its economy, such as cutting income taxes, the portion of its gross domestic product spent to service its debt still will pass through the hands of public and private officials. It is estimated that 613 millions of dollars will be extorted as debt. The Greek government doesn't seem to think bribery is an issue: Justice Minister Sotirios Hatzigakis supported a new bill which includes a provision that declares bribes under 7300 Euros cannot be punished. There are some ministers who intend to follow through with their promises to eradicate corruption; however, they face too much opposition from fellow officers and special interest committees as well as groups of rich and powerful voters. Thus there is popular distrust of the government's repeated vows to end corruption.

Not only is the government unable to control its internal scandals, it has not been able to stop the spread of poverty and unemployment in recent years. This increase has only been exacerbated in light of the recent global economic crisis. Greeks don't have sufficient reason to believe that the government, which is drowning in a 12 million Euro debt, can deal effectively with these major economic and social issues.

Though violence is rarely a solution, it is has provided the Greek government a wake-up

call. In the current environment, halfhearted rulings will not cut it. To bring stability and security to the country and its people, the government will have to aggressively fight corruption and develop progressive economic policies. "It will take a generation or two to straighten things out in Greece," according to Ted Coloumbis, who heads the prominent foreign policy think-tank Eliamep. The question now is: are the Greeks willing to wait that long?

Sources: ibnlive.in.com/news/greece-riots-against-police-violence-enter-third-week/81111-2.html; reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE4B601720081209; msnbc.msn.com/id/28090788/; usatoday.com/news/world/2008-12-14-greece-riots-calm_N.htm; helleniccomm-serve.com/biteoutofcorruption.html; reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE4BF3F620081216

Avoid This Road

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countries are not likely to be in favor of the arrangement due to their subservient status, and over time they can be expected to rebel against the hegemony, thereby bringing back the original problem.

A more promising way to deal with the problem of proliferation is to form a federation to address it. Forming a federation is a compromise between centralized power and distributed power. In a federation, only some issues are dealt with by the centralized power, while others are left to local powers. In the case of controlling the spread of nuclear weapons, a centralized power at the federal level can do more than alliances for the long term, while leaving other matters to regional powers. In our own federation, there are limits to the power of Washington. Many issues are dealt with instead by the states or even more local powers.

In the forming a federation, an important question arises: How should representation be granted? Small or weak regions may fear being overwhelmed by large or powerful regions. Large, powerful regions may fear undue influences by small or weak regions. In the formation of our American federation, it took the Connecticut Compromise to come up with a system of representation that both the large states and the small states supported. There is no reason why a similar compromise cannot be used to found a federation to control nuclear proliferation.

The importance of freedom must be

remembered while creating a solution. In the words of Benjamin Franklin, "Those who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." Conflicts between the extent of power and the preservation of freedom create difficulty when devising a solution to this problem. We need to gain more than "a little temporary safety" in a world where nuclear weapons can spread to tyrants, petty dictators, and ideologically or religiously committed zealots. But, as protection is ordered, freedom must be maintained. Security and freedom require a compromise of centralized and distributed power that is the essence of a federation.

Sources: foxnews.com/printer_friendly_story/0,3566,459927,00.html; "Atomic War or Peace" Einstein, 1947; Encyclopedia Britannica Online; *Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Benjamin Franklin*

Beyond Partisanship

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

hasn't turned a profit in 40 years.

Obama's bipartisan outreach, though seemingly hindered by this Congressional stalemate, is exactly what America needs. He needs to take control of Capitol Hill. Everyone can agree that we are in an economic crisis that calls for something exceptional, not politics as-usual. The President let Congress write this bill, and the result was not exceptional. President Obama cannot let firm partisan politicians dictate the course of our nation. Many of the world's greatest leaders triumphed under trying times: we can look back at the Roman Emperor Constantine or bring it up to modern times and consider the crises facing Lincoln, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Truman. President Obama has entered the Oval Office facing a momentous economic crisis, our nation's largest federal deficit, and a war against terror. He has all the tools necessary for him to go down in the annals of history as one of America's greatest Presidents, and whether we are Democrats, Republicans, Independents, liberals, or conservatives, we, as Americans, must support him together.

Sources: cnn.com/2009/POLITICS/02/12/stimulus/index.html?eref=rss_topstories; npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=100212839; nytimes.com/2009/02/12/us/politics/12stimulus.html; nytimes.com/2009/02/15/opinion/15rich.html

Unionized We Fall

By KATLYN CASEY

GENERAL Motors, Chrysler, and Ford have struggled for years to turn a profit, but they cannot blame the 2008 financial crisis for their troubles. Despite the financial crisis, foreign automakers are not showing deficits in sales and profit as large as the Big Three automakers. The reason: unions. In an age where constant innovation is necessary to compete, the United Auto Workers (UAW) of GM, Chrysler, and Ford is an impediment to any progress that the Big Three try to make. The bottom line is: the union must go.

At the turn of the century, factories employed people to work under terrible conditions for incredibly low pay. Thus unions served a purpose: to protect employees. In time, work conditions improved dramatically throughout most industries. It is ironic that in the case of the automakers, the unions, which were put in place to protect their employees, will now probably cost them their jobs. The UAW cares more about protecting the employees' overpaid jobs than looming bankruptcy, which could eliminate some of these companies completely.

The UAW has won extraordinary rights for the worker, but these protections come at the expense of quality and efficiency. It is nearly impossible to fire union workers. The UAW impedes progress. For example, if GM creates a new lightweight door that needs only one person to install it, the UAW work rules require that two people do the job. This perpetuates inefficiency.

Union workers also earn up to \$30 more than the employees of non-unionized foreign automakers that have set up plants in the United States. Foreign carmakers in the U.S. pay their workers about \$49 an hour, including benefits. The unionized Big Three pays more than \$70 an hour.

The Big Three spend a fortune to maintain the Job Bank program that employs currently non-working laborers. It pays more than 12,000 employees full salary and benefits because of the automakers' contracts with the UAW. These jobs are unnecessary because of technological advancements, but in 1984 the UAW negotiated these labor contracts to protect workers from being laid off.

The Big Three's car sales are shrinking quickly. All have reported huge losses that can be attributed to the automakers' unappealing vehicles as well as the sky-high labor costs

of the contractual agreements with the UAW. The Big Three generated huge profits producing large sports utility vehicles, but the SUV craze peaked in 1999. Customers have looked for alternatives to the gas-guzzling SUVs, but the Big Three are clearly unprepared to service this market. Gasoline price increases in 2005 and 2008 exacerbated the problems; SUV sales dropped about 29 percent in 2008. Many American consumers are opting to buy cars from the Japanese, the leaders in small, fuel-efficient vehicles.

Foreign automakers provide thousands of jobs in the U.S. The Association of International Automobile Manufacturers, including Toyota, Nissan, and Honda, report that their cars are increasingly designed and manufactured in America, providing jobs for about 95,000 people. They consider themselves American companies and 55 percent of their cars are sold in the U.S. A Toyota plant in Mississippi plans to open in 2010 and will provide about 21,000 non-unionized jobs for local people. Why can foreign companies hire Americans to produce and sell cars profitably when the Big Three cannot? The answer: the union.

Before GM and Chrysler were bailed out using funds from the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP), some critics argued that bankruptcy was a better option. Concerns that many jobs would thus be lost are not necessarily valid because foreign automakers would need new workers for new plants. Subsidiary businesses that rely on the automakers would be supported by the expanding foreign automakers.

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SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Auto dealership employees, members of the United Auto Workers, and mechanics rally in New York to support the government bailout of the domestic auto industry.

IN a period of economic alarm and turbulent oil prices, alternative energy sources have emerged as a universally pressing issue. What if we can have warm homes without utilizing much energy?

Wolfgang Feist pioneered a new technology when he built the first passive house in 1991. Instead of pursuing new sources of energy, these homes—now numbering over 15,000 worldwide—preserve and recycle energy, which drastically reduces the costly burden of energy consumption. Passive homes maintain a comfortable room temperature without heating and cooling systems, but rather through carefully designed airflow and insulation which minimizes energy consumption.

A passive house is defined as a home that utilizes less than 120 kWh/m²/yr of primary energy for appliances and less than 15 kWh/m²/yr to regulate air temperature. For someone who is not a physicist, what does this mean? The energy needed to heat an entire house and supply its water is virtually equivalent to that needed to run a hair-dryer. Combined with the use of low-energy appliances, three major aspects of these houses explain why they consume approximately one-fifteenth the energy of an otherwise identical home. Effective and airtight insulation, efficient heat recovery, and air ventilation systems contribute to the astounding energy preservation in passive houses. Furthermore, building one of these homes is also economically advantageous; it is only five to seven percent more expensive than building an ordinary house.

Windows in passive houses are carefully designed to maximize insulation, with three glass panes layered with argon gas. With an airtight frame, a passive home preserves all of its heat, including that which is generated by household appliances and the people themselves. Combined with a southern orientation to maximize solar heat, efficient insulation keeps the house comfortably warm without demanding a lot of energy.

Although all of the windows can be opened so the home never feels too suffocating, architects have established a method of constant ventilation to combat the accumulation of stale air. Underground ducts bring in fresh air—preheated by the soil—which then mixes with the recycled heat from the house. Between 75% and 95% of the total heat in the house is mixed with new air, essentially maximizing efficiency; the same process is used to heat tap water. However, in the summer, tight insulation minimizes the extra heat gained. As a result, the home remains comfortably warm, while the air, despite the hermetic insulation, remains fresh. Thus, the problems from which earlier solar-heated homes failed—staleness and mold—do not affect passive houses. Additionally, many houses have adjustable ventilation systems, which can reduce or increase air circulation depending on a family's needs.

The technology used in passive houses has recently risen in popularity, as “awareness is skyrocketing,” explains Wolfgang Hapser, a leading engineer in passive house research. Schools in Frankfurt, Germany have recently been constructed with this technique. Now, the U.S. army is considering employing it in its barracks, the European Commission endorses passive home building, and the European Parliament is considering legislation that would demand that new



ELIZABETH ROBERTS

buildings be constructed according to this technology. Germany is the leading producer of passive house components. Since these apparatuses are not produced elsewhere, cost becomes a larger factor.

Passive houses are minutely different from common homes, “just as an electric car drives differently from its gas-using cousin,” explains New York Times journalist Elisabeth Rosenthal. There is a homogeneity of temperature throughout the home. Grated ducts in the house circulate fresh air, and windows are lined with alternating layers of glass and gas. Instead of a furnace, a heat exchanger is needed for air ventilation. Otherwise, they are nearly indistinguishable from traditional houses.

Despite the attention passive houses are now receiving, many of their aspects inhibit widespread popularity. Although they now come in many styles—a huge progression from the original, box-shaped edifice—passive houses are not ideal for many people. Smaller homes, providing roughly 500 square feet of living space per person, are much easier to insulate and heat than mansions. This design is not as practical and economical for those hoping for passive mansions. Popular sliding windows are also very difficult to insulate.

Furthermore, the successful construction of passive houses is only feasible in specific areas; because passive houses depend on solar heat and southern orientation, only specific sites and climates meet the functioning standards.

Engineers are currently researching designs for passive houses in warm climates, designed to keep the air cool instead of providing heat. The Passivhaus Institut, the leading research facility in its field, now has branches in the U.S. and Britain. Training architects, testing homes, and pioneering development, the institute, led by Dr. Feist, reanalyzes the energy crisis from a different perspective. Instead of new sources of heat, researchers seek “to create a warm house without energy demand,” explains Feist. “It’s about being comfortable with less energy input, and we do this by recycling heating.”

Sources: nytimes.com/2008/12/27/world/europe/27house.html?em; passivhaus.org.uk/index.jsp?id=668; passiv.de/English/PassiveH.HTM; 100khouse.com/2008/04/10/passive-house-passivhaus-standard-for-energy-efficient-design/

Green Heat

BY LOUISA LEE

WHAT do South Beach, Atkins, and the recession all have in common? If you answered diet, you are correct. The new stress levels of a suffering economy are taking a toll on the nation and Americans are practicing “budget” dieting. In fact, they have dipped into their grocery bills to find creative ways to tighten their food budget along with almost all other expenditures.

Surveys, interviews, and spending data have shown that small daily trade-offs work. The daily routines of Americans are beginning to reflect the reality of their financial situation. Middle and lower class consumers are shelving the name-brand products that they formerly stocked their pantries with in exchange for generic brands at a much cheaper price. Lucky Charms, for example, is being replaced with Millville Marshmallows and Stars. Brand-name Keebler Fudge Shoppe Cookies are down a whopping 12.3 per cent and are being replaced with their generic counterparts. Likewise, generic deli meat brands like Deli Pleasures, which sell at approximately 34 per cent less an ounce, are being picked off the shelves. Burt Flickinger, a retail consultant, said, “It hasn’t gotten to human food mixed with pet food yet, but it is certainly headed in that direction.”

The cutbacks are even permeating the alcohol industry. According to Information Resources, a retail trend-tracking company, inexpensive domestic beer sales are up while imported and pricier brand sales like Corona have fallen. In fact, in a survey of 2,500 consumers, only 31 per cent now order drinks when they go out, compared to the 42 per cent who paired their meal with an alcoholic beverage this past summer. Restaurants that depend on alcohol for revenue are feeling the heat. Not only are their patrons cutting back on spending, they are cutting back on going out to eat altogether. The new, do-it-yourself attitude has weakened the restaurant business; many simply cannot afford to frequent the restaurants they used to, and those that can are

BUDGET DIETING

prioritizing expenditures. The 99-cent lasagnas available at cheap supermarkets mean big savings compared to the ten dollar meals at middle-class restaurants. But with the price of household necessities surging, for example, milk is now around four dollars a gallon, rivaling gasoline’s recent spike to \$3.60 a gallon, it is imperative to find alternatives to both food and energy.

The last time that statistical surveys indicated such a reduction in consumer consumption was the economic crisis of the 1970’s when inflation led many to trade in their dinners for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. For example, the unit price of milk per gallon almost doubled between 1979 and 1980. But although people are relying more and more on different brands, not everyone is suffering. Although nothing is recession-proof, stores known for their cheap prices are finding new business. Walmart and TJMax have noted higher sales (Walmart even noted a higher sale of peanut butter). Interestingly, the sales of expensive electronics has also gone up. Both the now-postponed deadline for digital conversion and the significant drop in prices of some of this equipment probably account for the higher sales. But, indeed, in these turbulent times, consumers are purchasing new TV’s and stereos. These systems also augment the do-it-yourself attitude. James Szekely, who recently bought a new flat-screen TV, did so thinking “At least we can watch movies at home.”

Still, this concrete change in peoples’ spending habits exhibits the severity of the economy. It takes a lot to change the habits of an entire population, but the dwindling values of homes, limited available credit, and the recent string of lay-offs are enough to make anyone face the reality of frugality. The trends go beyond food: flying “coach” has become the ticket of choice, and the cheaper Hampton Inn chain is the new Hilton of business travelers everywhere. Marshal Cohen, the chief analyst at NPD, a retail tracking agency, recognizes that “people are not not spending, but they are changing how they spend.”

Sources: nytimes.com/2008/04/27/business/27spend.html; thedigeratlife.com/blog/index.php/2008/04/28/saving-money-is-in-the-recession-diet-and-the-shift-to-frugal-living/recessiondiet.com/



MYLES BRISTOW

Even the characters are out of work ... 'cause the people want cheap brands instead of name brands.



India Before The Attacks

*The Taj Mahal Palace
and Tower Hotel, a year
before the attacks.*



A sticker salesman's wares include Krishna, Jesus, Ché Guevara, and Spiderman.

*The Gateway of
India, facing the
Taj, symbolizes
openness to
the world —
and was the
terrorists'
landing point.*



BY DEAN SLUYTER

Last fall's attacks in Mumbai held a special poignancy for me. I've been fascinated by — actually in love with — India for most of my life. Since my teens, I've been involved in India's powerful meditative and devotional practices, and in college I minored in India Studies. My most recent visit, a year before the attacks, began with three days of wandering through Mumbai's markets, slums, and outlying villages, returning at night to the luxury of the Taj Mahal Palace — the very hotel where the worst violence was perpetrated. To watch on TV as my former sanctuary went up in flames, to know that people who had cooked my meals and welcomed me into my room were being slaughtered, was devastating.

Like any diverse nation, India has had its share of ethnic and religious clashes. But its underlying tradition has always been one of embracing and integrating successive waves of visitors and even invaders. With a population density seven times ours, Indians have had no choice but to learn how to get

along. You're Jewish? We've got a caste for you. You love Jesus? Oh yes, he's a divine avatar along with Krishna and Rama.

The November 2008 attacks would have been horrible anywhere, but their horror was deepened by their having been inflicted on India, a land where people greet one another by saying *Namasté*: God within me bows to God within you.

Dean Sluyter has been a member of the Upper School faculty since 1977. He teaches English and leads the Mindful Awareness program. He is also the author of three books, a contributor to The Huffington Post, and a Buddhist/Advaita prison chaplain.



An Indian boy confronts Father Christmas, Cochin.



Girls in Colaba wearing turmeric paste, a traditional beauty treatment.

An ascetic sadhu lies in the broiling sun, ringing bells, his alms plate on his chest, Varkala.



Synagogue gate, Jewtown, Cochin.



Christian and Hindu icons cohabit in a Cochin antique shop.

Sunset, Arabian Sea.





*Old doorway,
Cochin.*

ALL PHOTOS BY DEAN SLUYTER



*Quiet corner of
a Hindu temple,
Varkala.*

Terror in Mumbai

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

on militant groups at the RAND Corporation, LET has collaborated with Al Qaeda and the Taliban. LET taught the young recruited terrorists close-combat techniques, hostage-taking, handling of explosives, satellite navigation, and high seas survival, and communicated with them throughout the attacks. One handler instructed them to, "Keep your phones switched on, so that we can hear the gunfire."

The Lashkar-e-Taiba has a history of terrorist attacks in India. On September 24th, 2002, it organized a raid on the Akshardam Temple in Gujarat, killing 28 people. On August 25th, 2003, a LET bombing in Mumbai killed 52 people, and on October 29th, 2005, three suicide bombs in New Delhi disrupted the Hindu festival, Diwali, and killed 63 people. It is also speculated that LET is responsible for the series of eleven bombings on Mumbai's railroad in 2006 that killed over 200 people.

The LET considers Jews and Hindus enemies and views India with special vehemence because of its democratic-style of government and its history of religious clashes with Islam. But some Hindu nationalists, in defiance of India's valued secular, peaceful democracy, have retaliated against LET with their own terrorism. In 2002, for example, these nationalists started a fire that killed 79 people in Gujarat in retaliation for a Muslim attack. Clearly, hate crimes occur on both sides of the border.

The fight over Kashmir further exacerbates LET animosity towards India. Kashmir is a lush region hotly contested by both Pakistanis and Indians. India and Pakistan have fought three wars over Kashmir since the partition of India that created Pakistan in 1947, and troops still occupy it today. LET is one of the militant groups pursuing the Pakistani claim to the region.

The history of hate-crimes between the two nations is one of the primary reasons for the recent terrorist attack on Mumbai. Feeding an endless cycle of retaliation, terrorists combine religious and philosophical ideologies with politics and, unfortunately, the lives of innocent people. The Mumbai terror attack only perpetuates the animosity between Indians and Pakistanis, and Muslims and Hindus. Many Indians mistakenly blame Pakistan for the attacks, which might motivate Hindu extremists to retaliate. Despite tremendous internal pressure to "do something," Indian Prime Minister Mammohan Singh was wisely cautious and did not pursue military action against Pakistan. Not only was this diplomatically wise, but with India's young

economy suffering under the recession, an international war could cripple India.

Critics of the Indian government have prescribed various panaceas, including the strengthening of intelligence, providing better technical devices for security personnel, and improving coordination between security agencies. These are all good and necessary, as India's security apparatus proved deficient in the midst of the attacks. Yet these solutions fail to dig deeper to the underlying problem. India must address the Hindu-Muslim violence within its own borders and seek a diplomatic compromise over Kashmir. This will alleviate hostility between India and Pakistan, pacify anti-Indian Islamic terrorists organizations, save innocent lives, and, in time, make the entire region safer. Likewise, Pakistan must improve its counter-intelligence capabilities and military organization. Its government must rid itself of all affiliation to terrorist groups and fight terrorism with more vigor. The new U.S. foreign policy under President Obama must urgently support such initiatives.

India and Pakistan's divide occurred sixty years ago. Yet, the age-old prejudices and ideological differences that separated the two nations perpetuate the violence today.

The only hope is that the next generation, more tolerant and

NARINDER NANU/GETTY IMAGES



Pakistani Rangers (in black) and Indian Border Security Force (in brown) perform the daily retreat ceremony on the India-Pakistan border at Wagah.

open-minded, will abandon this ancient feud and embrace real diplomacy. Instead of seeing Pakistan as an enemy and the site of terrorism, Indians can see it as an ally struggling under the burden of terror. Only with reconciliation can these countries, as well as all nations, defeat terrorism. Mumbai is still rebuilding itself after the attacks. A city in which a variety of religions, ethnicities, socioeconomic classes, and cultures live together, Mumbai best embodies India's secular spirit. It is a city of glitz, heat, diversity, and most importantly,

hope, which goes well beyond Slumdog Millionaire. Despite the intermittent periods of violence and attack, it will continue to be a symbol of secular modernity.

Sources: nytimes.com/2008/12/01/opinion/01mon1; news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7832482; news.bbc.co.uk/ont=hisday/hi/dates/stories/august/25/newsid_3921000/3921475.stm; cnn.com/2006/WORLD/asiapcf/09/30/india.bombs/index.html?section=cnn_world; guardian.co.uk/world/2008/nov/28/mumbai-terror-attacks-india; cbc.ca/world/story/2009/01/07/mumbai-transcript; freep.com/article/20081202/NEWS07/81202078; telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/india/3540964; adl.org/terrorism/symbols/lashkaretaiba; satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist_outfits/lashkar_e_toiba; allvoices.com/contributed-news/1932037-mumbai-attack-terrorism-in-the-digital-age

TERROR IN MUMBAI

BY NEHA SRIVASTAVA

WITH breathtaking audacity and an icy demeanor, several gunmen sprayed commuters with bullets at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus. “They were not in the slightest bit [of a] hurry. They did not seem to be afraid at all,” recounted Pappu Mishra, a café worker at Mumbai’s busiest train station. And why would these gunmen be nervous? They believed they were fighting for a righteous, divinely justified cause—vengeance for India’s injustices towards Muslims and the propagation of decades-old hatred for Pakistan.

From November 26th, 2008, to November 29th, ten coordinated acts of terrorism occurred in Mumbai, India’s most prosperous cosmopolitan seaport. A group of ten gunmen attacked various tourist hubs and landmarks, including the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, the Oberoi-Trident Hotel, the Terminus, the Nariman House, Café Leopold, and the Cama and Albless Hospital. One hundred eighty-three people died, and over 300 were injured. The terrorists spared nobody, killing Indians, Israelis, British, and Americans.

These gunmen entered the city via the Arabian Sea, having hijacked and murdered the crew of a fishing boat en route from the Pakistani port of Karachi. The use of machine guns and grenades as well as flawless coordination allowed the ruthless gunmen to inflict massive damage. Heavy intake of cocaine and LSD allowed them to stay awake for the duration of the 60-hour attack. The gunmen also used advanced communication technology, including cell phones and satellite phones, to receive instructions from their compatriots across the border. Eyewitnesses of the attacks at Café Leopold stated that the gunmen looked like regular young boys; they wore designer t-shirts and jeans. Why then, would normal young men commit such a horrid crime?

The answer: brainwashing. The boys had been indoctrinated into the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LET), a Pakistani militant group. Literally translated as “Army of the Righteous,” its primary goal is to use jihad to institute Islamic rule in South Asia and other Muslim-inhabited regions. According to Seth Jones, an expert

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Fire at Taj Mahal Palace & Tower Hotel following the November 26-29 terrorist attack.