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Even if we don't understand, we must support our soldiers

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I was never there. This is the disclaimer I use when writing or talking about war.

I've stopped trying to imagine what combat is like. Without living the experience, imagining it is futile. The most I can do is understand what motivates a soldier, accept that motivation, and be there when they come home.

What fit, healthy, intelligent, highly-skilled person would voluntarily take a job in which they could be killed, wounded, taken prisoner, interrogated or have to take another human life? A soldier.

Why do they volunteer for combat when they don't have to? The reasons are as many and as personal as the individuals.

Service and duty to their country, regiment and fellow soldiers are high on the list. For some, it's a promise they vowed to keep. Some admit, almost guiltily, that they went for the fight, the personal challenge or the adventure. Others tell me no other experience puts life and death into such stark contrast, and they need those harsh definitions.

Their attitude to their work is hard to imagine unless you put soldiering into the context of other professions.

Imagine being a doctor with 20 years of training and theory under your belt but never practised on anyone other than a classmate, computer model or first-aid mannequin. Then, suddenly, you are offered the chance to save a life.

Imagine you are a teacher, standing up in front of rows of empty desks for over a decade, never having a single pupil, only imagining the challenge of instructing real children. Suddenly you are offered a roomful of students.

Now try to imagine being a soldier who has trained their body, mind, skills and endurance beyond the comprehension of most civilians. To paraphrase a line from the 1970s: If they gave a war, wouldn't you go?

Sometime over the fall and winter several of my friends will voluntarily go to war.

Some are young enough to be my sons and daughters, and I regard them as such. Every one of them goes with my blessing and my prayers. They will return changed; they will return as veterans.

At a military dinner last November, guest speaker Col. Chris Judd spoke of the large percentage of troops from the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada who have volunteered to serve in Afghanistan. He spoke of the importance of the military family in supporting those troops, both during their deployment and, most importantly, when they return home. He asked us to "close ranks around them, and protect them" because they will need us.

Obviously, their immediate family and loved ones are in the best position to do that, but I've seen how as a community and a region we close ranks around our returning soldiers and our veterans.

When some of the fusiliers were wounded a year ago, the community supported them, both emotionally and tangibly. Money donated to piper Cpl. Ryan Pagnacco was given to the Wounded Warriors' Fund.

Len Baxter has organized a team of volunteers committed to building a long-term care facility for veterans.

Local high school students made an emotional and awe-inspiring trip to the battlefields of France this year in order to participate in the 90th anniversary ceremonies at Vimy Ridge.

Children at St. Margaret's Catholic Elementary School in Cambridge, bring Christmas cards to veterans at the Galt legion every Nov. 11. Many times I've had to read these cards aloud because the veteran standing beside me could not see through his tears of gratitude and memories.

Ours is a community that cares, that lines the streets at parade time, and stands quietly at the cenotaphs on Remembrance Day.

Nov. 11 will soon be here. In the days leading up to it, remember our veterans, young and old. We civilians have never known the nightmares of combat. We've never had to endure and hang tough through such extreme conditions just to do our job. They have.

When you make a poppy donation, go to a cenotaph service or watch a parade, look into their eyes and remember what you see. Then look in a mirror and be grateful you too were never there.

To my friends: come safely home.

Nancy Morrey, of Cambridge, is a school librarian and the author of six books of prose and poetry. She was the city's artist in residence in 2005.

Where do we go from here?

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: CANADIAN PRESS / His face caked in Afghan dust, Warrant Officer Dennis Goodland of Bonavista, Nfld., returns to the Canadian operations base near Spin Doldak in Afghanistan. ;
BYLINE: J.L. GRANATSTEIN
SOURCE: FOR THE RECORD
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
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The governor-general wore the Canadian Forces decoration on her lapel, a dozen Afghanistan veterans sat at the front of the Senate Chamber (with its huge, splendid Great War paintings above them), and Rick Hillier, Canada's chief of the defence staff, stood behind the seated prime minister.

The first words in the speech were praise for the men and women serving in the military: "Their commitment and courage in the name of justice, equality and freedom — whose benefits are not accorded to all peoples in the world — are worthy of our utmost respect." It might almost have been a wartime opening of Parliament.

Indeed, the first substantive section of the Speech from the Throne was in a section called "Strengthening Canada's Sovereignty and Place in the World." This nation, the government proclaimed, is "built on a common heritage of values, which Canadians have fought and died to defend. It is a country that continues to attract newcomers seeking refuge and opportunity, who see Canada as a place where they can work hard, raise families and live in freedom. Our government is resolved to uphold this heritage."

Not least in Afghanistan, without doubt the most contentious issue on the nation's international agenda. With 2,000 troops in the field, with a very large aid budget committed there into the coming decade, Canada is up to its waist in the Kandahar poppy fields. The Canadian Forces are committed to their present combat role until February 2009, a role that offends Jack Layton and the New Democratic Party and that certainly upsets large numbers — but not a majority — of Canadians.

The prime minister had promised Parliament a vote on the future of the commitment, but then in a brilliant tactical move, he created an eminent persons panel to study that future commitment and put Hon. John Manley, a former Liberal cabinet minister, in charge of it. The panel is expected to report in February 2008. The decision took much of the force out of the present Afghan debate and gave the government an easy answer to all questions in Parliament: Wait until the panel reports.

But Stephen Harper, as Canadians have come to understand, is not without his shrewd stratagems. The Speech from the Throne observed that, "Nowhere is Canada making a difference more clearly than in Afghanistan. Canada has joined the United Nations-sanctioned mission in Afghanistan because it is noble and necessary."

Since most Canadians all-too-easily assume that Canada went to Afghanistan only because of American pressure, it is always useful to remind them that the mission was supported by the UN. And, the speech continued, "Canadians understand that development and security go hand in hand. Without security, there can

be no humanitarian aid, no reconstruction and no democratic development. Progress will be slow, but our efforts are bearing fruit." Security and aid go hand in hand, a truism if there ever was one. But too many Canadians fail to understand this, and so repetition here makes a point that needs constant reiteration.

Then the Harper government's speech cut to the chase: "The Canadian Forces mission has been approved by Parliament until February 2009, and our government has made clear to Canadians and our allies that any future military deployments must also be supported by a majority of parliamentarians. In the coming session, members will be asked to vote on the future of the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. This decision should honour the dedication and sacrifice of Canada's development workers, diplomats and men and women in uniform. It should ensure that progress in Afghanistan is not lost and that our international commitments and reputation are upheld." The progress made — and contrary to much popular blathering, measurable, genuine progress has been made — must not be lost.

The Conservative government "does not believe that Canada should simply abandon the people of Afghanistan after February 2009. Canada should build on its accomplishments and shift to accelerate the training of the Afghan army and police so that the Afghan government can defend its own sovereignty. This will not be completed by February 2009, but our government believes this objective should be achievable by 2011," the end of the period covered by the Afghanistan Compact signed in January 2006 that laid out the international community's reconstruction efforts there.

There is an element of carrots and sticks here. Canada has been trying without much success to get its NATO partners to commit more troops to the troubled southern regions of Afghanistan, and it has been searching for a role that will reduce casualties for its troops. The Throne Speech suggests strongly that Canada will fulfil its present commitments until February 2009, but then, it makes clear, the role will change — implicitly whether or not NATO members step in to fill the Canadian Forces' place in combat. After that date, Canada will devote itself to training the Afghanistan national army and police for two years more. That task might be in Kandahar province or, more likely, not. It might involve a few warrants and junior officers training recruits in a sheltered base, but it also might be — and quite possibly will be — a good-sized commitment of soldiers to train officers and men and to mentor them in the field in action. Such a role will certainly contain within it the prospect of casualties. And if, as the speech noted, there can be no development without security, so too can there be no successful training of the ANA and police without security.

A commitment of combat-ready troops will continue to be necessary until 2011 — and perhaps even longer than that.

What Harper has done with his appointment of the eminent persons panel and his rejigging of the Afghan debate to a new focus on 2011 is very shrewd. He has removed the prospect of an immediate parliamentary debate and pushed off a possible defeat on the Afghan deployment in the House of Commons at least until the coming February. There might well have been a general election by that date and, if so, a decision to pull out or remain in Afghanistan will be made in a very different political atmosphere. Nothing has been decided, and nothing will be decided at least until the Manley panel reports — but the term of the commitment nonetheless has been moved forward two years. The NDP and the Bloc Québécois will fume, and the Liberals (who, we need constant reminding, put Canada into Kandahar) will squirm, but Harper has outfoxed them again.

"There's been no attempt to put Liberals into an impossible position," Industry Minister Jim Prentice piously observed of the Manley panel. "The Liberals, led by Mr. Dion, find impossible positions by all themselves. It's an attempt to have a responsible debate, a non-partisan debate about an extremely important issue to the country."

So confused has the Liberal position been on Afghanistan that Prentice's comment seems completely reasonable and scarcely partisan at all.

Historian J.L. Granatstein writes on behalf of the Council for Canadian Security in the 21st Century.

Detainee case asks whether charter applies in Afghanistan

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A blizzard of legal arguments from the federal government is obscuring the fundamental issue of whether Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan are handing over detainees to face potential torture at the hands of local authorities, says Amnesty International.

Paul Champ, a lawyer for the human rights group, told Federal Court yesterday that it's time to get beyond narrow technical issues and move to the heart of the case.

"We are talking about a small, identifiable group of individuals and their right to be free from arbitrary detention . . . and most importantly, their fundamental right to be free from torture," said Champ.

Amnesty joined forces with the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association to launch a court action in February aimed at blocking the transfer of any more prisoners to Afghan authorities unless safeguards are put in place to ensure they won't be mistreated.

But government lawyers, using a tactic known as a motion to strike, are asking Justice Anne Mactavish to throw the case out of court before it can ever get to a detailed analysis of the constitutional issues at stake.

Alex Neve, head of the Canadian section of Amnesty, suggested the tactic is part of a strategy by the Conservative government to stall the case.

"We're deeply disappointed and profoundly frustrated," Neve said outside the courtroom. "It's not how an issue of such importance with respect to human rights should be dealt with."

The key argument advanced by the human rights groups is that Canada is violating the Charter of Rights and Freedoms by denying the Afghan detainees fundamental justice, access to legal counsel and protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

The courts have wrestled before with the extent to which the Charter applies to Canadian police operating abroad, and judges have set guidelines for them to follow in gathering evidence to be used back home.

This is the first case, however, that hinges on the actions of Canadian military personnel engaged in operations overseas — in effect, raising the question of whether the Constitution travels with the troops.

The distinction between police and soldiers is a key one, Champ argued.

"The actions of the military are far more robust than those of law-enforcement officers. In this case, we have military forces going to another country and taking over a zone of control."

Sanderson Graham, representing the federal Justice Department, contended earlier this week that the Charter doesn't apply in Afghanistan because Canada is not an occupying power there, and it would need the consent of the Afghan government to enforce Canadian legal rules.

Federal lawyers also maintain, as part of their motion to halt the case, that the key issues are political rather than judicial, that the court has no jurisdiction to hear such matters.

Graham has argued that, if the detainees want to complain of alleged abuses, they can always do so by taking legal action of their own in a Canadian court — a proposition dismissed by Champ as unrealistic.

"They are effectively barred from doing so by force," Champ told the court.

Whatever the judge eventually rules, either side could appeal on the preliminary question of whether the case should be allowed to proceed. Beyond that lie other potential delays.

U.S. legislators apologize to Arar

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS / Maher Arar testifies yesterday via video conference before a House joint oversight hearing on Rendition to Torture: The Case of Maher Arar on Capitol Hill in Washington. ;
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COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
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U.S. legislators apologized yesterday to Canadian Maher Arar for what he called an "immoral" anti-terror program called extraordinary rendition that let U.S. authorities seize and send him to Syria, where he was tortured.

Arar, 37, a telecommunications engineer, appeared before a joint hearing of U.S. House Representatives subcommittees by video from the University of Ottawa. Arar said he would have preferred to be there in person, but he's still on a U.S. government watch list and barred from the United States.

"Let me personally give you what our government has not: an apology," Democratic Representative Bill Delahunt said as he opened the hearing on Capitol Hill.

"Let me apologize to you and the Canadian people for our government's role in a mistake."

Arar said he was grateful for the legislators' apologies but hoped the U.S. government will eventually officially apologize to him.

"I would like them to acknowledge that what they did to me is wrong," Arar told reporters in Ottawa afterward. "Second, I would like them to commit that this will not happen to other human beings."

Arar told the hearing: "Let me be clear, I am not a terrorist, I am not a member of al-Qaida or any terror group."

"I am a father, a husband and an engineer. I am also a victim of the immoral practice of extraordinary rendition."

Arar recounted being thrown in a tiny cell and tortured into a false confession that he had trained at a terror camp in Afghanistan.

"Life in that cell was hell," he said. "I spent 10 months and 10 days in that grave."

Republican Representative Dana Rohrabacher also apologized, but said he would fight any efforts by Democrats to end extraordinary rendition — a practice under which terror suspects are grabbed by U.S. government agents and taken to another country where local authorities may torture confessions out of them.

Representative Jerrold Nadler, a Democrat, described what happened to Arar as "a kidnapping." He also apologized.

"Yes, we should be ashamed" of what happened in this case, Rohrabacher said. But the Republican added: "That is no excuse to end a program which has protected the lives of hundreds of thousands if not millions of American lives."

Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian citizen, was detained by Homeland Security agents on Sept. 26, 2002, as he stopped over in New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport en route home from a vacation.

Days later, he was flown by private jet to Syria where he was interrogated and tortured, according to Canadian officials and Arar himself. After nearly a year in a Syrian prison, he was released without charges and returned to Canada.

Back in Canada, a public inquiry headed by Justice Dennis O'Connor concluded that Arar had no link to terrorism. The inquiry also determined he was indeed tortured.

O'Connor's report, based on testimony from dozens of witnesses and thousands of pages of documents, says Arar was unfairly branded a terrorist by the RCMP, which shared that conclusion with U.S. authorities. The Americans in turn arrested Arar and sent him to Syria.

Some U.S. legislators pointedly said Arar's ordeal was prompted by the wrong intelligence from Canada.

Suspected suicide bomber kills 123

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: AFP / A man injured in a Thursday explosion in Karachi is given assistance. The blast killed 123 people and injured hundreds. The attack targeted a vehicle carrying former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto. ;

DATELINE: KARACHI

SOURCE: Reuters

WORD COUNT: 703

KARACHI (Reuters) — A suspected suicide bomber killed 123 people on Friday in an attack targeting former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto as she was driven through Karachi on her return from eight years in exile.

Officials said Bhutto was unhurt after one of the deadliest attacks in her country's history. She was quickly escorted away from the truck that had been carrying her through streets crowded with hundreds of thousands of wellwishers.

"Ms. Bhutto is safe and she has been taken to her residence," said Azhar Farooqui, a senior police officer in Karachi, after two explosions in quick succession rocked Bhutto's motorcade.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Militants linked to al Qaeda, angered by Bhutto's support for the United States war on terrorism, had earlier this week threatened to assassinate her.

Dr. Ejaz Ahmed, a police surgeon, told Reuters that 84 dead had been brought to three hospitals of the city. A doctor at another hospital said 39 bodies were lying there.

Police chief Farooqui said 260 people were wounded.

"The blasts hit two police vehicles which were escorting the truck carrying Ms. Bhutto. The target was the truck," he told Reuters.

"Investigations so far have revealed that it was suicide attack. There were two blasts and most probably one was suicide," Farooqui said, adding that there was no confirmation of reports that shots were also fired at the time of bombings.

Reuters photographer Athar Hussain was slightly wounded. He described "a ball of fire" bursting into the air and disappearing after the first blast. Hussain and another photographer on a truck following Bhutto's vehicle then rushed towards the site of the first blast.

"There was another blast and it was more powerful, then I knew it was a bomb attack."

He saw a television cameraman running in front of him killed.

"Bodies were scattered all over and wounded were crying for help. No one went near the bodies out of fear that there could be another blast," Hussain said.

Rescuers scrambled to drag bodies from the twisted wreckage of blazing vehicles as flames lit up the night sky after two apparent explosions in Pakistan's most violent city.

Rehman Malik, an aide to Bhutto who was travelling with her on the truck, said the blasts went off while she was resting inside the vehicle.

The attack took place shortly after midnight, some 10 hours after Bhutto had arrived in Pakistan from Dubai.

Bhutto appeared to have had forebodings of attempt on her life.

"They might try to assassinate me. I have prepared my family and my loved ones for any possibility," she told the pan-Arab Asharq al-Awsat newspaper.

President Pervez Musharraf, in a statement issued by the state run news agency, said the attack represented "a conspiracy against democracy".

In Washington, the White House condemned the attack.

"The United States condemns the violent attack in Pakistan and mourns the loss of innocent life there," Gordon Johndroe, White House National Security Council spokesman said.

"Extremists will not be allowed to stop Pakistanis from selecting their representatives through an open and democratic process."

French President Nicolas Sarkozy urged Pakistani authorities to guarantee the security of politicians in the run up to elections.

Speaking from Dubai, Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari told ARYONE World Television: "I blame government for these blasts. It is the work of the intelligence agencies."

Intelligence reports suggested at least three jihadi groups linked to al Qaeda and the Taliban were plotting suicide attacks, according to a provincial official.

Some 20,000 security personnel had been deployed to provide protection for the returning Bhutto.

"She has an agreement with America. We will carry out attacks on Benazir Bhutto as we did on General Pervez Musharraf," Haji Omar, a Taliban commander in the Waziristan tribal region on the Afghan border, told Reuters by satellite telephone as Bhutto headed for Pakistan.

Bhutto, 54, had returned from self-imposed exile to lead her Pakistan People's Party into national elections meant to return the country to civilian rule.

For years Bhutto had vowed to return to Pakistan to end military dictatorship, yet she came back as a potential ally for Musharraf, the army chief who took power in a 1999 coup.

The United States is believed to have quietly encouraged their alliance to keep nuclear-armed Pakistan pro-Western and committed to fighting al Qaeda and supporting NATO's efforts to stabilise Afghanistan.

Dressed in a green kameez, a loose tunic, her head covered by a white scarf, Bhutto had earlier stood in plain

view on top of her truck, ignoring police advice to stay behind its bullet proof glass, as it edged through crowds waving the red, black and green tricolour of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Even before Friday's attack, Bhutto's family history has been steeped in violence. Her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Pakistan's first popularly elected prime minister, was overthrown and hanged, while her two brothers were killed in mysterious circumstances, one gunned down in Karachi, the other found dead in a French Riviera hotel.

Big sticks and wasted words

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Theodore Roosevelt's excellent foreign policy advice for superpowers — "Speak softly and carry a big stick" — was uttered a few days before the assassination of President McKinley in 1901 thrust Roosevelt himself into the presidency. He was quoting, incidentally — an old West African proverb. And out of that quote came the phrase, "big-stick diplomacy."

It was a moment when the United States was coming of age as a world power, and asserting herself in new ways. Yet the phrase developed the Monroe Doctrine of 1823, in which an earlier American president had served notice to the European powers, that while the U.S. would be neutral in rivalries elsewhere in the world, she would not abide any further European imperial adventures in the Western Hemisphere. As late as 1962, this secular doctrine was being invoked by President Kennedy to warn the Soviet Union off an imperial adventure in Cuba. Yet like most constructions in words, it had borne a variety of interpretations in the intervening time, including Teddy Roosevelt's use of it to justify the United States' own imperial adventures in Panama, Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

Not that I'm always opposed to imperial adventures; nor opposed to making dogmatic statements about world affairs. There is a time and season for everything, including "big-stick diplomacy" in its broadest sense. This is what the Bush administration is doing today, or trying to do, in confronting Iran. It is a task in which some days their only ally appears to be Hillary Clinton — who, trying for her own purposes to sound presidential, seems no less willing to contemplate the use of force than the current U.S. defence secretary. And just this week she repeated Bush's exact words in Washington: "All options must remain on the table."

Well, not quite the only ally in pressuring Iran, for the new French president, Nicolas Sarkozy, has also uttered the words "all options," and already we see some prospect that the "Bush Doctrine" will outlive George W. Bush. It must: or there will soon be no West.

Meanwhile, Vladimir Putin, visiting Iran after a little game he played with the Russian media (in which his security services leaked an implausible assassination threat against him in Tehran, so that he could swagger and shrug it off), has been enunciating something like the Monroe Doctrine in Russian.

Russia and China together have been Iran's chief diplomatic protectors, sheltering the vicious regime of the ayatollahs against sanctions proposals at the UN. Russia has been the principal public source of aid and technology for Iran's vast nuclear complex at Bushehr.

In Tehran this week, speaking directly of a common interest in the resources of the Caspian Sea, at a conference with all the states of the Caspian littoral, Putin was nevertheless able to insinuate indirectly that the affairs of nations in that region "ain't nobody's business but their own." The general impression in the West, and my own impression, is that he is seeing how far he can get with words alone, since the Russians

themselves have been using every available pretext for withdrawing their workforce from Bushehr.

Likewise with Putin's recent threat to respond very negatively to the new U.S. missile shield, and the advanced bases the U.S. requires for it, on what the Russians call their doorsteps. But Russia is already behaving as if the Cold War never ended. What more can they do?

We now have another profoundly complicating factor, consisting of words, and in the very same region. The Democrat-controlled U.S. Congress, under what passes for the direction of Nancy Pelosi — a great enthusiast for empty gestures — recently proposed a declaration condemning the massacre of well over a million Christian Armenians in the twilight moments of the Muslim Ottoman Empire, 1915–17.

One might say that this remains a sensitive issue in Turkey. And one might add, that the Turkish threat to withdraw American access to NATO bases in Turkey (through which a considerable proportion of supplies are directed to Iraq and Afghanistan), is real. Similarly, the Turkish threat to begin armed incursions into northern, Kurdish, Iraq, to settle scores with Kurdish ethnic incendiaries in Turkey itself. Or the Turkish threat to settle scores with neighbouring Armenia, directly. One might even understand why the Bush administration, from the president down, has gone apoplectic in resisting this exceptionally stupid Congressional move.

Which is not to say the Armenian massacre didn't happen, or that it does not merit the remembrance and condemnation of every sentient being.

My point is rather Theodore Roosevelt's: that it behooves the U.S. and the West not to waste words in shouting, or in pointless historical scab-picking that will yield unintended present results.

It behooves us rather to carry a big stick, and to be ready to use it. That, and that alone, is how peace is maintained, in this grimly real world: by powerfully discouraging potential aggressors.

– Warren writes for the Ottawa Citizen.

Maher Arar speaks to U.S. Congress; Legislators apologize to Canadian for torture case

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PUBLICATION: Times & Transcript (Moncton)
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SECTION: News
PAGE: C1
BYLINE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Times & Transcript (Moncton)
WORD COUNT: 356

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"Let me personally give you what our government has not: an apology," Democratic Representative Bill Delahunt said as he opened the hearing.

"Let me apologize to you and the Canadian people for our government's role in a mistake."

Arar said he was grateful for the legislators' apologies but hoped the U.S. government will eventually officially apologize to him.

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In his first public appearance at an official U.S. hearing, Arar recounted being thrown in a tiny cell and tortured into a false confession that he had trained at a terror camp in Afghanistan.

"Life in that cell was hell. I spent 10 months and 10 days in that grave," he said.

Republican Representative Dana Rohrabacher also apologized, but said he would fight any efforts by Democrats to end the practice of extraordinary rendition.

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Representative Jerrold Nadler, another Democrat, described it as "a kidnapping." He also apologized to Arar.

"Yes, we should be ashamed" of what happened in this case, Rohrabacher said. But the Republican added: "That is no excuse to end a program which has protected the lives of hundreds of thousands if not millions of American lives."

Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian citizen, was detained by Homeland Security agents on Sept. 26, 2002, as he stopped over in New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport en route home from a vacation.

Days later, he was flown by private jet to Syria where he was interrogated and tortured, according to Canadian officials and Arar himself. After nearly a year in a Syrian prison, he was released without charges and returned to Canada.

Back in Canada, a public inquiry headed by Justice Dennis O'Connor ended earlier this year with the conclusion that Arar had no link to terrorism. The inquiry also determined Arar was indeed tortured.

Cdn. soldier killed in Aghanistan graduates

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PUBLICATION: Times & Transcript (Moncton)
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SECTION: News
PAGE: C12
BYLINE: THE CANADIAN PRESS
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Times & Transcript
(Moncton)
WORD COUNT: 99

A Canadian soldier has been given an arts degree from the University of Manitoba three months after being killed in Afghanistan.

Cpl. Jordan Anderson is the first member of the military in decades to be given a posthumous degree.

The 25-year-old had almost completed his political science major when he was killed by a roadside bomb near Kandahar in July.

His widow, Amanda Anderson, fought back tears as she described her husband as a dedicated man with an intense hunger for learning.

Three colleagues from Anderson's Edmonton-based regiment came to the university ceremony as a sign of respect and support.

Cpl. Adam Bowness said Anderson was very focused on his educational goals, and would frequently be found working on his papers while other soldiers partied.

Throne speech survives first challenge

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DATE: 2007.10.19
SECTION: News
PAGE: C4
BYLINE: THE CANADIAN PRESS
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Times & Transcript
(Moncton)
WORD COUNT: 208

The Conservatives breezed through the first vote on their throne speech yesterday as a Bloc Quebecois motion was soundly defeated.

The Liberals and NDP joined with the governing Tories to vote down the Bloc sub-amendment 240-48.

The sub-amendment -- to a Liberal amendment -- seemed designed to antagonize other parties and was doomed to fail. It blamed the Conservative government and the previous Liberal one for failing to fight climate change.

It also demanded an end to Ottawa's spending power in areas controlled by the provinces, and called for concrete measures to help workers affected by Quebec's forestry crisis.

The lack of drama in the House of Commons yesterday was in stark contrast to the previous day when it appeared the minority government might be in danger of falling -- until the Liberals announced they would let the throne speech pass.

The speech declared that Canada will not meet its Kyoto targets and suggests Canadian troops should continue their current Afghanistan mission until 2011.

Both those elements contradict the policies of all opposition parties and could have been enough to trigger an election -- except for the fact that the weakened Liberals aren't ready to fight a campaign.

The throne speech also promised tax cuts and a new omnibus crime bill that was introduced in the House of Commons on Thursday.

The wide margin of defeat for the Bloc motion wasn't the only reason for the anti-climactic atmosphere.

The Tories announced before the vote that they wouldn't consider the sub- amendment as a test of confidence.

Letters | Plan needed for disabled adults

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PUBLICATION: The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
DATE: 2007.10.19
SECTION: Opinion
PAGE: B7
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 The Daily Gleaner
(Fredericton)
WORD COUNT: 931

The Oct. 13 Daily Gleaner was interesting reading with its focus on a broad variety of issues surrounding the looming "seniors boom."

Some articles caused concern and some tended to give heart. The Oct. 15 editorial raised issues about housing for low income seniors.

One serious issue that has been missed completely however, and one over which society seems to be burying its head in the sand, is that of a rapidly growing and aging population of intellectually disabled citizens.

This generation of intellectually disabled men and women will be the first in history to outlive their parents.

This should be as big a concern to bureaucrats, politicians and every taxpayer, for at some point society is going to have to carry the cost of caring for the thousands who are left with no means of support and nowhere to turn.

All parents with a son or daughter with an intellectual disability are either concerned (if their child is 20 years old), worried (if their child is 30 years old) or scared to death (if their child is 40 years old) about their child's future.

Preparing for the inevitable is going to take investment on the part of society. There is a great deal of planning needed and some of the investments need to begin immediately.

OPAL Family Services is a small Fredericton charity that serves parents with children with intellectual disabilities. Currently, we are helping 130 families to get respite from the 24–7–365 lifetime care parents provide.

Studies show even a small amount of respite, maybe as little as two to three hours a week, help parents cope. Being able to keep their child at home for as long as possible is the goal of every parent. However, as parents age their ability to cope erodes. There in lies a huge challenge.

Thanks to the Fredericton Community Foundation, OPAL will be able to carry on the work started by New Brunswick Association for Community Living with a small group of aging parents who want to address their children's futures.

While we appreciate the foundation's support in this important effort, it can only help a dozen or so families in our community and there are hundreds, no thousands, across N.B. who don't know where to begin.

OPAL hopes that by pioneering a program in Fredericton a small step will be made in the right direction. Governments everywhere need to begin the process of solving the problems while they are still only a trickle

because the flood is coming and nothing is going to stop it.

Mike Ross

Executive director

OPAL Family Services

Fredericton

No-war promise not kept

The federal government has created a political panel to study the Afghanistan mission. (Oct. 13 Daily Gleaner)

As a veteran, Canadian citizen and grandparent, I find the whole issue difficult.

The United Nations Charter preamble, "We the people determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war . . ." haunts me every Remembrance Day. I grieve at every war casualty and press release about the war. To me, it is succeeding generations being sacrificed because we abandoned the United Nations' goal.

The saddest point is that Canada invented Peacekeeping with the Blue Berets in 1956 for the UN. We became world famous for stopping war over the Suez Canal and many places since. My hopes and spirits soared when the Blue Berets, supported by United Nations members, succeeded.

Before we decide on the future of the Afghanistan war, I want to know why we have abandoned the United Nations, the Blue Berets and the no-war promise to save children from war.

Every war since 1945 betrays those who gave their lives to make the United Nations possible and succeeding generations at war today.

Every Peacekeeping operation since 1956 supported United Nations goals and made the sacrifices of the Second World War worthwhile.

R.H. Young

Fredericton

Thanks to MD supporters

On behalf of the central N.B. chapter of Muscular Dystrophy Canada, I wish to thank all those who attended our 11th annual auction at the Fredericton

Inn.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers who made this event a tremendous success as we raised \$12,700.

It was a great team effort.

Richard Steeves

Chapter President

Central NB Chapter

Muscular Dystrophy Canada

Durham Bridge, N.B.

Ambulance change protested

I wish to protest the reduced service of the Harvey Ambulance.

Beginning Dec. 16, Harvey ambulance will be available only during the day, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

I guess we are not to get sick after 9 p.m. unless we are prepared to wait. Fredericton is 25 miles away; McAdam 32 miles from our area.

The Harvey ambulance is very busy most days and nights. We have had to call this ambulance many times, and they respond quickly.

The people of Harvey and surrounding areas have worked hard to keep our little hospital and ambulance.

Accidents are another concern. With an ambulance nearby, this means our ambulance can be ready to go, and we won't be waiting for one from elsewhere to

arrive.

What is the health minister thinking? Better health-care service is certainly not on his mind. This is the most stupid, ridiculous thing the government has come up with. They better think about this more before going ahead.

We will remember as another election comes around.

Call or write your protests to MPs and MLAs if you care about this.

Phyllis Grass

Lake George, N.B.

University changes nightmarish

When I think about Shawn Graham's drive to take our university from us in Saint John, I can not help but think that he draws inspiration from the teachings of Karl Marx.

We have local politicians afraid to speak out. We have central planning.

In my mind I envision Leader Graham sitting around the politburo in Fredericton privately espousing his vision for the Fatherland to Comrades Doherty, MacIntyre, Keir, Shreyer, Leblanc and Jamieson.

"Comrades, we will make Fredericton our education centre; we will make Saint John our industrial centre; we will make Moncton our shopping centre."

In unison, "Yes, Comrade Leader."

"We must train our young comrades in Saint John to work in our factories. We must create a polyschool in Saint John to replace that school of dissidents, UNBSJ."

In unison, "Yes, Comrade Leader."

I also muse whether or not Leader Graham will require students at this new ill-defined (and ill-fated) "polyschool" to wear uniforms. If so, it is a sure bet they will be red.

I pray he will not decree that a marble statue of himself be erected at Tucker Park, the home of our soon to be lost university, UNBSJ.

In my nightmare, I see him in a striding pose, zealously and longingly gazing past his outstretched arm, a copy of the Minor Manifesto on Post Secondary Education in his hand.

The inscription on the statue's base reads "Comrades Unite."

My nightmare subsides when I envision the citizens of Saint John pulling the monstrosity down after the next election.

Bill Rankin

Saint John, N.B.

Exposure therapy most effective post-trauma stress treatment

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EDITION: Final

SECTION: Body & Health

PAGE: A19

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Los Angeles Times / Albert "Skip" Rizzo, a psychologist and University of Southern California professor, who helped adapt the computer therapy, displays an image used to treat PTSD. ;

KEYWORDS: 0

BYLINE: Rob Waters

SOURCE: Bloomberg News

WORD COUNT: 595

Therapy that lets combat veterans and others relive a traumatic event in a safe setting is the only technique proven to effectively treat post-traumatic stress disorder, said a report released Thursday.

The approach, called exposure therapy, was developed in the 1980s for Vietnam War veterans and has been used to help rape victims. This and other methods are being used to treat tens of thousands of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with the disorder.

High dropout rates and other flaws in studies examining use of psychiatric medications and other forms of psychotherapy left a panel of experts uncertain as to whether those methods work. The panel, convened by the Institute of Medicine, an independent scientific body that advises the U.S. government, reviewed 90 studies that tested different techniques at the request of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"These therapies may or may not be effective — we just don't know in the absence of good data," said Alfred Berg, a professor of family medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle, and chairman of the IOM panel. There is an "urgent need for high-quality studies" that can guide future treatment, he said in an e-mailed statement.

People with the disorder, known as PTSD, suffer from intrusive thoughts and memories of traumatic events. They often have flashbacks and nightmares, and may have panicked reactions to normal events that trigger these memories, such as a car backfiring or a helicopter flying overhead.

These symptoms were known as "shell shock" in First World War veterans and "Vietnam syndrome" in veterans of that war. They often don't surface until many months after the trauma. Nearly 13 per cent of soldiers who served in Iraq, and sought treatment from hospitals and clinics run by the Department of Veterans Affairs, were diagnosed with PTSD, according to a study published earlier this year.

In exposure therapy, patients are carefully exposed to prolonged and repeated images of the trauma until the images no longer cause severe anxiety. Previous studies of the technique have found that it reduces nightmares, flashbacks, memory and concentration problems, and irritability.

It's not only combat veterans who suffer from PTSD. The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that 5.2 million adults aged 18 to 54 in the U.S. have the disorder, including people who've been sexually assaulted or who live in areas with high rates of violent crime. Studies showed that after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, there was an increase of PTSD among residents of New York City, especially children.

The IOM panel reviewed 53 studies of psychiatric drugs, including antidepressants, antipsychotics and sedatives, and found no clear evidence that any of them were effective. The studies were hampered by dropout rates as high as 30 to 50 per cent and "weak handling" of data, the committee found.

Even though two of the antidepressants, Pfizer Inc.'s Zoloft and GlaxoSmithKline's Paxil, are approved by U.S. regulators to treat PTSD, the committee did not find the evidence supporting their use to be convincing.

The committee also noted that most of the drug studies were sponsored by pharmaceutical companies, and many of the 47 studies of psychotherapy were conducted by the researchers who developed the techniques being tested. This raised questions about the independence and validity of the studies, the panel said.

The committee urged the veterans' agency to increase support for research into treatments for PTSD and to "ensure that studies are conducted by individuals and in settings without potential financial or intellectual conflicts of interest."

Most Afghans want troops to stay: poll

PUBLICATION: Kingston Whig–Standard (ON)

DATE: 2007.10.19

SECTION: National/World

PAGE: 9

COLUMN: In brief

WORD COUNT: 119

A poll of Afghans suggests a strong majority want NATO–led troops including Canadians to stay to fight and help them rebuild their country. The results are in what Environics Research bills as the first ever public opinion poll conducted in person in Afghanistan on behalf of The Globe and Mail, the CBC and La Presse. Published accounts of the poll reported that 60 per cent said that the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing. Only 16 per cent said it was a bad thing, while 22 per cent said it was equally good and bad.

American legislators apologize to Maher Arar

PUBLICATION:	Kingston Whig–Standard (ON)
DATE:	2007.10.19
SECTION:	National/World
PAGE:	9
SOURCE:	The Canadian Press
BYLINE:	Devlin Barrett
PHOTO:	AP
DATELINE:	WASHINGTON
ILLUSTRATION:	Maher Arar appears by video at a hearing of U.S. House Representatives subcommittees on rendition yesterday.
WORD COUNT:	567

U.S. legislators apologized yesterday to Canadian Maher Arar for his seizure by U.S. officials who took him to Syria where he was tortured in what he called an "immoral" American anti-terror program called extraordinary rendition.

Arar, 37, a telecommunications engineer, appeared before a joint hearing of U.S. House Representatives subcommittees by video from Ottawa.

He is still on a U.S. government watch list and barred from entering the United States.

"Let me personally give you what our government has not: an apology," Democratic Representative Bill Delahunt said as he opened the hearing.

"Let me apologize to you and the Canadian people for our government's role in a mistake."

Arar said he was grateful for the legislators' apologies but hoped the U.S. government will eventually officially apologize to him.

"Let me be clear, I am not a terrorist, I am not a member of al-Qaida or any terror group," Arar said.

"I am a father, a husband and an engineer. I am also a victim of the immoral practice of extraordinary rendition."

In his first public appearance at an official U.S. hearing, Arar recounted being thrown in a tiny cell and tortured into a false confession that he had trained at a terror camp in Afghanistan.

"Life in that cell was hell. I spent 10 months and 10 days in that grave," he said.

Republican Representative Dana Rohrabacher also apologized, but said he would fight any efforts by Democrats to end the practice of extraordinary rendition.

In the practice, terror suspects are grabbed by U.S. government agents and taken to another country where local authorities may torture confessions out of them.

Representative Jerrold Nadler, another Democrat, described it as "a kidnapping."

He also apologized to Arar.

"Yes, we should be ashamed" of what happened in this case, Rohrabacher said.

But the Republican added: "That is no excuse to end a program which has protected the lives of hundreds of thousands if not millions of American lives."

Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian citizen, was detained by Homeland Security agents on Sept. 26, 2002, as he stopped over in New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport en route home from a vacation. Days later, he was flown by private jet to Syria where he was interrogated and tortured, according to Canadian officials and Arar himself.

After nearly a year in a Syrian prison, he was released without charges and returned to Canada.

Back in Canada, a public inquiry headed by Justice Dennis O'Connor ended earlier this year with the conclusion that Arar had no link to terrorism.

The inquiry also determined Arar was indeed tortured.

O'Connor's report, based on testimony from dozens of witnesses and thousands of pages of documents, says Arar was unfairly branded a terrorist by the RCMP, which shared that conclusion with U.S. authorities.

The Americans in turn arrested Arar and sent him to Syria.

In August, previously censored portions of O'Connor's findings were released.

The material showed the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had suspicions early on that the CIA had shipped Arar to a third country and that he could face torture.

There was no indication, however, that CSIS alerted its political masters at that time.

It was also disclosed that the RCMP had used evidence obtained abroad from other suspects – likely under torture – to obtain search and wiretap warrants in Canada for its anti-terrorist investigations.

The Canadian government has apologized to Arar for its role in the case and agreed to pay him C\$10.5 million in compensation.

The administration of U.S. President George W. Bush has not apologized. Despite appeals from top Canadian officials, Arar is still barred from travelling to the United States.

The U.S. administration has refused to say much about its extraordinary rendition program, other than it is an extremely important tool in combating terrorists.

Legal experts say the case shows the United States has violated a 1998 law specifically prohibiting the government from turning a suspect over to a foreign country when they think that country may torture the suspect.

U.S. authorities say they get diplomatic assurances the person will not be tortured before turning them over. Nadler scoffed at such an assurance from Syria, which he says is not trusted by the U.S. administration itself.

The hearing comes a day before Hollywood is to offer its own take on the contentious anti-terror program: *Rendition*, starring Reese Witherspoon, opens in theatres today.

Amnesty: Ottawa clouding Afghan detainee issue

PUBLICATION: The
Chronicle–Herald
DATE: 2007.10.19
SECTION: Canada
PAGE: A11
WORD COUNT: 214

OTTAWA (CP) – A blizzard of legal arguments from the federal government is obscuring the fundamental issue of whether Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan are handing over detainees to face potential torture at the hands of local authorities, says Amnesty International.

Paul Champ, a lawyer for the human rights group, told Federal Court on Thursday that it's time to get beyond narrow technical issues and move to the heart of the case.

"We are talking about a small, identifiable group of individuals and their right to be free from arbitrary detention . . . and most importantly, their fundamental right to be free from torture," said Champ.

Amnesty joined forces with the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association to launch a court action in February aimed at blocking the transfer of any more prisoners to Afghan authorities unless procedural safeguards are put in place to ensure they won't be mistreated.

But government lawyers, using a tactic known as a motion to strike, are asking Justice Anne Mactavish to throw the case out of court before it can ever get to a detailed analysis of the constitutional issues at stake.

Alex Neve, head of the Canadian section of Amnesty, suggested the tactic is part of a strategy by the Conservative government to stall the case in the hope it will peter out.

U.S. legislators offer apology to Arar; Torture victim wants U.S. government to do the same

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald

DATE: 2007.10.19

SECTION: World

PAGE: A9

SOURCE: The Associated Press

BYLINE: Devlin Barrett

ILLUSTRATION: Maher Arar testifies via video conference before U.S. House of Representatives subcommittees in Washington on Thursday. (Kevin Wolf / AP)

WORD COUNT: 416

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"Let me apologize to you and the Canadian people for our government's role in a mistake."

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U.S. legislators offer apology to Arar; Torture victim hopes someday U.S. government will do the same

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald

DATE: 2007.10.19

SECTION: World

PAGE: A6

SOURCE: The Associated Press

BYLINE: Devlin Barrett

ILLUSTRATION: Maher Arar testifies via video conference before U.S. House of Representatives subcommittees in Washington on Thursday. (Kevin Wolf / AP)

WORD COUNT: 523

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The Americans in turn arrested Arar and sent him to Syria.

In August, previously censored portions of O'Connor's findings were released. The material showed the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had suspicions early on that the CIA had shipped Arar to a third country and that he could face torture. There was no indication, however, that CSIS alerted its political masters at that time.

It was also disclosed that the RCMP had used evidence obtained abroad from other suspects – likely under torture – to obtain search and wiretap warrants in Canada for its anti-terrorist investigations.

The Canadian government has apologized to Arar for its role in the case and agreed to pay him C\$10.5 million in compensation.

The administration of U.S. President George W. Bush has not apologized. Despite appeals from top Canadian officials, Arar is still barred from travelling to the United States.

First attempt to alter Tory throne speech fails, MPs reject Bloc Quebecois motion

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OTTAWA – The Conservatives breezed through the first vote on their throne speech Thursday as a Bloc Quebecois motion was soundly defeated.

The Liberals and NDP joined with the governing Tories to vote down the Bloc sub–amendment 240–48.

The sub–amendment – to a Liberal amendment – seemed designed to antagonize other parties and was doomed to fail.

It blamed the Conservative government and the previous Liberal one for failing to fight climate change.

It also demanded an end to Ottawa's spending power in areas controlled by the provinces and called for concrete measures to help workers affected by Quebec's forestry crisis.

The lack of drama in the House of Commons on Thursday was in stark contrast to the previous day when it appeared the minority government might be in danger of falling – until the Liberals announced they would let the throne speech pass.

The speech declared that Canada will not meet its Kyoto targets and suggests Canadian troops should continue their current Afghanistan mission until 2011.

Both those elements contradict the policies of all opposition parties and could have been enough to trigger an election – except for the fact that the weakened Liberals aren't ready to fight a campaign.

The throne speech also promised tax cuts and a new omnibus crime bill that was introduced in the House of Commons on Thursday.

The wide margin of defeat for the Bloc motion wasn't the only reason for the anti–climactic atmosphere.

The Tories announced before the vote that they wouldn't consider the sub–amendment as a test of confidence.

The policy–setting throne speech will face two more key votes next week: on a Liberal amendment and then on the speech itself.

The Liberal decision not to oppose the speech has prompted ridicule from the NDP, who accuse the Grits of capitulating to the Conservative agenda.

[WINNIPEG (CP)– When Cpl. Jordan Anderson wasn't working in the dangerous terrain of Afghanistan, he had his nose in a book, working on his...]

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Chronicle–Herald
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WINNIPEG (CP) – When Cpl. Jordan Anderson wasn't working in the dangerous terrain of Afghanistan, he had his nose in a book, working on his university courses.

On Thursday, three months after he was killed by a roadside bomb in the war–torn country, Anderson became the first Canadian soldier since the Korean War to get a posthumous degree. The 25–year–old was remembered by friends as a dedicated soldier and by his widow as a man with an intense hunger for knowledge.

"He would read something in the newspaper . . . and he'd go home and he'd look it up on the Internet," Amanda Anderson told reporters as she fought back tears before accepting the arts degree on her husband's behalf from the University of Manitoba. "I wish it wasn't me doing it, I wish it was him. But I'll do it. It's an honour."

Some of her husband's colleagues from the Edmonton–based 3rd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry came to the event in a show of support for the young man who was often seen with his nose in the books. OTTAWA (CP) – Former astronaut Marc Garneau has decided to run for the federal Liberals after all.

Only two weeks ago, the star recruit announced that he was quitting politics because he felt he was not part of Liberal Leader Stephane Dion's vision.

But now Dion is poised to announce that he's appointing Garneau to carry the party banner in the Montreal riding of Westmount–Ville–Marie.

Westmount is among the safest Liberal ridings in the country. The riding's incumbent, Lucienne Robilliard, has decided not to seek re–election.

OTTAWA (CP) – The glittering rock on the ring finger of Tory MP Helena Guergis in the House of Commons on Thursday made it official. She and Rahim Jaffer, her longtime dating partner and fellow Tory MP, are engaged. The two, who regularly make the top three in Parliament Hill's "Sexiest" and "Best–dressed" lists, have been dating for more than 18 months.

Guergis, 38, is MP for the Ontario riding of Simcoe–Grey, a secretary of state for foreign affairs and was first elected in 2004. Jaffer, 35, member for Edmonton–Strathcona, has been an MP since 1997.

The two announced their engagement during the weekly Conservative caucus meeting, but offered no word on how to amalgamate a two–province, two–riding household.

MONTREAL (CP) – Justin Trudeau and Sophie Gregoire celebrated the birth of their first child Thursday, on what would also have been former prime minister Pierre Trudeau's 88th birthday.

Xavier James Trudeau bounced into the world shortly after midnight weighing nine pounds, two ounces.

Pierre Trudeau was born Oct. 18, 1919. He died in 2000. Friends of the couple say the new mother is doing well and Justin Trudeau is overjoyed.

Trudeau is the Liberal candidate in Montreal–area Papineau riding for the next federal election and a former teacher. Justin Trudeau's wife is a reporter for the CTV entertainment show eTalk.

[WINNIPEG (CP)– When Cpl. Jordan Anderson wasn't working in the dangerous terrain of Afghanistan, he had

CEILIDHS ACROSS THE ISLAND

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Ceilidh is held every Friday, beginning at 8 p.m., at the Dundas Plowing Match Hall. There will also be a 50/50 draw and a light lunch. Admission is \$4.

Appreciation ceilidh for Esther Mosher as well as the Len Buell/Billy McCormick CD launch will be held at the Murray Harbour Community Centre, Saturday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. Also appearing will be Norman Stewart, Johnny Beers, Bill Porter, Atwood O'Connor, Edna MacMaster, Lorraine McCormack, Leith MacCarron, Marie MacIntyre, Urban Chaisson, Harry Buell, Garnet Buell, Doreen Harding, the Murray Harbour Six, Janine Chapman, Cecil and Elaine Mosher and more. A light lunch will be provided, and there will be donations at the door.

Fiddle Doo and Potluck will be held Saturday, Oct. 20, 2–7 p.m., at the New London Complex in New London. A bus with entertainers from New Brunswick, including fiddle champion Winston Crawford, will be arriving, and all Island fiddlers and accompanists are invited to take part as there will be lots of group playing. People are welcome to come and listen as well. There is free admission to this afternoon of music and food, although donations will be appreciated to help cover expenses. Anyone who would like to have more information is encouraged to call Mary Smith at 963–2356.

Ceilidh will be held at St. Joseph's Community Centre, Kellys Cross, on Sunday, Oct. 21, starting at 7 p.m., with local and Island entertainment, singing, dancing, fiddling, a 50/50 draw and an open mike. Admission is \$5, which includes lunch. Proceeds are in aid of the renovation fund.

Ceilidh is at the Monticello Log Hall (Route 16) on Sunday, Oct. 21, 8 p.m., with fiddling, singing, square, step and round dancing, an open mike, canteen facilities, a 50/50 draw and a light lunch. Admission is adults, \$4, students (over 12), \$1, 12 and under, free. Anyone who would like more information should call 687–3368.

Bluegrass and Old-time Country Jamborees are at the Summerside Legion, 340 Notre Dame St., every Tuesday until Oct. 30, 7–9 p.m., followed by a jam, 9–10 p.m. Bring an instrument and join in. Everyone is welcome. The cost is \$5 per person. On Tuesday, Oct. 23, performers include Ivan Daigle of Borden–Carleton, the Country Grass Band (Leonard Perry, Bill Walsh, John Campbell and Guy Cormier) and Darleen MacWilliams plus others not yet confirmed. For more information or to perform at the open mike, contact Guy, 436–6943, or Darleen, 886–2935. There will also be a 50/50 draw with proceeds to the Prince County Hospital Equipment Fund.

Ceilidh is at the St. Peter's Circle Club, Mondays, 8–11 p.m. Admission is \$4 with lunch and a 50/50 draw.

Ceilidh is at the Silver Threads, Souris, every Wednesday, 8 p.m. There will be good music, a 50/50 draw and a lunch served. Admission is \$4.

Kitchen party is at Brennan's Pub, Victoria Row, Charlottetown, every Thursday evening.

Old-fashioned Acadian kitchen party will be held on Friday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m., at Rustico Bay Senior Citizen's Club, Civic #2104, Rustico, Route 243, featuring Michael, Monique and Angela Pendergast and fiddler Andy Gallant. There will also be an open mike with lots of local talent. People are encouraged to bring their instruments. Everyone is welcome. It is being sponsored by le Conseil acadien de Rustico. Admission is adults, \$5, with children under 12 admitted free.

CONCERTS – LAUNCHES– DANCES – LIVE CLUB MUSIC

Concerts

Cape Breton father-daughter fiddlers Kinnon and Andrea Beaton have just released a new CD, titled Kinnon and Andrea, featuring Betty Lou Beaton on piano and Sandy MacDonald on guitar, and they will be performing in concert on Friday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m., at the Kings Playhouse in Georgetown. Admission is \$12. Tickets are available in advance at the theatre or by phoning 1-888-346-5666 or 652-2053. Doors open at 7 p.m. for seating.

Oktoberfest will be held at The Mack, Charlottetown, Friday, Oct. 19, beginning at 8 p.m. Performers include Wade Lynch, Catherine O'Brien and the Olde Abbie Oompah Division. Tickets for this P.E.I. Presents event are available at the Confederation Centre of the Arts box office.

Jams are at the Royal Canadian Legion, Souris, Friday nights with free admission and a 50/50 draw.

The Cavern in the Centre for Performing Arts, 20 School St., Montague, has open mike nights on Fridays. All performers, artists, musicians, dancers, jugglers, comics, actors, improv, must sign up one week in advance by contacting thecavernmontague@hotmail.com or by calling 838-ARTS. It is an all-ages event. Admission is \$5 at the door.

Benefit variety concert in aid of the Donnie Walfield family will be held at the Summerside Legion (upstairs) on Saturday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. Donnie has been diagnosed with multiple myeloma cancer and is currently receiving treatment. There will be local talent, bake table, snacks and a live auction as well as a 50/50 and more. All are welcome over the age of 19.

J.P. Cormier is at the Harbourfront Jubilee Theatre in Summerside on Saturday, Oct. 20, beginning at 8 p.m. This concert is rescheduled from a May concert, which was postponed after Cormier accepted an invitation to play for troops in Afghanistan. Tickets are available at the theatre box office. Those still holding tickets for the May concert may exchange them at the box office.

Atlantic Smile Theatre fundraiser with Joey Kitson, Chris Corrigan, Terry Hatty, Chas Guay, Ian Thoms, Julain Mulnar, Hank Stinson and Catherine O'Brien will be on stage at The Guild, Queen Street, Charlottetown, Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12.50 for seniors and are available through The Guild box office.

Hot Shots Saturday night jam will be held Saturday, Oct. 20, beginning at 9 p.m. Musicians are invited to bring along their guitar to Charlottetown's newest music venue. For information, call 892-0817.

The Cavern Band Showcase Saturday nights are held at 20 School St., one block off Main Street, Montague. Call 838-ARTS or e-mail thecavernmontague@hotmail.com for more information or to book a band. This is a chem-free event. Admission is \$5.

Slow bluegrass jams are held every Sunday night at the Murphy Community Centre, 200 Richmond St., room 106, 6:30-9:30 p.m. There is no cost, and everyone is welcome. Come out and bring a guitar, banjo, dobro, mandolin, fiddle or harmonica. Call Caroline Jones at 569-2471 or e-mail jonescb@eastlink.ca.

The P.E.I. Symphony will present Gems from the Romantic Era on Sunday, Oct. 21, 2:30 p.m., on the mainstage of Confederation Centre of the Arts. Special guests include Robert Lord, piano, and Christina Bouey, violin. Tickets are available through the Confederation Centre box office.

Benefit hymn sing will be held on Sunday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m., at Alexandra Baptist Church, 1140 Pownal Rd., featuring the Between Friends quartet. All are welcome. Refreshments will follow. Proceeds are in aid of breast cancer research and the church building and repair fund. For information, contact Pastor Dennis Wells, 367-1618, or dwells@eastlink.ca.

The Celtic Ladies kick off their fall concert series on Sunday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m., at St. Columba Parish church in Fairfield, just east of Souris. Admission is \$12 at the door with pre-schoolers free. A portion of the proceeds from the door will be donated to each church. The next show is at Assumption Parish Centre in Stratford on Friday, Oct. 26, followed by St. Bonaventure's Parish in Tracadie Cross, Sunday, Oct. 28, St. John's Presbyterian Church in Belfast, Sunday, Nov. 4, and All Saints Parish in Cardigan, Sunday, Nov. 11. All shows start at 7:30 p.m.

Concert featuring pianist Su Jeon, winner of the 2007 Eckhardt-Gramatte National Music Competition, will be held Tuesday, Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m., at the Dr. Steel Recital Hall, UPEI. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors.

Enjoy an evening of gospel music with Dino and the Harmonies at the Robert L. Cotton Centre in Stratford, with new originals as well as good old gospel, on Oct. 23 starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 at the door. A percentage of the proceeds will be going to charities in the community. For any further information, contact Keila at 626-3931.

World-class Elvis impersonator Thane Dunn and his eight-piece band The Cadillac Kings are on stage at Confederation Centre of the Arts, Thursday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at Confederation Centre box office.

An old-fashioned concert will be presented by the Schizophrenia Society of P.E.I., Friday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m., in the Carrefour Theatre, Ecole Francois-Buote (French school), 5 Promenade Acadienne, Charlottetown. Entertainers include host Cecil MacPhail, Cameron Francis, a P.E.I. youth champion step dancer; The O'Grady's, Lester MacPherson, award-winning country music artist Norman Stewart, fiddler Courtney Hogan and Teresa Bernard, an 80-year-old senior who has just released her first CD. Tickets are \$8 at the door, from MacPhail at 675-2210 or the Schizophrenia Society of P.E.I., 368-5850. There will also be a sale of homemade fudge and canteen service.

Park Royal United Church annual fall variety concert is Friday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m., featuring the MacRae Brothers, Blue Grass Revival, the Queens County Fiddlers, Gary Chipman, Rising Tide, Dawne MacFadyen, Paige LeClair and Hank Stinson. The concert is in aid of church projects and outreach projects. Tickets are \$10 and are available from the church office, Proude's Shoes or from Tom O'Leary at 566-1657. Cookies and fudge are available at intermission.

The Legend in Black, the songs and stories of John and June Carter Cash, will be presented on Oct. 26, 8 p.m., on the mainstage of Confederation Centre of the Arts. Tickets are \$28.50 and are available at the box office.

GodSent, a youth group from First United Church in Sydney, N.S., will present a concert at Summerside Presbyterian Church on Oct. 27, 7:30-9 p.m. This will be an evening of contemporary gospel and inspirational music for all ages. Light refreshments will be served. A freewill offering will be taken with proceeds going toward the building fund. All are welcome.

The Parish of Saint Jude and St. Simon, Tignish, is presenting an afternoon of music in the church on Sunday,

Oct. 28, 2 p.m., prior to disassembling the beautiful original organ for restoration. There will be organ solos, a choir presentation and guests Judy Donovan Whitty (organ/voice) with young singer Aaron Waite of Charlottetown. All are welcome. If further information is needed, call Antoinette Perry, 882-2653, or Judy, 569-3496.

Fanningbank Recital Series, featuring UPEI music students and hosted by Lt.-Gov. Barbara A. Hagerman, will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m., at Fanningbank. There is no admission charged.

Ivan Daigle with friends Cody Brown and Jerome Arsenault will be performing Nov. 1 at the St. Louis Community Centre, St. Louis, starting at 8 p.m. Come and listen to some good new and classic country music. Admission is \$5. A light snack will be served.

Join The UFIT Cares Foundation and friends who are hosting a Not So Silent Night music event at Fishbones (Victoria Row) on Friday, Nov. 2, to raise funds for families in need this Christmas. Doors open at 6 p.m. Cover charge is \$7 (19 and over).

CD launches

Sean Kemp will hold a CD release concert for Moscow Madness at Brennan's, Victoria Row, Charlottetown, Friday, Oct. 19, getting underway at 10 p.m. CDs will be available for sale. Full tour information is available at www.myspace.com/seankempband.

Billy McCormack and Len Buell will release their debut CD, entitled Nothin' Fancy, on Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Murray Harbour Community Centre, beginning at 7 p.m. The launch will coincide with an appreciation night for Esther Mosher, and donations collected at the door will be given to her. CDs will be available for \$10. A lunch will also be served at intermission. For information or to order a CD, call Buell at 838-2994 or e-mail nothinfancy2007@hotmail.com.

dances

Benefit dance is being held to raise funds to help the unborn child of a British Columbia couple with roots in Cornwall, P.E.I. Matthew Gaudet and Barb Corkum have had their new unborn baby diagnosed with a congenital heart disease. The couple travels once a week from their home in Fort St. John, B.C., to a hospital in Edmonton, Alta., an eight-hour drive, and they will need support after the pregnancy as well. The dance is at the Cornwall APM Centre on Friday, Oct. 19, 9:30 p.m. Music will be supplied by Phase II and there will be a silent auction and a 50/50 draw. For tickets, call Leonora at 368-3642. For information, call Eric Peters or Maureen Griffin, 566-3394.

40-plus singles dance, sponsored by the P.E.I. Sociable Singles, will be held in the Clover Club of the Charlottetown Legion, Friday, Oct. 19, 9:30 p.m., with music by Mr. Burns. Singles are invited to enjoy an evening of music and dancing and a chance to meet other singles. contact Audrey at 626-3938.

Dance to the music of County Line with Niall MacKay at the Kaylee Hall in Pooles Corner on Saturday, Oct. 20.

Dance is at 56 St. Peters Rd., Charlottetown, Saturday, Oct. 20, 9 p.m. to midnight. Music is by O'Grady with Lester MacPherson. There will also be a free lunch and a 50/50 draw.

Dance is at the Charlottetown Legion on Pownal Street in the Clover Club on Saturday, Oct. 20, 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Everyone 19 and over welcome. Music is by Phase II.

The Over 45 Club presents a dance at the Charlottetown Legion (Canada Lounge) Saturday, Oct. 20, 9

p.m.–midnight. Music will be provided by Bob Doyle with a mixture of traditional, country, 1950s–'60s and hits from days gone by. Admission is \$15 a couple or \$8 for single with a 50/50 draw. Reservations are not needed but can be made by calling 626–8382.

Dance is at the Goose River building, Oct. 20, 9 p.m.–midnight, with modern and old–time music by Peter Chaisson, Urban MacAdam, Joe and Janice Hebert, Bonnie Campbell and Alton MacKenzie. There is also a canteen, a 50/50 draw and door prize. Admission is \$5.

Dance is at the Ballroom Barn, every Saturday night, 2349 New Glasgow Rd., Wheatley River, beginning with a lesson at 8 p.m. and social dancing, 9 p.m.–midnight. Admission is \$5. Call 621–0687.

Square dance is at the Lorne Valley school, 922 Lorne Valley Rd., Wednesdays, 8–11 p.m. Admission is \$5, which includes a light lunch. There is also a canteen and a 50/50 draw. Music is by Peter Chaisson, fiddle, and Kevin Chaisson, keyboard.

Club 56 dance is Wednesdays at Hillsborough Park Community Centre, 9 p.m.–midnight. Music is by O'Grady with Lester MacPherson. There is also a 50/50 draw and free lunch. Admission is \$6.

Benefit dance for the family of Michael Clark will be held on Friday, Oct. 26, at Murphy's Community Centre. There will be a silent auction, 8–9 p.m., followed by the dance from 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$5 at the door.

Canadian Olde Tyme Square Dancing has resumed at York Community Centre and will continue every second Saturday evening with the next dance on Oct. 27. The dances will be called and instruction given. For further information, call the Tamarackers at 629–1869 or 892–3839. Square dancing qualifies as a top–notch aerobic activity. In fact, it's been estimated square dancers often travel as much as five kilometres a night while dancing.

Live club music

Lindsay Barr and the Bullies are at Baba's, University Avenue, Charlottetown, Oct. 19.

John MacAllar is at the Dundee Arms, Pownal Street, Charlottetown, Oct. 19.

Big City is at St. James Gate, Kent Street, Charlottetown, Oct. 19. Tim Chaisson and Tian Wigmore are at Bourbon's House of Blues, University Avenue, Charlottetown, Oct. 19.

Besnard Lakes and Pat Deighan and the Orb Weavers are at Hunter's Ale House, Oct. 19.

Rodney and Jonathan are at the Silver Fox Curling and Yacht Club, Oct. 19.

Kim Albert and Faces are at The Loft at Outriders, Mount Edward Road, Charlottetown, Oct. 19, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.

Jug in Hand is at the Olde Dublin Pub, Sydney Street, Charlottetown, Oct. 19–20.

Brian Maxwell's open mike is at The Loft at Outriders, Mount Edward Road, Charlottetown, Oct. 20, 3–6 p.m.

Wannabes are at St. James Gate, Kent Street, Charlottetown, Oct. 20. Tim Vesely of Rheostatics and Nikki are at Baba's, University Avenue, Charlottetown, Oct. 20.

Muddy Buddy is at Hunter's Ale House, Prince Street, Charlottetown, Oct. 20.

Charlie X is at Churchill Arms, Queen Street, Charlottetown, Oct. 20.

Brian Maxwell is at Comrade's Landing, Charlottetown Legion, Pownal Street, 2 p.m., Oct. 21.

The Most Serene Republic and The Small Sins are at Baba's, University Avenue, Oct. 21.

Colleen Power with Roger Maunder are at Baba's, University Avenue, Charlottetown, Oct. 22.

The Dudes are at Baba's, University Avenue, Charlottetown, Oct. 23. Tim Chaisson and Tian Wigmore are at Hunter's Ale House, Prince Street, Charlottetown, Oct. 25.

Muddy Buddy Duo is at St. James Gate, Kent Street, Charlottetown, Oct. 25.

Green with Envy is at the Olde Dublin Pub, Sydney Street, Charlottetown, Oct. 25.

Chillin' Room with Fugato are at Baba's, University Avenue, Charlottetown, Oct. 25.

Karaoke

Karaoke is at Murphy's Community Centre for the fall season, every second weekend, 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m., in the lounge. The next shows are Oct. 19 and Oct. 20. The hosts will be Jason and Peter Lamont. These are licensed events for 19 and over. No cover charge applies; everyone is welcome.

M&M Karaoke is at the Harbour Bridge in Stratford on Wednesdays, 10 p.m.–1 a.m. There will be a Halloween karaoke on Oct. 27, and then the regular nights will now continue week to week for the Saturday and Wednesday karaoke.

TRivia

Hot Shots Trivia with Stats on Friday night at 8 p.m. at Hot Shots Bar in Charlottetown.

EXHIBITIONS MUSEUMS THEATRE

Theatre/ comedy

The Jubilee Players present their latest project, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Un–abridged, at the Harbourfront Theatre, with performances on Oct. 27–28. Directed by Corin McFadden and featuring a cast of three, this family–friendly evening is a whirlwind tour through the works of one of the world's greatest playwrights, from Shakespeare's striking tragedies to his best–loved comedies. Tickets for all performances are \$13 for adults and \$11.50 for students and seniors and can be purchased at the Harbourfront Theatre box office or online at www.jubileetheatre.com.

Just for Laughs will be presented on the mainstage of Confederation Centre of the Arts, Saturday, Oct. 27, 8 p.m. For tickets, contact the Confederation Centre box office.

Dinner theatre

Tracadie Players present their Fall Dinner Theatre on Oct. 20–21 at Tracadie Community Centre with three short skits titled Return to Class; Liberated Granny and Early Retirement. There will also be music by local entertainers. For tickets, call 676–2560.

CEILIDHS ACROSS THE ISLAND

Movies

Autism Society of P.E.I.'s presentation of *Behind The Glass Door* will be held at City Cinema, Charlottetown, Saturday, Oct. 20, 3–5 p.m. The presentation of the Joan TeRaa Award will follow the movie. RSVP to 566–4844.

Films for Lunch at Eptek Centre in Summerside features on Oct. 25 at noon *Scenic Walks Around the World: Romance With Nature*. Visit the Dingle Peninsula in Ireland, one of Europe's most dramatic coastlines. Then explore the old-world charm of Austria taking in the panoramic view of the Alps. Afterward, hike through Alaska and feel the thrill of the gold rush wash (66 minutes). The film series is hosted by the Friends of Eptek with videos from the collection of Blanche Hogg. Films are shown in the gallery beginning at noon. Bring lunch, and coffee, tea and cookies will be provided. Eptek Art and Culture Centre is located on the Summerside waterfront at 130 Harbour Dr. For details on any of these films or activities at the Eptek Centre, call 888–8373.

Murphy's Community Centre presents a school-age double-feature production of *The Bone Orchard* and *The Halloween House* at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 26, room 303. The cost is \$2 per person or \$5 per family with all proceeds going to the afterschool program.

The Island Media Arts Co-op's Centred Screenings will feature a special documentary in November entitled *First Voices – Connecting Aboriginal Youth in the North and South*. This screening is at The Guild, Monday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m. The November screening will also include a program of short film and video works from P.E.I. and across Canada from media arts centres such as Faucet Media Arts, The New Brunswick Film Co-op, The Independent Filmmaker's Co-op and more. As always, there will be food provided. The November artist challenger is Louise Lalonde. For more information, call 888–8373.

Exhibitions

Art?Gallery?of Anne Gallant is at 59 Broadway St., North, Kensington, open year-round, featuring original paintings by Anne Gallant, as well as prints and cards. Hours are Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Call 836–3113 for more information.

Beanz?has The Tablecloth Paintings by Suzanne O'Callaghan, 38 University Ave., Charlottetown.

Bellbuoy Studio–Gallery features work by Nancy Perkins. Mermaid folk art, seascapes, ship paintings and seaglass infused paintings in oil and acrylic are shown. Prints and cards are also available. It is open every day, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., by chance or call first. It is at 4566 Cape Bear Rd., High Bank, Route 18, two kilometres east of Rossignol Winery. Call 962–2685.

Bloomster has one-of-a-kind sculptural pottery, Scandinavian inspired textiles and decorative pillows, folk art and oil paintings, all created by Karin Melzer. It is located within The Cowshed Antiques and Gifts, 1124 Rattenbury Rd., Route 254, North Granville. Call 954–1032.

Cornwall Library Art Gallery is featuring works by Betty Jenkins until Nov. 14. Jenkins began painting in British Columbia, and upon returning to P.E.I., with its rich scenery and paintable landscapes, it became much more of a focus. As well as showing her work at a number of local Island galleries, she maintains a small studio, Firefly Studio, in her Cape Cod home in Eliot Park, teaches summer workshops at the P.E.I. School of the Arts in North Rustico and offers private watercolour painting classes. She works primarily in watercolour and experiments with various papers. The library is open Tuesday and Wednesday at 1:30–5:30 p.m. and 6–8:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Artists living in Cornwall and surrounding communities are invited to hold exhibitions in the gallery, which is located in Cornwall Town Hall. Contact committee chair Daphne Irving at 566–4085.

Gallery at the Guild features exhibits by local artists. Call 368–4413 for more information. The gallery is located on Queen Street in Charlottetown.

Gallery 33 features Mayday, Mayday, Islanders at Work in the gallery, second floor of the Armoury Building, 33 Summer St., Summerside. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Call Wyatt Heritage Properties, 432–1298, for information.

Centre For Performing Arts, Montague, invites local artists to display work at the gallery in the centre with a reception and an opening. For information, contact the director by phone at 838–ARTS (2787).

The Confederation Centre Art Gallery offers the following exhibitions: . . . and other stories: Troy Little, Charmaine Wheatley, Seth, Marc Gallant and Robert Harris, until Nov. 25, curated by Ihor Holubizky; Yousuf Karsh: Industrial Images, until Nov. 25, curated by Cassandra Getty, organized and circulated by the Art Gallery of Winnipeg; Some Artists Who have Lived and Worked in Alberta, until Dec. 24, curated by Ihor Holubizky; The Life and Art of a Country Painter: Anthony Flower (1792–1875), until Dec. 2, curated by Laurie Glenn Norris, organized and circulated by the Beaverbrook Art Gallery; Anne Meredith Barry, Natural Energies, until Dec. 24, curated by Patricia Grattan, organized and circulated by The Rooms of St. John's, N.L. The gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sundays, 1–5 p.m. For information, call 628–6142. The Confederation Centre Art Gallery and ArtsSmarts P.E.I. host the fourth National ArtsSmarts Exhibition and Learning Symposium concluding Oct. 19, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. For information, call 628–6112 or 854–7265.

Curtland Studio and Gallery features Mary Curtis' original watercolours and prints, as well as South Pacific jewelry, hand–made wreaths, Island pottery and other items. Classes are available. Call 367–3399 for more information. The gallery is at 58 Queen St., Charlottetown.

Details, Past and Present features original paintings by local, Canadian and international artists. Visit www.detailspastandpresent.com or e–mail detailsgallery@eastlink.ca. The gallery is open Monday to Saturday, 166 Richmond St., Charlottetown.

Ellen's Creek Gallery on North River Road in Charlottetown, has exhibits by Island artists with many new works on exhibit. Currently on view are new works by more than 20 P.E.I. artists. For more information, call 368–3494 or check www.artworkspei.com.

Eptek Art and Culture Centre, Summerside waterfront, is open Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., and Sunday, noon–4 p.m. Admission is \$4 plus GST except Sundays when admission is by donation. Call 888–8373 for more details. A new exhibit, entitled As We See It, will open on Oct. 21, featuring the work of Nan Ferrier, Karl MacKeeman and Lesley Dubey. All three artists will be on hand for the opening reception, 2–4 p.m., on Oct. 21. Refreshments will be served and all are invited to attend. The exhibit will be on display until Nov. 25. Call 888–8373 for more details.

Firehorse Studios Stained Glass Studio and Gallery is at 89 Water St., Charlottetown. For information, call 368–3378.

Gaudreau Fine Woodworking Artisans, Route 6, Blue Heron Drive, Rustico, has a 2,000–square–foot studio/gallery with handcrafted works by master craftsmen and award–winning artisans Jacques and Diane Gaudreau. Check www.woodmagic.ca or call 963–2273 for more information.

Gallery 18 in New London is the Island specialist in antique maps and prints. The shop is located at 10686 Route 6, just west of the New London corner. The gallery also highlights fine art by Island artists, old and collectible books, hand–made hooked rugs and quilts, original vintage posters, ephemera and small decorative antique pieces. The gallery staff also offers valuations and an appraisal service, as well as advice on the

restoration and preservation of antiquarian books and paper collectibles. In addition, gallery staff can assist with interior decoration projects. The shop is open year-round. The gallery is wheelchair accessible. For more information, contact Aubrey Bell or Patricia Bennett, 886-3201, or toll-free 1-866-963-3339. The email address is gallery@isn.net.

The Kier Gallery at 132 Richmond St., Charlottetown, second floor, is a charitable arts organization providing exhibition and performance space to artists, events and organizations. Call 892-3371.

Minnow Art Gallery is in the lower level of The Guild, Queen Street, Charlottetown. It specializes in original prints by members of the Printmakers Council of P.E.I. Call 894-7272 for information.

Karen Gallant Artist StudioInk Gallery in South Rustico, featuring paintings by Gallant and other unique finds, is on the corner of routes 6 and 243 (Civic #1980), second level, A.P. Gallant's Clover Farm Store. For information, call 963-3999.

New London Village Pottery features specially carved jars and bowls by potters Daphne Large and Christine Campbell as well as Margaret England's colourful textural collages and handwoven blankets, shawls and scarves by Louise Lortie and Elaine Schuller of Fibre Ensemble. Check VillagePottery.ca or call 886-2473.

Patti Hawkins Pottery Studio is open to visitors at 843 Rattenbury Rd., Stanley Bridge. Call 886-2697.

Peeks and Perks Art Gallery/Internet Cafe is at 295 Water St., Summerside. Call 436-3341.

Pilar Shephard Art Gallery is at 82 Great George St., Charlottetown, with a wide number of Canadian, international and Island works of art also on display. Call 892-1953 for information.

Pinhole Gallery, featuring the art of Island artist and pinhole photographer Mary Carr-Chaisson, is located in her home studio, 25 Woodlawn Dr., Charlottetown. It is open by chance or appointment. Call 628-1575 for an appointment, e-mail artwork@isn.net or check out www.isn.net/~artwork.

The Purcell Parlour Art Gallery, 48 Herlihy Dr., Clyde River, features recent paintings in oil and watercolour by Julia Purcell. The gallery is open by chance or appointment. Call 368-7526.

Sandi Komst Studio-Gallery, featuring original oil and watercolour paintings by this P.E.I. artist, is open by chance or by appointment. Her studio is at 2060 Cape Bear Rd., Murray Harbour. Call 962-3612.

The Showcase Gift Shop and Gallery in Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown, features work by a variety of artists. Hours of operation are Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 628-6129 or e-mail mhemphil@confederationcentre.com.

Stanley Pottery and Weaving Studios and Shop features porcelain and stoneware by Malcolm Stanley and multiharness weaving, dyeing and spinning by Christine Stanley. View this year's art scarves of dyed silk boucle with inlay designs and ask about custom wedding and birth plates, woven bridal shawls and blankets. Check www.stanleypei.com. It's located on Route 246 Breadalbane. Call 621-0316.

Sunshine Farm Studio, featuring original paintings by Ina Proeber and The Brush-Offs, is located at 3027 Cape Bear Rd., Guernsey Cove, and is open by chance or appointment, year-round.

VereStudio and Gallery, 2 School St., Kensington, features original pulp paintings poured by award-winning artist Shayli Vere in gallery. Check www.verestudio.blogspot.com or shaylivere@gmail.com or call 439-0161 for information on operating hours.

Weathervane Antiques, Wheatley River, Route 251, feature a selection of early P.E.I. pop advertising, and P.E.I. ginger beer bottles. A must-see are the collection of cast iron banks and match holders. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Cynthia Foley at 621-0070.

MUSEUMS/interpretive centres

Acadian Museum of P.E.I., Miscouche, features the permanent exhibit and video presentation, *The Island Acadians: The Story of a People*, as well as six major paintings by Claude Picard depicting the adoption of the Acadian national symbols between 1881 and 2001. Follow the fascinating odyssey of Island Acadians from 1720 to the present, discover treasures related to the Acadians' 300-year presence on Prince Edward Island. View a highly rated interpretive video and visit exhibits which showcase the multifaceted aspects of Acadian history and culture. There is a gift shop on site. Admission is charged. Call 432-2880.

Beaconsfield Historic House on the corner of Kent and West streets, was built 130 years ago for James Peake, a wealthy shipbuilder and merchant and was one of Charlottetown's finest homes. Designed by William Critchlow Harris, the home had 25 rooms, eight fireplaces, imported chandeliers and all the latest conveniences. Today, Beaconsfield Historic House is open year-round for tours and hosts lectures, concerts and other special events in its Carriage House. During October, Beaconsfield is open Sunday to Friday, from noon to 4 p.m. (other times by appointment.) Admission is charged. A bookstore is on site with a variety of Island publications available.

Fox Museum and Wyatt Heritage Properties' Gallery 33: Armoury Building are at 33 Summer St., Summerside. Stop by the 1911 Armoury Building next to City Hall and visit the Fox Museum on the first floor to learn the history of the Silver Fox industry which put Summerside and P.E.I. on the world map. On the second floor is Gallery 33, featuring *Mayday*, *Mayday*, *Islanders at Work* exhibit. Admission is by donation.

Green Gables, Lucy Maud Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site of Canada includes the site of Montgomery's Cavendish Home and Green Gables. The site commemorates the cultural landscape associated with the formative years and the early career of the author. The site is open daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is charged. For more information, call 963-7874.

MUSEUMS FESTIVALS MEETINGS WORKSHOPS/CLASSES PRACTICES

Morrison Folkart/Heritage Centre features the artworks of A.L. Morrison. The paintings depict incidents in the history of P.E.I. and, in typical folkart fashion, the life and times of the early settlers of the province. Admission is free and hours of operation are daily through the shoulder season. Also take a hike on the adjoining trail at Strathgartney Park. Call 675-3834 or 393-2840.

Province House National Historic Site is open in Charlottetown. Tour this national landmark where the Confederation of Canada was first discussed in 1864. Call 566-7626 for information.

Really-O Handcrafts and Museum, #37 Route 10 at Tryon, interprets the history of this early community. Also featured is an antique radio display and a gift shop. It is open by chance or appointment. Guided site visits and walks can be arranged. Contact 658-2009, soren@isn.net or www.isn.net/~soren/jack.html.

The Wyatt House Museum, 85 Spring St., Summerside, is open 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday to Saturday, and MacNaught History Centre and Archives is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday to Saturday, and Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Call 432-1332 or 432-1296.

Literary events

Irish Lecture Series kicks off on Oct. 19 with a talk by Brendan O'Grady entitled *A Valiant Voice: Poems by Lucy Gertrude Clarkin*. The lectures are at the Benevolent Irish Society Hall, 582 North River Rd., Charlottetown, 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

The Literary Lines Reading Club meets at the Seniors Active Living Centre, CARI complex, UPEI, the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Contact Mary Gaudet at 892-7167 or Lillian at 628-8388.

Booktalk at Confederation Centre Public Library on Oct. 28, 2 p.m., features Janet Malone, author of *Transforming Conflict and Anger into Peace and Non-violence*. In her recently published book, Malone explores the lives of modern secular proponents of non-violence as well as historical Christian perspectives. Copies of her book will be available for sale.

The Eptek Book Club will meet on Thursday, Nov. 1, 7 p.m., to discuss *Rebel Daughter* by Doris Anderson. This is an autobiography published in 1996. All are welcome to join this informal gathering. Call 888-8373 for more details.

Craft fairs

18th annual craft fair and tea are at the Emerald Community Centre on Saturday, Oct. 27, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., perfect for those early-bird shoppers looking for the unique touch of hand-made Island crafts. There will be a \$4 admission fee for adults and \$1 for children, which includes a lunch of sandwiches, sweets, hot apple cider, coffee and tea. There will also be door prizes and a 50/50 draw.

P.E.I. Ten Thousand Villages Festival Sales will be held in Cornwall: Friday, Nov. 2, 4–9 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 3, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., at Cornwall United Church. Admission is free.

Christmas craft and bake sale is at the Charlottetown Mall, Nov. 3, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., sponsored by the St. Mark's Presbyterian Women's Association.

Festivals

The premiere edition of the Pumpkin Festival is in Summerside, Oct. 19–28, with a variety of activities planned, including contests, demonstrations, concerts, expositions, kitchen parties, ballroom dancing, food sampling, brunch and much more. Check out www.belle-alliance.ca or call 888-1681.

Third annual Laurie Blue (Memorial) Bluegrass Festival is Nov. 2–4 at the Loyalist Lakeview Resort and Convention Centre, Summerside. Contact the Loyalist Inn at 1-877-355-3500, Guy Cormier, 303-5050, or Darleen Mac Williams, 886-2935, for advance tickets. Enjoy a fun-filled weekend with lots of music and jamming. Call early to reserve a spot.

CLASSES/Workshops

IMAC is helping to present two workshops organized by the NFB and Canadian Heritage, designed to introduce youth and youth leaders to the skills of creating a one-minute video on the issue of racism. After these workshops, a team of IMAC video instructors will be going across the Island to schools and youth groups and assisting them in the production of one-minute videos to be entered into a national competition, *Racism Stop It*. The youth leader workshop is Oct. 22, 6–9 p.m., at The Guild, Charlottetown, and the youth workshop is Oct. 23, 4–6 p.m., at The Guild. Food will be provided. The official website also features material that will help: www.march21.gc.ca. Neither teachers nor students need prior experience in film. Participants can bring a videocamera or camcorder, but it is not required. To register or to find out more information, contact Mille Clarkes at imac@pei.aibn.com or 892-3131. Fiddle and guitar sessions are Mondays at Rollo Bay school. Fiddle lessons are with Kathryn Dau Schmidt with beginners at 6 p.m. and

intermediate at 7 p.m. Play guitar with Jimmy Townshend and Chad Mooney at 6 p.m. or accompany more advanced fiddlers with Peter Chaisson at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to play or to listen. For more information, call Dau Schmidt at 672-2711 or Anne at 687-1521. Set Thursday evenings aside this fall to join instructors Tom Connor and Velma Carmody as they host weekly lessons in Canadian Olde Tyme Square Dancing at Murphy's Community Centre, 7:30-9 p.m. A partner is not required to join. All classes are free of charge. Phone 892-1719 to sign up.

Sound yoga with Teresa Doyle is at The Guild on Queen Street in Charlottetown every Tuesday at noon. Sound yoga is a combination of singing, breathing, posture, meditation, relaxation and light movement designed to bring peace to the mind, reduce stress and allow one to experience the joy of singing with others. No singing experience is necessary. The repertoire is from around the globe: Latin rounds, Sanskrit chants, Irish Gaelic – songs that connect people to their centre, changing the brainwave state from the frenzy of the beta state to the clarity and relaxation of the alpha state. Classes are drop-in. Each session is \$10.

Dance umbrella offers Dance For the Health of It, a fun fusion of various dance styles, warm-up rhythms and stretch exercises designed for adults to get the body moving, on Thursdays, noon-1 p.m., Oct. 25 to Dec. 13. The cost is \$80. Contact Peggy Reddin at 629-1196 or preddin@confederationcentre.com.

Baby and Mom do Yoga is on Saturdays 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., in October and November with no class on the Remembrance Day weekend. Call 892-4658 or 894-PATH for information or to register. Classes are at 344 University Ave, the Path.

Pamela Campbell is accepting a limited number of voice students (singing and/or speaking) for the 2007-08 fall-winter session. Weekly private lessons will be held in her downtown Charlottetown studio. With over 35 years of experience as a teacher and performer, Campbell is one of the Island's top voice specialists. E-mail pam@pamelacampbell.com.

Judy MacLean Private School of Dance is now offering adult step-dancing classes for beginners and intermediate. Enjoy great fun, traditional music and ceilidh-style dancing. Contact Judy MacLean (CDTA) at 566-5545 or e-mail judymacleandance@eastlink.ca. Children's yoga is offered Mondays, 5:30-6 p.m., at the Path, 344 University Ave., Charlottetown. Call 892-4658 or 894-PATH for information or to register.

Prenatal yoga classes are at the Path, 344 University Ave. on Tuesdays, 6:15-7:30 p.m. A new seven-week session begins Nov. 7 (it is nearly full).

Karate classes run every Monday and Wednesday, 6:15-7:45 p.m, 344 University Ave., for adults. Call Greg at 892-4658 for information or to register.

Music and movement for preschoolers is being offered Saturdays at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Call Kirsten MacLaine, 566-4610, to register. Classes are in Charlottetown at the Path, 344 University Ave.

Saxophone and instrumental music lessons with Jonathan MacInnis are being offered for the 2007-08 school year. With more than 10 years of teaching experience, MacInnis specializes in teaching classical and jazz music for all woodwind and brass instruments. With a bachelor of music in performance/music education from UPEI and a master of music in saxophone performance from Memorial University, he is currently the band director at Montague intermediate school. His jazz and classical playing has been featured on local and national radio and television. E-mail jonathanmacinnis@hotmail.com

Noontime ashtanga yoga is Mondays and Thursdays at The Guild, Queen Street, Charlottetown. A 10-class card is available for \$85. The instructor is Michelle Burns.

Line dancing is Friday nights in Summerside at the YMCA, 212 Green St., 7:30-9:30 p.m., and in

Borden/Carleton on Wednesday nights at the Amherst Cove school, Carleton Street, 7–9 p.m. Have some fun and learn many steps that are used in other forms of dance. For information, call Trish Taylor at 437–2421.

Life drawing with Karl MacKeeman, ANSCAD, will be held at The Guild, Queen Street, Charlottetown, Tuesdays, 6–8 p.m. For information, call 569–5972. All levels are welcome.

Shiatsu relaxation classes have started at the Path in Charlottetown on Thursdays, 7:15–8:45 p.m., for a six-week period. Come and have some fun and learn how to relax and de-stress the Eastern way, working on the floor on mats, doing some stretching, breathing, and learning some basic shiatsu. The class will also teach some other self-help techniques and exercises. These classes are being put on by Judy Archibald, a certified shiatsu therapist. Call 569–6045.

Taoist tai chi beginner class introduce people to an ancient Chinese series of gentle movements that have been shown to have health-giving benefits. People of all ages are welcome to try this healthy and relaxing program. Twice per week beginner classes will be held in room 106 at Murphy's Community Centre, 200 Richmond St., every Tuesday and Thursday, noon–1 p.m. Call Roger, 367–2252.

Dance evenings for the Beaconsfield Assembly Dancers are Wednesdays at 7 p.m. until Dec. 5. at Beaconsfield's Carriage House, West Street, Charlottetown. Please note the Oct. 31 session will be on Nov. 1. Anyone interested in participating is invited to attend. No prior dance experience is required and all are welcome – with or without a dance partner. The dances are from various historical set dancing traditions, including Scottish country, English country, quadrilles and various round dances. The music is a mix of jigs, reels, waltzes, marches and strathspeys. For more information, contact Brenda Porter at beporter@pei.sympatico.ca or 569–5633.

Modern square dance classes with caller Ken MacLeod are being held this fall with classes on Tuesdays. For more details, call 629–1672 or 368–2850.

Free laughter yoga sessions are every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. Basilica Rec Centre, Room 106. All are welcome, and classes are free.

Yoga for Mind, Body and Spirit, new fall session, is being offered by Judith Merrill, a certified yoga instructor trained in anuaura and Astanga style yoga. Classes are offered from the beginner to intermediate levels at the Trinity United Church in Charlottetown. For information and to register, contact Merrill at 892–3147.

Classes in Kundalini and Ten Body Yoga, the yoga of awareness, are being taught by Judith Merrill, a certified yoga instructor, at Trinity United Church in Charlottetown. Learn a fast, effective and safe technology for self development. For information and to register, call Merrill at 892–3147.

Shorehill Gentle Yoga classes are Mondays in Cornwall, APM Centre, and Thursdays in Charlottetown, Trinity United Church. Classes are at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.. This program is an excellent way to relax tense muscles, recharge energy, reclaim vitality and renew the spirit. This gentle hatha program for body/mind/spirit balance is suitable for everyone. New students are welcome anytime, and the first class is always free. For information or to register, contact Anne Lie-Nielsen, yoga instructor, 675–4253.

Shorehill Yoga chair yoga classes are Mondays at 3:45 p.m. at the APM Centre in Cornwall and on Thursdays at 3:45 p.m. at Trinity United Church in Charlottetown. Chair yoga is very gentle and offers the same benefits as the regular yoga program; the main difference is that most postures are done while sitting in a chair. The chair yoga program is designed for anyone who may have difficulty getting up and down from the floor. For information or to register, contact Anne Lie-Nielsen, yoga instructor, 675–4253.

A Tai Chi class is every Tuesday evening, 8–9:15 p.m., at the West Royalty Community Centre. Tai Chi is a great way to stay healthy, reduce stress and learn a martial art at the same time. There is no charge for this class and beginners and former Tai Chi practitioners are welcome. Call Roy Johnstone, 675–2541.

Adult classes/workshops are being offered on Sundays for beginners in spinning by weaver and spinner Christine Stanley. Bring a spinning wheel if you have one; a wheel is provided as well as materials for this five-hour, one-on-one class, which runs 10 a.m.–3 p.m., every Sunday, year-round. Phone 621–0316 to register or check out www.stanleypei.com.

Teresa Doyle has started her fall session at The Guild, Queen Street, Charlottetown, with classes for children, The Boys and Girls of Bedlam, at 1:30 p.m. each Saturday in October and November. Children ages five to 11 are welcome to attend to learn a repertoire of folksongs in English, French, Gaelic and traditions from around the world. The cost for the session is \$80. Call 838–2973 to register or simply come to Saturday's class. She also has a vocal technique class for adults and teens on Saturdays at The Guild at 2:30 p.m. This class is for folk and pop singers. Beginners are welcome. The fee is \$12 per class on a drop-in basis. No registration is required.

The Centre for Performing Arts School is accepting registration for fall semester classes in ballet, jazz, creative movement hip-hop, urban choreography, ballroom, salsa, Latin, swing, wedding dance moves for newlyweds-to-be, dancercizing, fitness through fun, dance expression, step dance and tap classes. The music department offers classes in drums, clarinet, sax, fiddle, guitar and vocals. Students must provide instruments. Theatre classes in junior, senior, adult level drama, script writing and development, scenery and props, as well as stage make up, improv and stand up continue at the centre's School for Performing Arts. Arts and crafts workshops, including holiday crafts and masque-making workshops, are on Saturday mornings. Call 838–ARTS (2787) or e-mail centreforperformingartspei@yahoo.ca. The centre is at 20 School St., Montague.

Yoga classes are in Charlottetown, Montague and Souris, taught by Ruth Richman of Yoga Ink. Her blend is an eclectic mix of asana (yoga postures), relaxation techniques and pranayama (breathing techniques) is taught in all locations. Astanga yoga or power yoga is Thursday in Charlottetown. There are classes for all levels. Call Richman at 583–2674 or go to www.yogaink.com for more details. In late fall, will be yoga weekend intensives and yoga teacher training. Call 583–2674 or go to www.yogaink.com.

Practices

Harbourlights Chorus, the P.E.I. chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, sings in the barbershop style and meets Mondays at Trinity United Church Hall, Charlottetown, 7–9 p.m. Call Dennis Boudreau, 894–4284, or Paul Offer, 831–3057.

The Abegweit Chimes Women's Barbershop Chorus enjoys a capella singing every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in the lecture theatre at Charlottetown Rural high school. Call Mary at 436–8603.

The Confederation Singers, the Confederation Centre of the Arts' resident adult choir and ?Confederation Centre Youth Chorus are looking for new voices. Call Donald Fraser, director of music, 628–6144.

The Oak Tree Singers Choir practises at the Seniors Active Living Centre, CARI complex, UPEI, Friday mornings at 10:15 a.m. Leave your name with Lillian at the centre, 628–8388, or join the choir at a practice.

The Queens County Fiddlers practises at 7:45 p.m., Wednesdays, at St. Pius X?Hall, St. Peter's Road, Charlottetown. New and returning players are welcome to attend, as well as people who like to listen. Join the Charlottetown Legion Choir every Tuesday, 7–8:30 p.m., on the top floor of the Charlottetown Legion, Pownal Street.

U.S. legislators apologize to Canadian; Maher Arar can only testify via video-link as he is barred from U.S.

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DATE: 2007.10.19

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PAGE: B6

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

WORD COUNT: 204

U.S. legislators apologized Thursday to Canadian Maher Arar for his seizure by U.S. officials who took him to Syria where he was tortured in what he called an "immoral" American anti-terror program called extraordinary rendition.

Arar, 37, a telecommunications engineer, appeared before a joint hearing of U.S. House Representatives subcommittees by video from Ottawa.

He is still on a United States government watch list and barred from the United States.

"Let me personally give you what our government has not: an apology," Democratic Representative Bill Delahunt said as he opened the hearing.

"Let me apologize to you and the Canadian people for our government's role in a mistake."

Arar said he was grateful for the legislators' apologies but hoped the U.S. government will eventually officially apologize to him.

"Let me be clear, I am not a terrorist, I am not a member of al-Qaida or any terror group," Arar said.

"I am a father, a husband and an engineer. I am also a victim of the immoral practice of extraordinary rendition."

In his first public appearance at an official U.S. hearing, Arar recounted being thrown in a tiny cell and tortured into a false confession that he had trained at a terror camp in Afghanistan.

"Life in that cell was hell. I spent 10 months and 10 days in that grave," he said.

Republican Representative Dana Rohrabacher also apologized, but said he would fight any efforts by Democrats to end the practice of extraordinary rendition.

In the practice, terror suspects are grabbed by U.S. government agents and taken to another country where local authorities may torture confessions out of them.

Soldier killed in Afghanistan gets posthumous degree

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DATE: 2007.10.19

SECTION: Canada

PAGE: A9

SOURCE: THE CANADIAN PRESS

DATELINE: WINNIPEG

WORD COUNT: 197

When Cpl. Jordan Anderson wasn't working in the dangerous terrain of Afghanistan, he had his nose in a book, working on his university courses.

On Thursday, three months after he was killed by a roadside bomb in the war-torn country, Anderson became the first Canadian soldier since the Korean War to get a posthumous degree.

The 25-year-old was remembered by friends as a dedicated soldier, and by his widow as a man with an intense hunger for knowledge.

"He would read something in the newspaper . . . and he'd go home and he'd look it up on the Internet," Amanda Anderson told reporters as she fought back tears before accepting the arts degree on her husband's behalf from the University of Manitoba. "I wish it wasn't me doing it, I wish it was him. But I'll do it. It's an honour."

The young widow accepted the degree alongside hundreds of graduates during a convocation ceremony that looked like any other, save for a cluster of military uniforms near the front row.

Some of her husband's colleagues from the Edmonton-based 3rd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry came to the event in a show of support for the young man who was often seen with his nose in the books.

Making a list of what's important

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PAGE: A7

COLUMN: And another thing

BYLINE: Campbell Webster

WORD COUNT: 713

"You have before you two lists," an inspired English professor of 18th century and restoration drama, Grant Sampson, said to us on the first day of class, "One is required reading, and the other is of books that you are not to read, under any circumstances."

The purpose of the second list was to relieve guilt, the kind of guilt some of us would experience when we were goofing off and not doing our work. In those instances, we could tell ourselves that we were busy not reading books from the second list, as mandated by Prof. Sampson.

Sadly, what to bother paying attention to is not always as simple as those two lists, and as a result, we must constantly make this judgment for ourselves. The difficulty in making these decisions is compounded by government, corporate and media forces which seek to convince us of what matters most in our lives. The Island canned pop debate (should stores be allowed to sell it or not?) has returned with vigour, and now government is once again excited about the issue. On one level, it seems just plain silly that we spend any time on this – time that could be spent on such matters as poverty reduction, fish kills or other quality-of-life issues. (Although an argument can be made that canned pop increases the destructive practice of aluminum mining in Third World countries.)

Whether metal, bubbles, sugar, and Island retail can co-exist may appear to be incidental to the deeper matters of the day. Still, it is worth noting that another issue, that of the relative obesity and inactivity of Island youth, cannot possibly be helped by adding canned pop to their menu of choices. Think of the inevitable hubbub that will accompany its introduction, and the ensuing scramble by retailers to convince us they have the best deal, the best selection, and the best sparkly syrup in a can. Sales will certainly soar, as will the sugar content in the collective diets of Island youth and others. You wonder what might happen if our super-sized stores giddily announced that sweetened mud in a paper bag was finally available – and fun to boot.

There are more sacred media-fuelled, attention-grabbing issues than canned pop, and perhaps the most relentless being the sombre reverence that accompanies all things Sept. 11th. Because it is America, it is a big deal, but the fact remains that the death of a few thousand people pales in comparison to far more significant tragedies, in terms of numbers of killed, impoverished, and homeless in Iraq, Afghanistan, Darfur, Rwanda, the AIDS epidemic, and on and on and on.

Nonetheless, not a day goes by without a new coin being advertised on the U.S. networks commemorating the Sept. 11 attacks, with a promise that some of the profits will go to official charities of the victims. A recent incarnation of these coins promises that the silver content comes from the actual site of the World Trade Towers, the ad being accompanied by chest-thumping calls of patriotism as a reason to buy. It is eerily reminiscent of the old coin con, where people are offered government-minted copper engravings of America's greatest president (Abraham Lincoln) for \$29.95 plus shipping and handling, of course. What you get for this money: One American penny.

Canned pop and Sept. 11 may seem like odd cousins, but they do share the sad fate of being over-hyped issues, and are of far less significance than we sometimes lazily accept.

So English Prof. Sampson may have been onto something with his sly attempt to get us to do our work: perhaps we should make a couple of lists every once in a while as to what is worth a bit of our mortality and what isn't. Paying attention to the general health of all people, and understanding where the greatest tragedies are might be a good guideline for the action list.

Campbell Webster, a television producer and writer, lives in Charlottetown. He can be reached by e-mail at: cweb@isn.net.

Legislature protects jobs of reservists serving Canada; Both Liberals and Tories pass bill in only one day

PUBLICATION: The Guardian (Charlottetown)

DATE: 2007.10.19

SECTION: Front

PAGE: A1

BYLINE: Wayne Thibodeau

ILLUSTRATION: Labour Minister Carolyn Bertram prepares for question period Thursday at Province House with Environment Minister George Webster in the background. Guardian photo by Heather Taweel

WORD COUNT: 301

Prince Edward Island reservists who participate in military training or attend active service, including those who may serve in Afghanistan, will soon have a law to protect their jobs while they are away.

Labour Minister Carolyn Bertram proposed changes to the Employment Standards Act Thursday that would provide job protection for members of the reserve force of the Canadian Forces.

The new law will allow reservists to take unpaid leave to participate in military training or active service as long as they have been employed for at least six months.

Employees will have to provide reasonable notice but the new legislation does not set out a definition of 'reasonable service.' It says notice should be given "in writing and as soon as is reasonable and practical in the circumstances."

The new law ensures the reservist's job will be waiting for them when they return from military service. But the employer is not obliged to pay pension benefits during the time of the leave.

Bertram says P.E.I. joins three other provinces in granting the protection, including Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper asked that the protection be provided to Canadian reservists, she added.

"I think this is a very positive message for Prince Edward Island in our support for our troops," she told reporters.

In a rare move, both the Liberal government and the Opposition Conservatives unanimously agreed to the bill, which allowed it to receive first, second and third reading Thursday.

That means the bill is effectively law. It should receive Royal assent within days.

Lt. Col. Glenn Moriarity, commanding officer of the P.E.I. Regiment, commended the province for introducing the bill.

"Up until now, it's been up to the reservists on an individual basis to reach an agreement with their employers," Moriarity said in an interview.

Fourteen Island reservists were deployed to Afghanistan in February. Five of them received the medals for service from Prince Edward while he was in P.E.I. last weekend.

The remaining nine received their medals while in Afghanistan.

Moriarty said none of his officers were denied employment after they returned from their leave since he's been in charge.

But he agreed it would allow for greater flexibility for others who may be deploying in the future.

Afghanistan mission sparks debate at UVic

IDNUMBER 200710190076
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Capital & Van. Isl.
PAGE: B2
BYLINE: Sandra McCulloch
SOURCE: Times Colonist
WORD COUNT: 262

Canada's role in Afghanistan was the topic of a debate that drew about 60 people to the University of Victoria yesterday evening.

The debate, sponsored by the group Students Against War, featured freelance journalist Antony Fenton of Pitt Meadows and Bill Danielsen, a UVic student and member of the Canadian Forces.

Fenton and Danielsen gave responses to questions asked by a moderator on Canada's involvement in the conflict.

On why Canada is in Afghanistan, Danielsen said "because we were asked to be there" by the Afghan government.

The Canadian Forces are there "because the government of Canada sent us there to help a nation that asked for help."

He dismissed the notion that the West could benefit from the area's natural resources.

Fenton said Canada was helping the U.S. with its "imperial policy" and argued the point that Canadian corporations had a strong interest in the gold buried there. On the effectiveness of the reconstruction initiatives, Fenton argued that international aid is a counter-insurgency tool and the idea that you can't begin reconstruction until you have stability is "rhetoric."

Afghanistan was heavily damaged by civil war, and Canada is helping to build roads, dig wells and construct infrastructure, Danielsen said. "Since 2001, the per capita income has doubled," he said.

Foreign troops have helped build 8,000 kilometres of new roads, he added.

During a seven-month deployment there, Danielsen said he and his troop were regularly handing out school supplies and raised money to dig a well.

The debate leads up to a motion to be presented next week at the UVic Students Society annual general meeting that calls for banning Canadian military recruiters from the Student Union Building.

The motion "is not an attempt to restrict students' rights to sign up for the Armed Forces, but rather [is] a symbolic gesture of protest towards the Canadian military recruitment practices," reads the annual meeting's agenda.

Afghans seek help as violence soars

IDNUMBER 200710190040

PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)

DATE: 2007.10.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A16

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Jonathan Ernst, Reuters / U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates, right, welcomes Afghanistan's minister of defence, Abdul Rahim Wardak, to the Pentagon in Washington yesterday. ;

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

SOURCE: Reuters

WORD COUNT: 358

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Afghanistan's defence minister asked for more money and equipment yesterday to fight soaring Taliban violence as America's Pentagon chief criticized NATO allies for failing to deliver promised aid.

Afghan Defence Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak said suicide bombings were up 50 per cent from a year ago and that the Afghan army needed more troops and equipment.

"We have achieved a great deal with limited manpower and old weapons and equipment," Wardak said after meeting with U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates at the Pentagon. "Imagine what we could do with better equipment and additional help."

Despite six years of war in Afghanistan, the Taliban regained strength in 2006 and has ramped up attacks on U.S., Afghan and NATO forces this year. NATO forces also have begun to intercept convoys of bomb technology coming into Afghanistan from Iran, according to NATO and U.S. military officials.

Wardak called the past two years "the most difficult and challenging since 2001." The Taliban government was overthrown that year by Afghan and U.S.-led forces.

"The enemy has stepped up his activities, operating in smaller units over a wider geographic area, with heavy reliance on IED [improvised explosive devices] and suicide bombing," he said.

That rising violence comes as NATO commanders say they still face shortages in troops, trainers, helicopters and other equipment needed to fight the war.

The United States, which boosted its troop and equipment commitment to Afghanistan to fill some of those gaps this year, has complained repeatedly about its European allies' unwillingness or inability to meet stated commitments.

NATO defense ministers will meet next week in the Netherlands, and Gates is expected to press his counterparts again to fulfil promises made last year.

"One of the problems that we encounter is that, while we have 40 countries co-operating in Afghanistan to help Afghanistan, both in terms of security and in terms of development, not all of those countries have delivered on the commitments that they made," Gates said yesterday.

"I expect this subject to be the centrepiece of those discussions, of people meeting the commitments that they've made," he said.

A U.S. military official said attack levels had climbed every year since 2003

in four major categories — small-arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades, suicide bombings and improvised explosive devices.

The number of suicide bombings in Afghanistan this year has already exceeded the 130 suicide attacks recorded in all of 2006, the official said.

Rome film fest begins its second year, trying to catch up to Venice

DATE: 2007.10.18
KEYWORDS: ENTERTAINMENT FILM
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 307

ROME _ The Rome Film Festival opened its second edition Thursday, harkening back to the Eternal City's 1960s cinematic heyday.

Featuring premieres such as Francis Ford Coppola's first movie in a decade, ``Youth Without Youth," the Rome event is gaining status in a country best known for the 75-year-old Venice Film Festival.

Among those expected in Rome were Oscar-winner Cate Blanchett, Sophia Loren, Robert Redford, Gael Garcia Bernal, Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Terrence Malick, as well as Coppola's daughter, Sofia, a director in her own right.

The festival, running through Oct 27, opened with the French noir ``Le Deuxieme Souffle" (``Second Wind") by Alain Courneau, starring Daniel Auteuil and a surprisingly blonde Monica Bellucci. A remake of a 1966 film by Jean-Pierre Melville, the movie tells the story of a 1960s gangster who escapes from prison to flee with the woman he loves.

There are 14 films in competition, along with Hector Babenco's ``El Pasado" (``The Past") and ``Reservation Road," starring Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Ruffalo and Mira Sorvino.

``There are many stories of single individuals lost in critical moments," festival co-director Giorgio Gosetti said in a telephone interview. ``It is a cinematographic selection which focuses on the loss of identities and values."

Presented out of competition are Redford's ``Lions for Lambs," starring Tom Cruise and Meryl Streep in a drama touched off by U.S. military action in Afghanistan; and Gavin Hood's ``Rendition," the story of an American woman (Reese Witherspoon) whose Egyptian-born husband is detained and tortured by the U.S. government.

Organizers believe the event can boost the city's cinematic pull, which grew with the rise of Cinecitta, the studios built by Mussolini in 1937 where such greats as Federico Fellini and Vittorio De Sica produced their best films. Over the years, however, Italian filmmaking has been on the wane, despite international successes like Roberto Benigni's Oscar-winning ``Life is Beautiful."

U.S. legislators apologize to Arar, who wants Washington to admit error

DATE: 2007.10.18
KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE POLITICS
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 762

WASHINGTON _ U.S. legislators apologized Thursday to Canadian Maher Arar for what he called an "immoral" anti-terror program called extraordinary rendition that let U.S. authorities seize and send him to Syria, where he was tortured.

Arar, 37, a telecommunications engineer, appeared before a joint hearing of U.S. House Representatives subcommittees by video from the University of Ottawa. Arar said he would have preferred to be there in person, but he's still on a U.S. government watch list and barred from the United States.

"Let me personally give you what our government has not: an apology," Democratic Representative Bill Delahunt said as he opened the hearing on Capitol Hill.

"Let me apologize to you and the Canadian people for our government's role in a mistake."

Arar said he was grateful for the legislators' apologies but hoped the U.S. government will eventually officially apologize to him.

"I would like them to acknowledge that what they did to me is wrong," Arar told reporters in Ottawa afterward. "Second, I would like them to commit that this will not happen to other human beings."

Arar told the hearing: "Let me be clear, I am not a terrorist, I am not a member of al-Qaida or any terror group."

"I am a father, a husband and an engineer. I am also a victim of the immoral practice of extraordinary rendition."

Arar recounted being thrown in a tiny cell and tortured into a false confession that he had trained at a terror camp in Afghanistan.

"Life in that cell was hell," he said. "I spent 10 months and 10 days in that grave."

Republican Representative Dana Rohrabacher also apologized, but said he would fight any efforts by Democrats to end extraordinary rendition _ a practice under which terror suspects are grabbed by U.S. government agents and taken to another country where local authorities may torture confessions out of them.

Representative Jerrold Nadler, a Democrat, described what happened to Arar as "a kidnapping." He also apologized.

"Yes, we should be ashamed" of what happened in this case, Rohrabacher said. But the Republican added: "That is no excuse to end a program which has protected the lives of hundreds of thousands if not millions of American lives."

Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian citizen, was detained by Homeland Security agents on Sept. 26, 2002, as he stopped over in New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport en route home from a vacation.

Days later, he was flown by private jet to Syria where he was interrogated and tortured, according to Canadian officials and Arar himself. After nearly a year in a Syrian prison, he was released without charges and returned to Canada.

Back in Canada, a public inquiry headed by Justice Dennis O'Connor concluded that Arar had no link to terrorism. The inquiry also determined he was indeed tortured.

O'Connor's report, based on testimony from dozens of witnesses and thousands of pages of documents, says Arar was unfairly branded a terrorist by the RCMP, which shared that conclusion with U.S. authorities. The Americans in turn arrested Arar and sent him to Syria.

Some U.S. legislators pointedly said Arar's ordeal was prompted by the wrong intelligence from Canada.

In August, previously censored portions of O'Connor's findings were released. The material showed the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had suspicions early on that the CIA had shipped Arar to a third country and that he could face torture. There was no indication, however, that CSIS alerted its political masters at that time.

It was also disclosed that the RCMP had used evidence obtained abroad from other suspects _ likely under torture _ to obtain search and wiretap warrants in Canada for its anti-terrorist investigations.

The Canadian government has apologized to Arar and agreed to pay him C\$10.5 million in compensation.

U.S. President George W. Bush's administration has not apologized. And despite appeals from top Canadian officials, Arar is still barred from travelling to the United States.

The administration insists the extraordinary rendition program is an extremely important tool in combating terrorists.

Legal experts say the case shows the United States has violated a 1998 law specifically prohibiting the government from turning a suspect over to a foreign country when they think that country may torture the suspect.

U.S. authorities say they get diplomatic assurances the person will not be tortured before turning them over. Nadler scoffed at such an assurance from Syria, which he says is not trusted by the U.S. administration itself.

The hearing comes a day before Hollywood is to offer its own take on the contentious anti-terror program: ``Rendition," starring Reese Witherspoon, opens in U.S. theatres Friday.

Alex Neve of Amnesty International Canada was with Arar in Ottawa during his testimony.

``I think it was evident from the serious apologies, expression of regret, outright horror that some of the members conveyed about what had happened to Maher, that they understand that this is a serious miscarriage of justice, and that many of them very much do want to get to the bottom of it," Neve said.

Neve was perturbed, however, that some of the legislators characterized Arar's ordeal as ``an isolated case of concern" and were still prepared to defend rendition.

– With files from The Canadian Press.

Nine US-led coalition soldiers wounded in Taliban ambush in Afghanistan

DATE: 2007.10.18
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 124

KABUL, Afghanistan _ Nine U.S.-led coalition troops were wounded Thursday after the Taliban used heavy machine guns and rocket propelled grenades to ambush a patrol in southern Afghanistan.

A coalition statement says the attack took place near Kandahar city on Wednesday.

The patrol was able to repel the attack using small arms fire.

The statement says none of the injuries are serious and there were no insurgent casualties.

A Canadian military spokesman in Kandahar says it's not believed any Canadian troops were among the wounded.

In the east, police say a roadside bomb on a police vehicle close to the Pakistani border killed an officer and wounded three others.

Taliban attacks against police have increased this year, with over 600 killed in militant attacks.

More than 5,200 people have died this year as a result of fighting, according to an Associated Press count based on official figures, the deadliest year since the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

There are currently 2,300 Canadian troops serving in southern Afghanistan, mostly based in Kandahar.

NATO general: Iranian military bombs found in Afghanistan

DATE: 2007.10.18

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 116

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) _ The top NATO commander in Afghanistan said Thursday his troops intercepted a weapons convoy coming from Iran last month containing sophisticated explosive devices and blamed the Iranian military for involvement in its shipment.

U.S. Army Gen. Dan McNeill, the commander of NATO's 40,000-strong International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, said the convoy contained "a number of advance technology improvised explosive devices" and was intercepted on Sept. 5th in western Afghanistan.

"This weapons convoy clearly, geographically, originated in Iran," McNeill told reporters in Kabul.

"It is difficult for me to conceive that this convoy could have originated in Iran and come to Afghanistan, without at least the knowledge of the Iranian military," McNeill said.

Soldier killed in Afghanistan given posthumous degree as friends pay tribute

DATE: 2007.10.18

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 438

WINNIPEG _ When Cpl. Jordan Anderson wasn't working in the dangerous terrain of Afghanistan, he had his nose in a book, working on his university courses.

On Thursday, three months after he was killed by a roadside bomb in the war-torn country, Anderson became the first Canadian soldier since the Korean War to get a posthumous degree.

The 25-year-old was remembered by friends as a dedicated soldier, and by his widow as a man with an intense hunger for knowledge.

"He would read something in the newspaper ... and he'd go home and he'd look it up on the Internet," Amanda Anderson told reporters as she fought back tears before accepting the arts degree on her husband's behalf from the University of Manitoba.

"I wish it wasn't me doing it, I wish it was him. But I'll do it. It's an honour."

The young widow accepted the degree alongside hundreds of graduates during a convocation ceremony that looked like any other, save for a cluster of military uniforms near the front row.

Some of her husband's colleagues from the Edmonton-based 3rd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry came to the event in a show of support for the young man who was often seen with his nose in the books.

"Every time we'd see him, he'd be working on a paper," said Cpl. Adam Bowness, who served alongside Anderson on a previous mission to Afghanistan in 2002.

"Most of the guys, we'd get out of the field and we'd go party, have a good time. But he'd be right in the books right away."

Anderson pursued his studies online through the university's distance education program while serving overseas. He had completed nearly all the program requirements for his political science major when he and five other soldiers, along with an Afghan interpreter, were killed by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar city July 4.

His colleagues got the ball rolling to ensure his degree would be granted.

"It was clear this was a dedicated student who clearly would have gone on to do graduate work and do it well," said Prof. George Maclean, acting head of the political science department.

The university has set up a bursary in Anderson's name, which will fund two students each year _ one in the military and one cadet.

Anderson was born in Iqaluit and spent most of his childhood in Inuvik, N.W.T. He is believed to be the first northerner to die in Afghanistan.

He also had clear career goals in mind.

“Jordan had lofty goals and every expectation of meeting them,” said his widow.

“His intentions were to ... climb through the officers' ranks and ultimately become an intelligence officer. It is with great sorrow that we will never see him achieve this goal.”

When he wasn't poring over university books and papers, Anderson had a wry sense of humour and a laugh that made him stand out. His colleagues say Anderson would have been all smiles had he lived to attend his convocation ceremony.

“He'd probably have his trademark cackling laugh and he'd be grinning ear to ear,” said Cpl. Jeff Black.

“That's the kind of guy he was.”

Feds stalling court case on Afghan detainees, says Amnesty

DATE: 2007.10.18

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE POLITICS

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 617

OTTAWA _ A blizzard of legal arguments from the federal government is obscuring the fundamental issue of whether Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan are handing over detainees to face potential torture at the hands of local authorities, says Amnesty International.

Paul Champ, a lawyer for the human rights group, told Federal Court on Thursday that it's time to get beyond narrow technical issues and move to the heart of the case.

“We are talking about a small, identifiable group of individuals and their right to be free from arbitrary detention . . . and most importantly, their fundamental right to be free from torture,” said Champ.

Amnesty joined forces with the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association to launch a court action in February aimed at blocking the transfer of any more prisoners to Afghan authorities unless procedural safeguards are put in place to ensure they won't be mistreated.

But government lawyers, using a tactic known as a motion to strike, are asking Justice Anne Mactavish to throw the case out of court before it can ever get to a detailed analysis of the constitutional issues at stake.

Alex Neve, head of the Canadian section of Amnesty, suggested the tactic is part of a strategy by the Conservative government to stall the case in the hope it will peter out.

“We're deeply disappointed and profoundly frustrated,” Neve said outside the courtroom. “It's not how an issue of such importance with respect to human rights should be dealt with.”

The key argument advanced by the human rights groups is that Canada is violating the Charter of Rights and Freedoms by denying the Afghan detainees fundamental justice, access to legal counsel and protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

The courts have wrestled before with the extent to which the Charter applies to Canadian police operating abroad, and judges have set guidelines for them to follow in gathering evidence to be used back home.

This is the first case, however, that hinges on the actions of Canadian military personnel engaged in operations overseas _ in effect, raising the question of whether the Constitution travels with the troops.

The distinction between cops and soldiers is a key one, Champ argued Thursday.

“The actions of the military are far more robust than those of law-enforcement officers. In this case, we have military forces going to another country and taking over a zone of control.”

J. Sanderson Graham, representing the federal Justice Department, contended earlier this week that the Charter doesn't apply in Afghanistan because Canada is not an occupying power there, and it would need the consent of the Afghan government to enforce Canadian legal rules.

Federal lawyers also maintain, as part of their motion to halt the case, that the key issues are political rather than judicial, that the court has no jurisdiction to hear such matters, and that Amnesty has no legal standing to mount its challenge.

Graham has argued that, if the detainees want to complain of alleged abuses, they can always do so by taking legal action of their own in a Canadian court _ a proposition dismissed by Champ as unrealistic.

“They are effectively barred from doing so by force,” Champ told the court, insisting that human rights groups must act on their behalf.

Whatever the judge eventually rules, either side could appeal on the preliminary question of whether the case should be allowed to proceed. Beyond that lie other potential delays.

Champ has been haggling with the Justice Department over access to federal documents related to the treatment of detainees. The government at first claimed all the material was confidential on national security grounds, then agreed to vet the papers and make some public, but has yet to release any.

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay admitted last spring that Canadian officials were investigating a half-dozen allegations of serious abuse. Ottawa says new rules are now in force to allow better monitoring after detainees are handed over to the Afghans.

The Canadian Press picture advisory for Thursday, Oct. 18, 2007

DATE: 2007.10.18
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 237

The Canadian Press picture advisory for Thursday, Oct. 18, 2007. Daily coverage is provided by a combination of The Canadian Press staff and member papers. Entries with an estimated photo transmission time are staffed by The Canadian Press or Associated Press photographers, all other events are requested coverage by member papers.

EAST

HALIFAX _ Nova Scotia Oyster Shucking Competition.

QUEBEC

QUEBEC _ Parti Quebecois Leader Pauline Marois holds news conference on proposed bill on Quebec identity. (1700)

MONTREAL _ A technical briefing is held before former premier Pierre Marc Johnson's news conference on his report into the viaduct collapse that killed five people and injured six others in September 2006. (1400)

CENTRAL

OTTAWA _ The Bank of Canada governor David Dodge holds news conference on the release of the monetary policy report. (1230)

OTTAWA _ Question Period in House of Commons. (1615)

OTTAWA _ Montreal at Ottawa NHL. (2230)

TORONTO _ Florida at Toronto NHL. (2230)

WEST

WINNIPEG _ Members of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers teams that won the Grey Cup between 1957 and 1966 will be presented with Grey Cup rings purchased by the president of Canad Inns.

WINNIPEG _ Amanda Anderson, widow of Cpl. Jordan Anderson, a Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan in July, to receive posthumous degree on behalf of her husband from the University of Manitoba. (1830)

CALGARY _ Los Angeles at Calgary NHL. (2230)

NORTH

YELLOWKNIFE _ Emrah Bulatci makes first court appearance on charge of killing an RCMP constable in Hay River. (1430)

Coverage has been arranged on the following Canadian activities outside Canada:

WASHINGTON _ Maher Arar joins videoconference at House of Representatives joint committee hearing on rendition to torture. (1600)

PHEONIX _ Edmonton at Phoenix NHL. (2230)

THE CANADIAN PRESS, Toronto

See Photos

DATE: 2007.10.18

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE JUSTICE

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 1330

KARACHI, Pakistan _ Benazir Bhutto was tired and a bit worried about snipers, so she went inside the truck carrying her across Karachi.

It was then that the two bombs exploded, according to a British reporter who was riding with the former prime minister.

“Everybody just screamed, ‘Down! Down!’ and then shortly afterwards there was a second blast,” Christina Lamb told Sky News. “I am covered in blood, but it's not mine.”

Bhutto knew she could be a target, Lamb said, and was worried because street lights were going off as the hour grew late. And Bhutto wanted to rest, said Lamb, who has written a biography on the former prime minister.

So Bhutto went into a downstairs enclosed compartment in the truck, and was there _ and safe _ when the attack began Thursday night.

The bombings killed at least 126 people and wounded 248, shattering Bhutto's celebratory procession through Pakistan's biggest city after her return from eight years in exile.

Police and officials of Bhutto's party said she was not injured and was hurried to her house after the attack. An Associated Press photo showed a dazed-looking Bhutto being helped away.

Bhutto flew home to lead her Pakistan People's Party in January parliamentary elections, drawing cheers from supporters massed in a sea of the party's red, green and black flags. The police chief said 150,000 were in the streets, while other onlookers estimated twice that.

The throngs reflected Bhutto's enduring political clout, but she has made enemies of Islamic militants by taking a pro-U.S. line and negotiating a possible political alliance with Pakistan's military ruler, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

An estimated 20,000 security officers had been deployed to protect Bhutto and her cavalcade of motorized rickshaws, colourful buses, cars and motorcycles.

Authorities had urged Bhutto to use a helicopter to reduce the risk of attack amid threats from extremists sympathetic to the Taliban and al-Qaida, but she brushed off the concerns.

“I am not scared. I am thinking of my mission,” she had told reporters on the plane from Dubai. “This is a movement for democracy because we are under threat from extremists and militants.”

Leaving the airport, Bhutto refused to use a bulletproof glass cubicle that had been built atop the truck taking her to the tomb of Pakistan's founding father, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, to give a speech. She squeezed between other party officials along a railing at the front.

Her procession had been creeping toward the centre of Karachi for 10 hours, moving at a snail's pace while dancing and cheering supporters swarmed around the truck, when a small explosion erupted near the front of the vehicle.

That was quickly followed by a larger blast just a few metres from the truck, setting an escorting police van on fire and breaking windows in Bhutto's vehicle. Party members on top of the truck scrambled to the ground, one man jumping while others climbed down a ladder or over the side.

“Evidence available at the scene is suggesting it was a suicide bombing ... (that) exploded near police vehicles, destroying the two police vans escorting Benazir Bhutto's truck,” Officer Raja Khitab said. He said several policemen died.

At the scene of the attack, bodies lay motionless in the street, under a mural reading “Long Live Bhutto” on the side of the truck.

“People were shouting for help but there was no one to help them out. It smelled like blood and smoke,” said AP photographer B.K. Bangash, who was about 50 metres from Bhutto's truck when he heard a small blast just before midnight.

The bombs exploded just after the truck crossed a bridge about halfway from the airport to the tomb.

Pools of blood, broken glass, tires, motorcycles and bits of clothing littered the ground. Men carried the injured away from burning cars. One bystander came upon a body, checked for signs of life, and moved on.

Some of the injured were rushed into a hospital emergency room on stretchers, and others were carried in rescuers' arms. Many of the wounded were covered in blood, and some had their clothes ripped off.

Karachi has a history of violent attacks by Islamic militants, but Thursday's was believed to be among the deadliest.

In Ottawa, Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier condemned the attack.

“We extend our deepest sympathies to the scores of innocent people who are suffering from this appalling act of violence,” he said in a statement late Thursday.

Bernier also urged all parties “to adhere to the rule of law and to continue to build the conditions for free and fair parliamentary elections.”

The United States condemned “the violent attack in Pakistan and mourns the loss of innocent life there,” said Gordon Johndroe, foreign affairs spokesman for President George W. Bush. “Extremists will not be allowed to stop Pakistanis from selecting their representatives through an open and democratic process.”

Richard Haass, president of the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations, said the attack reveals “one of the fundamental realities of Pakistan today is that the government is not in total control of the country.”

He said he did not think Musharraf would declare a state of emergency, saying there were more serious challenges to state authority recently, like the standoff between militants and police at Islamabad's Red Mosque.

The bloodshed marred what had been a jubilant day for Bhutto. She received a rapturous welcome from tens of thousands of supporters, many craning from tree branches and foot bridges to glimpse her return.

The 54-year-old politician wept for joy.

"I feel very, very emotional coming back to my country," Bhutto told AP Television News at the airport, after passing under a Qur'an held over her head as she got off the plane.

"I dreamt of this day for so many months, and years. I counted the hours, the minutes and the seconds just to see this land, sky and grass. I'm so emotionally overwhelmed," she said, dressed in green with a white head scarf to match Pakistan's national flag.

Bhutto had paved her route back to Pakistan through negotiations with Musharraf, a longtime political rival whose rule she has often condemned but whose proclaimed mission to defeat Islamic extremism she shares.

The talks yielded an amnesty covering the corruption charges that made Bhutto leave Pakistan, and could lead to a political alliance uniting moderates in parliamentary elections for a fight against militants allied with al-Qaida and the Taliban.

U.S. officials are believed to still favour Musharraf, despite his sagging popularity, over his two main civilian rivals _ Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, the elected premier ousted by the general in a 1999 coup and sent back into exile when he tried to return last month.

Washington considers Musharraf a source of stability in a nuclear-armed country fighting militants along the border with Afghanistan, an area where Osama bin Laden may be hiding.

Still, amid the uncertainty that parliamentary elections will establish a U.S.-friendly government, the United States wants Pakistan to at least keep moving toward democracy _ and Bhutto's return could help that goal.

Musharraf had urged Bhutto to delay her return because of political uncertainty in Pakistan, including a pending court challenge to his presidential election victory this month.

The Supreme Court will rule soon on whether he was eligible to compete in the vote by lawmakers, since he also holds the post of army chief. If he is confirmed for a new five-year presidential term, Musharraf has promised to quit the military and restore civilian rule.

Bhutto said there was still a long way to go in political reconciliation with Musharraf, but added that she expected the court to decide in his favour. "If the court did not stop his election, it's unlikely to stop the result of that election," she said.

After flying in, Bhutto declared she returned to fight for democracy and to help Pakistan shake off its reputation as a hotbed of international terrorism.

"That's not the real image of Pakistan. The people that you see outside are the real image of Pakistan. These are the decent and hardworking middle-classes and working classes of Pakistan who want to be empowered so they can build a moderate, modern nation," she said.

Bhutto became leader of the Pakistan People's Party more than two decades ago after the military's 1979 execution of its founder, her father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a populist prime minister still exalted by many Pakistanis as the finest leader in the country's 60-year history.

She served twice as the democratically elected prime minister between 1988 and 1996 _ the first female prime minister in the Muslim world _ but both governments fell amid allegations of corruption and misrule. After Musharraf seized power, she was charged with illegally amassing properties and bank accounts overseas while in office and she left Pakistan.

The Canadian Press News Budget, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2007

DATE: 2007.10.18
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 1899

Here are coverage plans for top Canadian news as of 19:30 ET. Please note plans may change as circumstances warrant. Another update is planned at 23:30 ET. If you have any questions, contact CP's National Desk at 416-507-2150.

Copy moves by 18:00 EST unless otherwise noted; all times ET.

For queries about non-Canadian Press syndicated copy, call the Specials Desk at 416-507-2152.

CALGARY _ Police say an eight-year-old girl injured in a crash between a school bus and a gravel truck on a Calgary freeway has died. The girl was one of two children injured so severely paramedics had to provide advanced life-support at the scene. Three other children were in serious condition in hospital. 500 words. By Bill Graveland. See Photos. BC-School-Bus-Collision, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

OTTAWA _ The Conservative government introduced omnibus law-and-order legislation Thursday, saying it wants speedy passage and daring the opposition Liberals to defeat it. The Tackling Violent Crime Act proposes tougher sentences for violent and gun crimes, a higher age of sexual consent, and more stringent measures on impaired driving, bail rules, and dangerous offenders. 750 words. By Jennifer Ditchburn. See CP Photos. BC-Justice-Bill, 3rd Writethru. Moved.

OTTAWA _ The Canadian expert who wrote the book on cutting crime rates says the Conservative get-tough strategy released Thursday fails to focus on proven prevention measures. Irvin Waller wrote Less Law, More Order to educate politicians on the education, addiction and ``smart policing" programs that actually work. 600 words. By Sue Bailey. BC-Justice-Bill-Flaws. Moved.

OTTAWA _ Amnesty International says the federal government is delaying the courts from determining whether Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan are handing over prisoners to face possible torture by local authorities. 500 words. By Jim Brown. BC-Afghan-Detainees, 1st Writethru. Moved.

OTTAWA _ The federal Conservative party's central database is set up to track the confidential concerns of individual constituents without their knowledge or consent, says a former Tory MP. Privacy experts say the practice is a clear breach of standard privacy ethics _ but probably not the law, because federal political parties fall into a legislative grey area. 800 words. By Bruce Cheadle. BC-Tory-Database-Privacy. Moved.

OTTAWA _ Canadian consumers are already benefiting from the higher dollar, but they shouldn't expect instant price adjustments or purchasing power equal to the greenback, Bank of Canada governor David Dodge says. At a news conference Thursday, Dodge said the strong loonie is being reflected in lower prices for gasoline and other products, including food. 950 words. By Julian Beltrame. BC-Bank-Economy, 2nd Writethru. Moved Business (B) and General (G). Moved.

See also BC-Bank-Credit, 1st Writethru. Moves Business (B).

MONTREAL _ A Quebec inquiry into an overpass collapse that killed five people last year is spreading the blame among several engineers, companies and the provincial government. Commission head Pierre Marc Johnson says ``a total lack of quality control," shoddy construction and low-quality concrete used to build the overpass near Montreal 35 years ago set the stage for disaster. 650 words. By Les Perreux. BC-Que-Overpass-Collapse, 3rd Writethru. Moved.

TORONTO _ Law enforcement officials say they are conducting a very active investigation into the activities of a Canadian pedophile suspect accused of abusing young boys in several Asian countries. Staff. Sgt. Rick Greenwood of the National Child Exploitation Co-ordination Centre in Ottawa says investigators are conducting interviews in parts of the country where 32-year-old Christopher Paul Neil lived and worked before moving to Asia. 500 words. By Merita Ilo. BC-Interpol-Manhunt-Cda. Moved.

See also: Paris BC-Interpol-Manhunt

MONTREAL _ Quebec police were releasing few details on Thursday following the overnight death of a man who had been Tasered earlier this week. Quilem Registre died in a Montreal hospital Wednesday, marking the second time in less than a week that a Canadian has died after being Tasered. The deaths have prompted Amnesty International and stun gun critics to call for moratorium on the use of the weapon. 600 words. By Jonathan Montpetit. BC-Taser-Death, 1st Writethru. Moved.

TORONTO _ A new study is debunking ``doom and gloom" reports of rising poverty rates in Canada. The C.D. Howe Institute study released Thursday finds anti-poverty initiatives in Canada have enjoyed success, particularly at increasing employment among the poor. The study suggests policies that make it more difficult for people to access social assistance have pushed a lot of people into the labour force. 500 words. By Tobi Cohen. BC-Poverty-Study, 1st Writethru. Moved.

WINDSOR, Ont. _ The trial for the man accused of first-degree murder in the first-ever on-duty killing of a police officer in this southwestern Ontario border city got underway Thursday as Nikkolas Brennan, 20, pleaded not guilty in the death of Windsor police Const. John Atkinson. 500 words. By Melanie Borrelli. BC-Officer-Slain-Trial, 1st Writethru. Moved.

MONTREAL _ Two words being dropped from signs on some Second Cup coffee shops in Quebec is drawing the ire of a French language group, which is demanding the popular coffee company keep using the words ``Les cafe" before its English-only name. 400 words. By Sidhartha Banerjee. BC-French Second Cup, 1st Writethru. Moved.

TORONTO _ A white woman who was fired amid allegations of racism at the predominantly black women's shelter where she worked won more than \$28,000 in severance pay Thursday for wrongful dismissal. In a strongly worded judgment, the judge denounced the way Karen Butler-Lynch was dismissed, found no evidence of a racist attitude and warned against allowing subjective feelings of hurt to damage good employment practices. 500 words. By Colin Perkel. BC-Wrongful-Dissmissal-Racism, 1st Writethru. Moved.

TORONTO _ Tuition at Canadian universities didn't go up by much this fall, but the modest increase is still part of a persistent trend across the country that's pricing too many people out of a post-secondary education, students said Thursday as Statistics Canada released its annual figures on the cost of an education. 500 words. By Michael Oliveira. BC-StatsCan-Tuition, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

YELLOWKNIFE _ A man accused in the fatal shooting of an RCMP officer uttered only a single word when he made his first appearance in court Thursday to be formally charged with first-degree murder. Emrah Bulatci, 23, responded ``Yes" when the judge asked him if he understood what he was being charged with. 400 words. By Bob Weber. See CP Photos. BC-CRIME-RCMP-Shooting, 3rd Writethru. Moved.

WINNIPEG _ A report into the deaths of two Winnipeg firefighters who were caught in an explosion of flames while battling a house fire in February was released Thursday. 550 words. By Tamara King. BC–Firefighters–Dead. Moved.

WINNIPEG _ Cpl. Jordon Anderson was a soldier trained to fight, but he also felt strongly about expanding his education. At the time of his death in Afghanistan last summer, he was very close to getting a degree from the University of Manitoba, and on Thursday he was to be granted that degree posthumously before family, friends and the military. 600 words. Member photo requested. By Steve Lambert. BC–Afghan–Posthumous–Degree. Moved.

CALGARY _ Nobody could really accuse Maria Bouzetos of setting her sights too high when it came to buying a home. All she wanted was a modest condo in Calgary. But Alberta's unprecedented real estate boom has dashed her dream and made Bouzetos just one of many western Canadians growing increasingly pessimistic about the state of housing and home ownership. 850 words. By James Stevenson. BC–West–Poll–Housing. Moved.

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. _ Labrador's Inuit government is considering suspending all uranium mining and development on its territory because of concerns over the safe disposal of the radioactive element's waste. Nunatsiavut, an Inuit settlement in Labrador larger than the size of Ireland, boasts vast deposits of the highly lucrative metal, drawing the interest of several mining companies eager to develop. 500 words. By Tara Brautigam. BC–Inuit–Uranium–Ban. Moves General (G) and Business (B). Moved.

TORONTO _ A new report suggests most people admitted to hospital after visiting an emergency department are placed in a bed in under two hours, but older and sicker patients often face longer waits. The report says waits are typically longer in larger hospitals than they are in smaller hospitals. 600 words. By Helen Branswell. Moves General (G) and Lifestyles (L). BC–Hospital–Bed–Waits, 1st Writethru. Moved.

TORONTO _ With a simple swab inside the mouth, consumers are told they can capture cells for DNA analysis to trace their ancestors or family country of origin. But can these genetic ancestry tests being offered by a growing number of companies really deliver the goods? 750 words. By Sheryl Ubelacker. EMBARGOED until 2 p.m. EDT TODAY, Oct. 18. Moves General (G) and Lifestyles (L). BC–Genetic–Ancestry–Tests, Advance. Moved.

TORONTO _ Demand for power in Ontario was down by almost five per cent this summer, the result of an increased emphasis on conservation that could help close Ontario's coal-fired plants years ahead of schedule, an energy critic said Thursday. A difference of 1,268 megawatts between this summer's peak and last year's is the equivalent of one-third of the total output of the province's biggest coal-fired power plant _ and a concerted focus on conservation could help shutter that facility for good, said Jack Gibbons of the Ontario Clean Air Alliance. 500 words. By Michael Oliveira. BC–Energy–Demand–Down, 1st Writethru. Moves Regional (C).

HALIFAX _ Nova Scotia's premier unveiled legislation Thursday designed to stop strikes in the health-care system, a key priority for his government but one that is doomed to fail in the minority legislature. 400 words. By James Keller. BC–NS–Health–Strike, 1st Writethru. Moves Regional (A).

EDMONTON _ A young man who confessed to the sex slaying of a 13-year-old girl has been sentenced to life in prison. The man was 17 when Nina Courtepatte was raped and bludgeoned to death on a golf course west of Edmonton in April 2005. 550 words. By John Cotter. BC–CRIME–Girl–Dead, 1st Writethru.

VANCOUVER _ Vancouver's police chief says chronic offenders who are committing most of the property crimes and putting public safety at risk need to be sent back to their own province. Jim Chu's "home for the holidays" program that would buy them plane tickets to leave B.C., where they're costing money for social

services, courts and health services. 600 words. By Camille Bains. BC–Criminals–Go–Home, 1st writethru.

CP is also following....

RED DEER, Alta. _ Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach delivers speech at his annual fundraising dinner. By Jim Macdonald. Copy develops from 7 p.m. MT (9 p.m. ET) dinner.

VANCOUVER _ B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell and Washington State Gov. Christine Gregoire address a conference Wednesday on the implications of climate change.

FOR THE WEEKEND

TORONTO _ Facebook was once almost exclusively the terrain of high school and university students. But as throngs of 30- and 40-somethings have jumped on the Facebook bandwagon, a backlash seems to be brewing. Some are even pulling the plug after sampling Facebook and discovering they can't bear the frequent status updaters, the obsessive game-players and quiz-takers, and the fact that people they hoped never to hear from again are demanding to be their Facebook friends. 800 words. By Lee–Anne Goodman. For use anytime but intended mainly for weekend editions. BC–Facebook–Dropouts. Moved.

New poll conducted in Afghanistan shows majority of Afghans want foreign troops to stay

DATE: 2007.10.18

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 399

OTTAWA _ The fact Afghans are now able to take part in democratic processes like polling is an impressive sign for that country, Defence Minister Peter MacKay suggested after results of a unique poll were released late Thursday.

An Environics Research poll of Afghans suggests a strong majority want NATO-led troops including Canadians to stay to fight and help them rebuild their country.

Environics bills this survey as the first ever conducted in person in Afghanistan on behalf of The Globe and Mail, the CBC and La Presse.

“I think it's very positive that the Afghan people feel that way, feel positively towards the presence of Canadians and others from NATO that are there to help them secure their country,” MacKay said.

“But I think the more telling issue is the fact that they're able to have a poll.”

MacKay suggested it shows a restoration of confidence among Afghans that they feel they can express an opinion on things as important as foreign troops and other issues that affect their lives directly, and is a sign of progress in Afghanistan.

“That's another brick in the wall as far as building security, building a functioning society in that country.”

Published accounts of the poll reported that 60 per cent said that the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing. Only 16 per cent said it was a bad thing, while 22 per cent said it was equally good and bad. Support in Kandahar, where the Taliban are stronger, was weaker but most respondents still wanted the soldiers to stay.

The survey results were in reports Thursday on the Globe and Mail and CBC websites. The poll was conducted between Sept. 17 and 24 and sampled 1,578 men and women.

While polls show most Canadians want the country's military mission in Afghanistan to end in February 2009 or sooner, the Environics survey indicates Afghans want it to continue. The published accounts of the poll reported that 64 per cent said they believe the foreigners have made a lot or some progress in fighting the Taliban, and only one-quarter said they should leave immediately or within a year.

It also indicates a sense of optimism in the country with 60 per cent saying they were better off than five years ago.

When it comes to Canada's presence in the country, it has a relatively high profile, ranking fourth in public awareness after the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom. But virtually no Afghans are apparently aware Canadian soldiers are involved in fighting the Taliban. (CBC, Globe and Mail)

INDEX:Defence, International, Politics

DATE: 2007.10.18
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 102

KABUL, Afghanistan _ NATO's top commander in Afghanistan charges Iran's military has been trying to smuggle advanced bombs into Afghanistan.

U-S Army General Dan McNeill told reporters in Kabul today that a convoy carrying weapons was intercepted in Western Afghanistan last month.

McNeill says the stash contained a number of what he calls ``advance technology improvised explosive devices."

The general doesn't say whether such weapons have been used in Afghanistan, but he told The Washington Post last month that the devices are similar to those used against U-S troops in Iraq.

McNeill says it's hard to believe the convoy could have come from Iran without the knowledge of the Iranian military.

Iran disputes the allegations, saying they're part of a widespread anti-Iranian campaign.

(The Associated Press)

mcw

NATO general: Iranian military bombs found in Afghanistan

DATE: 2007.10.18

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 116

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) – The top NATO commander in Afghanistan said Thursday his troops intercepted a weapons convoy coming from Iran last month containing sophisticated explosive devices and blamed the Iranian military for involvement in its shipment.

U.S. Army Gen. Dan McNeill, the commander of NATO's 40,000–strong International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, said the convoy contained 'a number of advance technology improvised explosive devices' and was intercepted on Sept. 5th in western Afghanistan.

'This weapons convoy clearly, geographically, originated in Iran,' McNeill told reporters in Kabul.

'It is difficult for me to conceive that this convoy could have originated in Iran and come to Afghanistan, without at least the knowledge of the Iranian military,' McNeill said.

TOR OUT YYY

DATE: 2007.10.18
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 336

Thai police announced this morning they've issued a formal arrest warrant for a suspected Canadian pedophile — a man already the target of a global manhunt by Interpol.

Thirty-two-year-old Christopher Neil of Maple Ridge, B-C is wanted on two counts of having sex with two boys at his Bangkok apartment.

Neil is believed to be in Thailand.

Interpol alleges he is the man shown in recently unscrambled Internet images sexually abusing young Asian boys. (4)

(BC-Airport-Taser) (Audio: 34)

A Kamloops, B-C woman whose son died after being Tasered at the Vancouver airport on Sunday says something must be done about the controversial weapon.

Zofia Cisowski (cee-SOW'-skee) says her 40-year-old son, Robert Dziekanski (zhee-ah-KAN'-skee), was ``screaming" for help in Polish.

But she says no translator was called to find out why her son was so agitated before police used a stun gun to subdue him.

Cisowski says she'd worked two jobs for seven years to save money so her son could join her in Canada. (4)

(Throne Speech)

Liberal Leader Stephane Dion is being ridiculed for criticizing the Harper government's throne speech, and yet announcing that Liberal M-P's won't be voting against it.

Dion says he won't topple the minority government over the speech, but will instead propose amendments to it.

N-D-P Leader Jack Layton told the Commons he believes Dion is hiding behind excuses.

Prime Minister Harper then said his government will soon table a sweeping anti-crime bill and will treat it as a confidence matter — meaning it won't be open to any amendments. (4)

(Afghan-Violence)

There's no word on the nationalities of the wounded soldiers, but a coalition patrol has been ambushed by the Taliban in southern Afghanistan.

The Taliban used heavy machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades to ambush a American-led coalition

patrol in yesterday's attack near Kandahar City.

Nine troops were wounded.

A Canadian military spokesman in Kandahar doesn't believe any Canadians were among the wounded. (4)

(OJ-Simpson)

One of O-J Simpson's co-defendants says the ex-football star wanted guns brought along to a hotel-room confrontation with two sports-memorabilia dealers in Vegas last month.

Walter Alexander has told police the weapons were brought only to show the dealers they meant business.

Simpson and others face armed robbery and kidnapping charges. (4)

(MUSIC-Top-100-Albums) (Audio: 08)

A new coffee-table book out today has Neil Young's classic disc ``Harvest" topping the list of the 100 best Canadian albums.

Author and music lover Bob Mersereau polled nearly 600 musicians, critics, managers and retailers to come up with a snapshot of the country's most-loved discs.

At the number two spot is Joni Mitchell's ``Blue," followed by Young's ``After the Gold Rush." (4)

(NewsWatch by Karen Rebot)

--Thirteenth NewsWatch--

DATE: 2007.10.18
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 389

An eight-year-old has died after a mini-school bus collided with a dump truck and then smashed into a lightpost in Calgary.

The girl was among 11 children hurt in the crash along a busy freeway this morning.

One remains in critical condition and three others are in serious condition in hospital.

The other six children were not seriously hurt and the female bus driver escaped injury.

Police are investigating why the bus hit the truck, which was parked on the shoulder of the highway. (13)

(US-Cda-Arar)

Canadian Mahar Arar has received an apology from American congressmen over the actions of U-S officials in his rendition and torture case.

The 37-year-old Arar appeared before a joint hearing of House subcommittees by video link.

He was not able to testify at the Washington hearing in person because he's still on a U-S government watch list — despite being cleared of any terror links by a Canadian inquiry.

Arar was detained by U-S officials and then taken to Syria where he says he was tortured while being held for nearly a year without charges. (15)

(Afghan-Detainees)

Ottawa is being accused of keeping Federal Court from determining if Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan are handing over prisoners to face possible torture by local authorities.

Back in February, Amnesty International went to court claiming Canada was violating its own Charter of Rights by failing to safeguard the prisoners from mistreatment.

But government lawyers are arguing that the human rights group has no legal standing to bring the case and they insist it should be thrown out of court. (13)

(Anti-Abortion-Judge) (Audio:p06)

Saying he'll make a good judge, Justice Minister Rob Nicholson has defended the appointment of a former Tory M-P as a judge in Nova Scotia.

He praised anti-abortion crusader Lawrence O'Neil, who will be sworn in next week to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

Opposition critics are accusing the federal Conservatives of wanting to stack the courts with right-wing friends. (13)

(Que-Overpass-Collapse)

A Quebec inquiry into a deadly Montreal-area overpass collapse that killed five people last year has come up with 17 recommendations to prevent a similar tragedy.

It calls for the provincial government to spend 500 (m) million dollars per year for at least 10 years on bridge and overpass repair and construction.

The inquiry spreads blame among engineers, companies and the provincial government and suggests the Laval overpass was compromised right from its construction 35 years ago. (13)

(ENT-DeGeneres-Dog)

Ellen DeGeneres wants everyone to chill out, saying the controversy surrounding an adopted dog has ``gotten out of hand."

DeGeneres and her partner gave a puppy they adopted from an animal rescue group to the talk-show host's hairdresser — a move that went against the group's rules.

After the rescue group took the dog back, DeGeneres dissolved into sobs on her show two days ago, prompting death threats to the organization's operators. (13)

(NewsWatch by Chris Mayberry)

INDEX:Defence, Education, International

DATE: 2007.10.18

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 109

WINNIPEG – A Canadian soldier has been given an arts degree from the University of Manitoba three months after being killed in Afghanistan.

Cpl. Jordan Anderson is the first member of the military in decades to be given a posthumous degree.

The 25-year-old had almost completed his political science major when he was killed by a roadside bomb near Kandahar in July.

His widow, Amanda Anderson, fought back tears as she described her husband as a dedicated man with an intense hunger for learning.

Three colleagues from Anderson's Edmonton-based regiment came to the university ceremony as a sign of respect and support.

Cpl. Adam Bowness said Anderson was very focused on his educational goals, and would frequently be found working on his papers while other soldiers partied.

(The Canadian Press)

INDEX:Advisories

DATE: 2007.10.18
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 471

(School–Bus–Collision) (Alta note)

Calgary police say there is little evidence that the driver of a school bus applied the brakes right before colliding with a gravel truck that had stopped on the shoulder of a busy expressway during morning rush hour.

An eight–year–old girl was killed, and another 13–year–old on the bus has now been upgraded to stable condition in hospital.

The passenger side of the bus was nearly ripped off in the collision.

Nine other kids were treated and released from hospital.

Police say alcohol has been ruled out as a factor in the crash. (The Canadian Press)

(Afghan–Posthumous–Degree)

Three months after being killed in Afghanistan, an Edmonton–based soldier has received a posthumous arts degree from the University of Manitoba.

Corporal Jordan Anderson had almost completed his political science degree when he was killed by a roadside bomb near Kandahar in July.

His widow, Amanda, fought back tears as she described her husband as a man with an intense hunger for learning. (The Canadian Press)

(Firefighters–Dead)

Officials say a report into a Winnipeg house fire last winter in which two firefighters were killed is too sensitive to be released.

Fire Chief Jim Brennan says the report suggests homeowners should put better fire guard drywall between their homes and attached garages instead of plywood.

Brennan says he's not releasing the report because it would be hard on the victim's loved–ones.

Captains Harold Lessard and Tom Nichols were killed and four other firefighters were injured last February after a ball of flame tore through the second storey of a burning home. (The Canadian Press)

(CRIME–Girl–Dead) (Alta note)

A young man who was 17 when he raped and bludgeoned 13–year–old Nina Courtepatte has been handed a life sentence with no parole for at least 10 years.

The girl was lured to a golf course west of Edmonton with the promise of a party, but was raped and killed instead.

The man, who is now 19, was sentenced as an adult for first-degree murder, despite efforts by the defence to have him sentenced as a youth — which carries much less jail time. (The Canadian Press)

(CRIME–Family–Slain)

A man charged in the slayings of three members of a Medicine Hat, Alberta family will be back in court November 8th.

Jeremy Steinke's case came up briefly in court today, where a date was expected to be set for a change of venue hearing.

Instead, the hearing was bumped ahead to next month.

Steinke is charged with three counts of first-degree murder in the April 2006 slayings of a city couple and their young son. (Medicine Hat News)

(Sask–Girl–Lured)

R–C–M–P say they're investigating after a young girl was lured into a vehicle and then released uninjured outside Hafford, Saskatchewan.

Police say the Grade 5 student was driven about 13–kilometres west of the townsite after getting into a stranger's pickup truck.

They say the driver then told the girl to get out of the truck and she was then spotted by passing motorists and taken back into town.

Police are asking the public for tips in trying to track down the man. (CBC)

(Alta–Waste–Recycling)

Albertans will pay a new recycling fee on the paint they buy starting in April.

The new levy will be 10 cents for smaller paint and spray cans, 50 cents for pots larger than one litre and one dollar for containers larger than five litres.

The province estimates the new recycling fee will bring in three (m) million dollars a year, which will be used to recycle paint and educate consumers on the need to take used paint to eco stations.

Environment Minister Rob Renner says a new waste strategy will also aim at construction and demolition wastes, possibly with a refundable deposit to encourage recycling. (The Canadian Press)

(Prairie Update by Lisa Arrowsmith)

INDEX:Defence, International

DATE: 2007.10.18
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 234

TORONTO – A poll of Afghans suggests a strong majority want NATO–led troops including Canadians to stay to fight and help them rebuild their country.

The results are in what Environics Research bills as the first ever public opinion poll conducted in person in Afghanistan on behalf of The Globe and Mail, the CBC and La Presse.

Published accounts of the poll reported that 60 per cent said that the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing. Only 16 per cent said it was a bad thing, while 22 per cent said it was equally good and bad. Support in Kandahar, where the Taliban are stronger, was weaker but most respondents still wanted the soldiers to stay.

The survey results were in reports Thursday on the Globe and Mail and CBC websites. The poll was conducted between Sept. 17 and 24 and sampled 1,578 men and women.

While polls show most Canadians want the country's military mission in Afghanistan to end in February 2009 or sooner, the Environics survey indicates Afghans want it to continue. The published accounts of the poll reported that 64 per cent said they believe the foreigners have made a lot or some progress in fighting the Taliban, and only one–quarter said they should leave immediately or within a year.

It also indicates a sense of optimism in the country with 60 per cent saying they were better off than five years ago.

(The Canadian Press)

TOR OUT YYY

DATE: 2007.10.18
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 282

A new poll conducted in Afghanistan shows a majority people want foreign troops, including Canadians, to stay.

Environics Research is calling the survey the first ever of it's kind.

It was conducted in person in Afghanistan on behalf of The Globe and Mail, the C-B-C and La Presse.

The poll shows that 60 per cent of Afghans say the presence of foreigners in the country is a good thing.

Only 16 per cent say it's bad, while 22 per cent call it equally good and bad. (19)

(Pakistan-Bhutto-Bombing)

Benazir Bhutto's biographer says the former prime minister of Pakistan may have saved her own life today.

In an interview with Britain's Sky News, Christina Lamb says Bhutto had just gone into a downstairs compartment of the truck she was in right before an explosion Thursday in Karachi.

The blast, believed to have been a suicide bombing, happened just in front of Bhutto's procession, killing 126 people. (19)

(School Bus-Collision)

Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach says it may be time to revisit the issue of seatbelts on school buses.

A school bus crash in Calgary Thursday morning killed an eight-year-old girl, while a 13-year-old boy remains in hospital in stable condition.

The bus ran into a gravel truck parked on the side of a freeway.

Current federal regulations don't require buses to be equipped with the devices.

(HEALTH-Viagra Warning)

There's a new warning that will accompany bottles of the anti-impotence drug Viagra — it may effect your hearing.

It's not clear that the drug actually causes hearing loss, but U-S regulators decided to err on the side of caution after 29 reports dating back to 1996.

In a third of cases the condition was temporary. (19)

(BC-Ferries-Drug Use)

B-C's transportation minister is going to meet with the president of the province's ferry service and union to discuss pot use among employees.

This after the Transportation Safety Board issued a warning Wednesday that pot was being used by some crew members on the Ferries' northern routes.

The C-E-O of B-C Ferries is calling for federal changes to allow mandatory and random drug testing. (19)

(NB-Boy-Saves-Mom)

Now might be a good time for Hudson McIntyre to negotiate a raise in his allowance.

The nine-year-old New Brunswick boy is being credited with saving his mother's life.

He performed the Heimlich manoeuvre on his mom as she choked on a piece of a pear.

The child says he learned how to do the Heimlich by reading about it in an appointment book his father gave him. (19)

(NewsWatch by Leanne Davis)

INDEX:Advisories

DATE: 2007.10.18
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 318

(Afghan–Posthumous–Degree)

The University of Manitoba will grant a posthumous degree today to an Edmonton–based soldier who died in Afghanistan.

The degree will be presented to Corporal Jordan Anderson's widow.

Anderson was close to completing a bachelor of arts program through the University of Manitoba when he and five other soldiers died in a July roadside blast in Afghanistan.

One of Anderson's friends, Corporal Cole Rosentreter (ROH'–zehn–treht–uhr) in Edmonton, says the soldier and scholar was very knowledgeable and always had his nose in a university book when time allowed. (The Canadian Press)

(Mba–University–Strike)

The University of Manitoba and its striking support workers go back to the bargaining table today in an effort to resolve their contract dispute.

The 480 workers have been off the job for eight days.

The include people who work in maintenance, food services, skilled trades and other support jobs.

Money is the main issue. (Wpg F–P)

(Mba–STIs)

A record number of people in the province have tested positive for sexually transmitted infections.

Manitoba Health says 524 Manitobans tested positive for chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis in July along with another 620 people in August.

Dr. Joel Kettner, the province's chief medical officer, says it's difficult to say whether the numbers show that more people are getting tested or more people are being infected with these types of sexually transmitted infections.

Based on 2007 data, Kettner says Manitoba is heading towards recording a higher number of chlamydia cases this year and slightly fewer cases of gonorrhea. (Wpg F–P)

(Arctic–Shipment)

A historic event at the Port of Churchill.

For the first time, a Russian vessel has brought an ocean shipment to the northern port.

A boatload of fertilizer arrived this week and the farmers' group that imported it estimates it saved 40 dollars a tonne in shipping costs.

Many are hoping the event will lead to a regular trade route between Russia and Canada, referred to by business leaders as an Arctic bridge. (The Canadian Press)

(CRIME–Stepdaughter–Killed)

The Manitoba Court of Appeal has reserved decision on an application by a Winnipeg man to have his conviction for killing his four-year-old stepdaughter overturned.

Thirty-year-old Garnet Sinclair claims he's been wrongfully convicted and should be freed from jail.

Defence lawyer Greg Brodsky argued that jurors were improperly instructed on the law before they rendered a guilty verdict to manslaughter last winter.

Earlier, the appeal court judges refused a Crown application to increase Sinclair's 30-month sentence. (Wpg F–P)

(Manitoba Update by Irv Thomas)

INDEX:Defence, International

DATE: 2007.10.18
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 77

KABUL, Afghanistan – Nine U.S.–led coalition troops were wounded Thursday after the Taliban used heavy machine guns and rocket propelled grenades to ambush a patrol in southern Afghanistan.

A coalition statement says the attack took place near Kandahar city on Wednesday.

The patrol was able to repel the attack using small arms fire.

The statement says none of the injuries are serious and there were no insurgent casualties.

A Canadian military spokesman in Kandahar says it's not believed any Canadian troops were among the wounded.

In the east, police say a roadside bomb on a police vehicle close to the Pakistani border killed an officer and wounded three others.

Amnesty says government stalling court case on Afghan detainees

DATE: 2007.10.18

KEYWORDS: JUSTICE DEFENCE POLITICS INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 157

OTTAWA – Amnesty International says the government is keeping Federal Court from determining whether Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan are handing over prisoners to face possible torture by local authorities.

The human rights group filed a case in February claiming Canada was violating its own Charter of Rights by failing to safeguard the prisoners from mistreatment.

But eight months later, government lawyers are still arguing that Amnesty has no legal standing to bring the case and insisting it should be thrown out of court.

Paul Champ, the lawyer representing Amnesty, is urging the court to reject the procedural and technical objections and clear the way for both sides to get on to the human rights issues at the heart of the case.

The government admitted last spring that it was investigating a half-dozen allegations of serious mistreatment of prisoners after they were handed over to Afghan authorities.

Ottawa says it has since put new rules in place to monitor what happens to detainees once they're transferred out of Canadian jurisdiction.

(The Canadian Press)

PM's blueprint fails to captivate nation

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SECTION: News
PAGE: A01
BYLINE: Richard Brennan
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 380

poll: the throne speech

Canadians are only lukewarm toward the Conservatives' throne speech but aren't keen to see an election fought over it, a new poll shows.

The Angus Reid Strategies poll, exclusive to the Star, found 42 per cent were dissatisfied with the Conservative government's proposals on the environment, while 28 per cent said they were satisfied. The remainder had no opinion.

When asked about the Tories' proposal to stay in Afghanistan until 2011, 40 per cent said they were dissatisfied and 29 per cent said they were satisfied.

And while 33 per cent were not happy with the government's plans for federal– provincial relations – which include restricting federal spending in areas of provincial jurisdiction – the poll found 30 per cent were satisfied.

At least 38 per cent of those surveyed were satisfied with the throne speech plans for tax cuts, tough anti–crime legislation and boosting our claim to Arctic sovereignty.

The poll also found Liberal Leader Stephane Dion is the least popular opposition leader in more than 20 years.

The online survey of 1,108 Canadians has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The survey found 34 per cent of Canadians want the opposition to approve the throne speech and avoid an election, 22 per cent want to topple the minority government and the remaining 45 per cent are undecided.

Last night, the Conservatives breezed through the first vote on their throne speech as a Bloc Quebecois motion was soundly defeated.

The Liberals and NDP joined with the Tories to vote down a Bloc motion condemning the throne speech 240–48.

The speech, presented Tuesday, is the Tories' road map for the coming session of Parliament. In it, they outlined plans for anti–crime legislation, the Afghan mission, tax cuts and the environment, among others.

The Angus Reid poll results for Dion were terrible. Only 9 per cent said they would prefer to see him as prime minister, compared with 32 per cent for Harper.

"This is just terrible ... numbers haven't been this bad for an opposition leader since (former Liberal leader) John Turner back in 1984–85. That's as bad as it gets," said Mario Canseco, a spokesperson for the polling firm.

Canseco also said it's quite telling that so many Canadian (45 per cent) would not pick either man.

The polls results, released at a time when the Conservative government is daring the opposition Liberals to force an election, show 34 per cent of Canadians support the Conservatives; Liberals 29 per cent; New Democrats 17 per cent; Bloc 9 per cent; Green party 9 per cent and 2 per cent for others.

Canseco said an increasing problem for Harper is a big gender gap.

The survey shows 40 per cent of men support Harper and only 24 per cent of women.

With files from The Canadian Press

Let all Canadians vote on Afghanistan question

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DATE: 2007.10.19
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SECTION: Opinion
PAGE: AA08
ILLUSTRATION: AFP Getty Images Afghan villagers tend to opium poppies in the Nad-eAli district of Helmand province, in southern Afghanistan. ;
BYLINE: Sinclair Stevens
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 607

'Direct democracy' This week we received a throne speech in Ottawa. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has warned opposition parties that if they defeat it there will be an election.

In fact, if they defeat any legislation contemplated in the speech it may trigger an election.

Last week Harper appointed a five-person panel to report on the future of Canada's presence in Afghanistan after the present 2009 deadline expires.

A review of the group reveals that none appear to have any in-depth knowledge of the Afghan situation. In short, they are well-known, very able Canadians, who have earned their livelihoods in diverse jobs like many other Canadians.

This scenario affords Harper a wonderful opportunity.

Why does he not expand the group of five to include all Canadians who will have a vote in the national election he would like to trigger?

If there is going to be a general election, what could be more appropriate than to also have a referendum at that time where all 32 million Canadian voters could give their advice to the Prime Minister on this important subject, which for many soldiers could mean life, death or permanent injury.

If it is right to ask five people, who will have to spend the next few months brushing up on the subject, listening to officials in Afghanistan, the generals and of course learning the government's party line, why would it not be right to give all Canadian voters that opportunity?

In 1942, faced with a somewhat similar situation in World War II, our then prime minister Mackenzie King did just that. He called it a plebiscite.

The question was whether there should be conscription of Canadian troops for military service in that war.

The voter turnout on the issue was one of the highest in history.

Our involvement in that war was not the issue. Canadians were asked to vote on whether they were in favour of compulsory service.

Today's question is much more fundamental. Should Canadian soldiers be involved in the Afghan war at all?

Surely Harper would accept this type of direct democracy with enthusiasm. After all it was part of his Reform Party heritage.

Their party platform called for all kinds of referendums, including the recall of previously elected party members.

The Reform Party's "Blue Book," written in 1990 by Harper, specifically called for "direct democracy." This was repeated in many Reform platforms.

Harper has often complained his government's furthering of Canada's involvement in Afghanistan has not been properly understood.

Clearly, many private sector companies will profit from the government's increased defence spending. But there has been a price in human sacrifice by Canadian soldiers.

In 2005, Canada lost one soldier in Afghanistan. From 2002 to 2006, we lost eight soldiers in total.

In 2006, the year Harper took over, we lost 36, with a further 27 so far in 2007, for a total of 63 soldiers having paid the supreme price during Harper's watch.

Surely Harper would want to explain why this has occurred. Particularly why there was not suitable helicopter transportation for many of our soldiers killed on the Kandahar roads, as was available for other non-Canadian troops in the area.

Then there is the question as to who has benefited in dollar terms in Afghanistan. We know it has been a bountiful bonanza for the military contractors in Canada, but unfortunately, in Afghanistan, the main benefactors have been the warlords who have harvested opium this year.

According to the United Nations office on drugs and crime, opium production is up 34 per cent this year; in 2006 it was 59 per cent higher than in 2005. Today, Afghanistan supplies 93 per cent of the global opiates market.

The report concludes: "On aggregate, Afghanistan's opium production has thus reached a frighteningly new level, twice the amount produced just two years ago. "

The United Nations report states, "the yearly Afghan opium harvest may kill directly and not, over 100,000 people." It is estimated approximately 1,000 of those casualties will be in Canada.

The Taliban, for all their wrongs, practically eradicated production of opium in Afghanistan when they were in power.

It is also odd that Harper should announce in Winnipeg this month that they intended to spend tens of millions to combat drug use in Canada, yet he does not see how ineffective the Afghanistan military operation has been in stopping the production of opium, the deadliest drug of all.

Afghans back foreign troops: Poll; Only 14 per cent want them to leave country immediately

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ILLUSTRATION: GORAN TOMASEVIC reuters Local Afghan leaders meet U.S. and Canadian soldiers yesterday in Panjwaii Bazaar, west of Kandahar. ;
BYLINE: Bruce Campion-Smith
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 329

A large majority of Afghans believe their lives are better today than five years ago and don't want foreign forces to leave their country in the near future, a groundbreaking new poll reveals.

A survey of nearly 1,600 Afghan residents last month showed that 43 per cent want foreign troops to remain "as long as it takes" to ensure stability and security. Just 14 per cent thought the troops should leave immediately, according to the poll done for CBC News.

But despite the presence of 2,300 Canadian troops in Kandahar, Afghans credit the United States and even Germany, which has stayed far from the frontline action, for waging war against Taliban insurgents.

Canadians fare better in the area of reconstruction, with Afghans citing Canada as one of the top nations trying to rebuild their country.

Sixty per cent of those surveyed in Kandahar had a positive attitude towards Canadian soldiers. Almost half thought Canadian soldiers were doing a better job than troops from other nations. Just 12 per cent thought Canada was doing worse, CBC News reported last night.

Those numbers echo the attitudes encountered by Canadian troops on patrol in Kandahar, who are often greeted by grateful shopkeepers and residents thanking them for the job they are doing.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay hailed the results and said the fact that a poll could be done in the troubled country was symbolic of the progress made so far.

"I think it's very positive that the Afghan people ... feel positively towards the presence of Canadians and others from NATO that are there to help them secure their country, help them secure their border, support the redevelopment and efforts to support humanitarian relief," MacKay said yesterday.

The poll of Afghans was done by Afghans themselves, lending credibility to the findings. While Environics Research oversaw the survey, the actual door-to-door polling was done by workers with the Afghan Center for Socio-Economic and Opinion Research. It was done in Dari or Pashto, the two main languages in Afghanistan.

Some 70 per cent of the Afghans said they have a positive view of the administration of their president, Hamid Karzai.

Send troops holiday cheer

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SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 88

The Red Fridays Foundation of Canada has made special arrangements with Operation Santa Claus to send greeting cards to the troops serving in Afghanistan.

All cards must be received by Red Fridays by next Friday to make it onto the flight.

Use your own cards or download one from the Red Fridays' website, www.redfridays.ca.

Write in your message of support and mail the cards to: Red Fridays Foundation of Canada, Operation Santa Claus Greeting Cards, PO Box 31063 Westney Heights RPO, Ajax, ON Canada L1T 3V2.

Don't send money, cheques, gifts or parcels and don't use cards with envelopes larger than 15 centimetres by 22 centimetres.

The cards will be given at random to the serving men and women in Afghanistan during the holidays.

How Giuliani is learning to love bombing

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PAGE: A15
COLUMN: Dan Gardner
BYLINE: Dan Gardner
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 876

In August, the cover story of Harper's magazine looked at the presidential candidacy of Rudy Giuliani. Its headline: "A Fate Worse Than Bush."

At the time, I thought the editors were remiss in failing to conclude the headline with a question mark. Giuliani may be a disturbed egomaniac with a penchant for cronyism, vendettas and uniforms, and it may be frightening to imagine such a man sitting at the desk in the Oval Office, but even a White House headed by Benito Mussolini would have to struggle mightily to be "worse than Bush." Hence the question mark.

It seems I was wrong to doubt Giuliani, however. Recent developments suggest he is easily capable of being a bigger disaster than the man who drowned New Orleans.

From the outset of his campaign for the Republican nomination, Giuliani has been accused of lacking the foreign policy experience needed to take command of a global superpower. This is not entirely fair. As mayor of New York, Giuliani spent considerable time trying to get United Nations diplomats to pay their parking tickets. Nonetheless, there is at least a perception that Giuliani knows little of statecraft and so his choice of foreign policy advisers is a matter of considerable importance.

And thus it is noteworthy that a man who could be the next president of the United States is being tutored on world affairs by the cast of Dr. Strangelove.

Daniel Pipes, Martin Kramer, Nile Gardiner, Peter Berkowitz, Norman Podhoretz: The description ordinarily applied to each of these newly appointed advisers to Rudy Giuliani is "neo-conservative hawk," but that doesn't quite capture the full flavour of what's on offer here. Dick Cheney is a neo-conservative hawk and Dick Cheney would find this bunch a little scary. "Clearly, it is a rather one-sided group of people," Dmitri Simes, a foreign policy expert with the Nixon Center and master of understatement told Newsweek. Giuliani is "out-Bushing Bush."

That comment annoyed Daniel Pipes. He and Giuliani's other advisers have often disagreed with the Bush administration, he wrote. And he's right. They have criticized the Bush administration for being far too soft and conciliatory. Less talking, they say. More bombing.

As the neo-con grandfather and Giuliani's senior adviser, Norman Podhoretz is expected to set the standard on bellicosity and he does not disappoint. Podhoretz — who is on the record saying he "hopes and prays" Bush bombs Iran — recently released a fascinating book called World War IV: The Long Struggle Against Islamofascism.

The reader may find the title confusing. World War IV? What, did I miss one? The Cold War was the Third World War, Podhoretz helpfully explains. That makes the war against "Islamofascism" the Fourth World War. And since the Fourth World War actually started in the 1970s with PLO terrorism and the Iranian revolution, the Third and Fourth World Wars overlapped for two decades. Not that anyone noticed. Which is odd. You'd think it would be hard to miss one World War, let alone two.

No matter. We are now, as always, engaged in a World War. And just as the state of war never changes, neither does Podhoretz's preferred policy. Bomb stuff. That always works. Bush bombed Afghanistan and that was "a spectacular success," Podhoretz writes. The whole point of the exercise was to get Osama bin Laden and his crew but they scampered off to Pakistan. Still, it was a spectacular success, Podhoretz believes, because, well, it involved lots of bombing and bombing always works.

Podhoretz sees further evidence of this axiom in Iraq, which is going swimmingly no matter what anyone says. A dictator was overthrown, a government was created, and elections held, Podhoretz writes. "By what bizarre calculation did all this add up to failure?" Whatever else one may say about Norman Podhoretz, he's no defeatist.

He's also not one to be distracted by details. "In the realm of Islam," he writes, "the news of 9/11 brought dancing in the streets and screams of jubilation." The realm of Islam stretches across two continents and contains close to a billion and a half people. Who was doing this dancing and screaming? How many were there? Where? Podhoretz ignores such petty questions and sticks with what really matters, which is seeing the enemy across the length and breadth of "the realm of Islam."

The PLO terrorists of the 1970s were secular. Al-Qaeda terrorists are religious zealots. These sorts of distinctions matter, one would think, but apparently not. In Podhoretz's index, there are three entries for "Steyn, Mark," but none for "Shia" or "Sunni." The Ayatollahs of Iran, the tribal Taliban, the fascist Saddam, the "Islamic socialist" Qaddafi, the Alawite Assad: In Podhoretz's mind, they're all manifestations of a single Enemy fanatically committed to the destruction of Western civilization.

A few months ago, I wrote that should Giuliani become president, I will buy shares in major weapons manufacturers and replace the delphiniums in my backyard with a bomb shelter. Now that Giuliani, in his wisdom, has sought the counsel of Dr. Strangelove and friends, I fear the delphiniums' time is already up.

Dan Gardner writes Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. E-mail: dgardner@thecitizen.canwest.com

Harper's shrewd strategy; Stephen Harper may yet have found a way to honour Canada's commitment to Afghanistan

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Jean Levac, The Ottawa Citizen / Prime Minister Stephen Harper talks with Chief of the Defence Staff General Rick Hillier prior to the throne speech this week. ;
BYLINE: J.L. Granatstein
SOURCE: Citizen Special
WORD COUNT: 1266

The governor-general wore the Canadian Forces Decoration on her breast, a dozen Afghanistan veterans sat at the front of the Senate Chamber (with its huge, splendid Great War paintings above them), and the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Rick Hillier, stood behind the seated prime minister. The first words in the speech were praise for the men and women serving in the military: "Their commitment and courage in the name of justice, equality and freedom — whose benefits are not accorded to all peoples in the world — are worthy of our utmost respect." It might almost have been a wartime opening of Parliament.

Indeed, the first substantive section of the speech from the throne was in a section called "Strengthening Canada's Sovereignty and Place in the World." This nation, the government proclaimed, "is built on a common heritage of values, which Canadians have fought and died to defend. It is a country that continues to attract newcomers seeking refuge and opportunity, who see Canada as a place where they can work hard, raise families and live in freedom. Our government is resolved to uphold this heritage ..."

Not least in Afghanistan, without doubt the most contentious issue on the nation's international agenda. With 2,000 troops in the field, with a very large aid budget committed there into the coming decade, Canada is up to its waist in the Kandahar poppy fields. The Canadian Forces are committed to their present combat role until February 2009, a role that offends Jack Layton and the New Democratic Party and that certainly upsets large numbers — but not a majority — of Canadians.

The prime minister had promised Parliament a vote on the future of the commitment, but then in a brilliant tactical move, he created an eminent persons panel to study that future commitment and put John Manley, a former Liberal cabinet minister, in charge of it. The panel is expected to report in February 2008. That decision took much of the force out of the present Afghan debate and gave the government an easy answer to all questions in Parliament: Wait until the panel reports.

But Mr. Harper, as Canadians have come to understand, is not without his shrewd strategems. The speech from the throne observed that "Nowhere is Canada making a difference more clearly than in Afghanistan. Canada has joined the United Nations-sanctioned mission in Afghanistan because it is noble and necessary." Since most Canadians all-too-easily assume that Canada went to Afghanistan only because of American pressure, it is always useful to remind them that the mission was supported by the UN. And, the speech continued, "Canadians understand that development and security go hand in hand. Without security, there can be no humanitarian aid, no reconstruction and no democratic development. Progress will be slow, but our

efforts are bearing fruit." Security and aid go hand in hand, a truism if ever there was one. But too many Canadians fail to understand this, and so repetition here makes a point that needs constant reiteration.

Then the Harper government's speech cut to the chase: "The Canadian Forces mission has been approved by Parliament until February 2009, and our government has made clear to Canadians and our allies that any future military deployments must also be supported by a majority of parliamentarians. In the coming session, members will be asked to vote on the future of the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. This decision should honour the dedication and sacrifice of Canada's development workers, diplomats and men and women in uniform. It should ensure that progress in Afghanistan is not lost and that our international commitments and reputation are upheld." The progress made — and contrary to much popular blathering, measurable, genuine progress has been made — must not be lost.

The Conservative government "does not believe that Canada should simply abandon the people of Afghanistan after February 2009. Canada should build on its accomplishments and shift to accelerate the training of the Afghan army and police so that the Afghan government can defend its own sovereignty. This will not be completed by February 2009, but our government believes this objective should be achievable by 2011," the end of the period covered by the Afghanistan Compact signed in January 2006 that laid out the international community's reconstruction efforts there.

There is an element of carrots and sticks here. Canada has been trying without much success to get its NATO partners to commit more troops to the troubled southern regions of Afghanistan, and it has been searching for a role that will reduce casualties for its troops. The throne speech suggests strongly that Canada will fulfill its present commitments until February 2009, but then, it makes clear, the role will change — implicitly whether or not NATO members step in to fill the Canadian Forces' place in combat. After that date, Canada will devote itself to training the Afghanistan National Army and Police for two years more. That task might be in Kandahar province or, more likely, not. It might involve a few warrants and junior officers training recruits in a sheltered base, but it also might be — and quite possibly will be — a good-sized commitment of soldiers to train officers and men and to mentor them in the field in action.

Such a role will certainly contain within it the prospect of casualties. And if, as the speech noted, there can be no development without security, so too can there be no successful training of the ANA and police without security. A commitment of combat-ready troops will continue to be necessary until 2011 — and perhaps even longer than that.

What Mr. Harper has done with his appointment of the eminent persons panel and his re-jigging of the Afghan debate to a new focus on 2011 is very shrewd. He has removed the prospect of an immediate parliamentary debate and pushed off a possible defeat on the Afghan deployment in the House of Commons at least until the coming February. There might well have been a general election by that date and, if so, a decision to pull out or remain in Afghanistan will be made in a very different political atmosphere.

Nothing has been decided, and nothing will be at least until the Manley panel reports, but the term of the commitment nonetheless has been moved forward two years. The NDP and the Bloc Québécois will fume, and the Liberals (who, we need constant reminding, put Canada into Kandahar) will squirm, but Harper has outfoxed them again.

"There's been no attempt to put the Liberals into an impossible position," Industry Minister Jim Prentice piously observed of the Manley panel. "The Liberals, led by Mr. Dion, find impossible positions all by themselves. It's an attempt to have a responsible debate, a non-partisan debate about an extremely important issue to the country."

So confused has the Liberal position been on Afghanistan that Mr. Prentice's comment seems completely reasonable and scarcely partisan at all.

Harper's shrewd strategy; Stephen Harper may yet have found a way to honour Canada's commitment to Af

Historian J.L. Granatstein writes on behalf of the Council for Canadian Security in the 21st Century (www.ccs21.org).

Dion's learning curve

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COLUMN: Susan Riley
BYLINE: Susan Riley
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Stéphane Dion seems smart, honest, intellectually supple and attractively optimistic by nature — and, arguably, more in tune with majority Canadian values than is his chief rival.

But he is a painfully inept, sometimes incomprehensible, orator. He is even worse at reading speeches than Jean Chrétien was. That bad.

Moments after the opposition leader rose this week to deliver his much-anticipated response to the Conservative throne speech — the eyes of the media and political Ottawa, if not the nation, trained on him — the drama started to drain from the room.

It wasn't what Dion was saying, so much, as his laborious delivery. He could make the Sermon on the Mount sound like an actuarial report. His speeches read much better than they sound, but this is not good news in retail politics.

Ten minutes into his address, BlackBerrys were humming in the overhanging press gallery as reporters, with our notoriously short attention spans, turned to more urgent matters. Opposition MPs were rolling their eyes as Dion soldiered on, some even laughing mockingly, while a small, inscrutable smile flickered across Prime Minister Stephen Harper's face.

Perhaps Harper was imagining the campaign to come: his crisp, simplistic messages and straightforward style ("we'll punish the drug dealers and help the victims"), versus the often esoteric, jargon-ridden pronouncements of his Liberal foe. It doesn't matter if Dion has a more subtle reading of the issues, from crime to climate change, or that his policies are, in some cases, more honest and workable. If he can't explain himself in compelling language he needs to find another line of work.

This is not news, but it should be a major concern for Liberals. Dion is not getting noticeably better and the problem is more profound than his strong French accent. It may be all those years behind a university podium, lecturing — not persuading, or amusing, or inspiring. But you would think the author of the Clarity Act would at least be clear. Instead, Dion often encumbers what should be simple messages with ancient history and unneeded detail — although, to be fair, it is hard to make poetry of any sentence that contains the words "federal spending power."

In any event, he will have time to try. For all the brinkmanship of recent days, it seems clear we are in for a prolonged period of relative peace. All parties, not just the Liberals, have danced carefully over the tripwires littering the political landscape. It appears, for example, that Harper's proposal to limit federal spending power, a long-standing demand of Quebec's, doesn't go as far as concessions already granted by Dion and

Chrétien. So much for painting the Liberal leader as an enemy of the Quebec nation.

As Dion declared: "No federal politicians placed greater limits on federal spending power than I did" — a deft political sally and a refrain gleefully pounced upon by the Bloc Québécois.

You see, Gilles Duceppe is telling Quebecers, Harper is not only a fraud — he is worse than Dion.

There are glimmerings of a compromise on Afghanistan, too. If Harper wants to leave troops in Kandahar until 2011, not to engage in direct combat, but to train Afghan forces, that might be "acceptable," said Dion. Expect squabbling over what constitutes a "combat role," and stout resistance from the anti-war New Democrats, but Harper has clearly tempered his initial, bellicose rhetoric in a bid to win majority support for continuing the war.

As for the Conservatives' omnibus crime bill, introduced yesterday, it will likely pass easily — not only because of the Liberals' weakened state, but because Harper is honouring opposition amendments from the last Parliament

If Harper is showing surprising flexibility behind the scenes, Dion, too, may have adroitly manoeuvred his party out of a dangerous cul-de-sac — even with some elan. His delivery may have been tortured, but he did not look humiliated, or even embarrassed, as he announced that Liberals will abstain from voting down the government — no matter how wrong-headed its policies. In fact, he looked pleased with himself, while, behind him, many of his MPs studied their hands.

It must be said that what Dion lacks in glibness, he makes up for in vigour. Yesterday he led a spirited charge against Conservative corruption — or, at least, troubling charges of electoral shenanigans. It is the curse of any opposition leader to sound chronically dyspeptic, another danger for Dion.

His mentor, Chrétien, wasn't any better leading the opposition in question period than he was delivering speeches. On the other hand, it hardly blighted the little guy's career prospects.

At this difficult juncture, Dion may find some comfort there — but he also needs to realize he will never become prime minister speaking to empty halls.

Susan Riley writes Friday, Monday and Wednesday. Contact her at sriley@thecitizen.canwest.com.

Is she a modernizing, secular leader or a fiend for power?

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WORD COUNT: 393

Why has Benazir Bhutto returned to Pakistan?

Because she has a real chance of achieving a political comeback. Ms. Bhutto and President Pervez Musharraf have been talking about sharing power. Although they despise one another, Pakistan's political ferment means they have interests in common.

Gen. Musharraf is in deep trouble and desperately needs to broaden his support base. Making a deal with Ms. Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), would shore up his administration. For her part, Ms. Bhutto wants to be prime minister again.

Why was she in exile in the first place?

Ms. Bhutto left Pakistan for self-imposed exile in Dubai and London in 1999. She was sacked as prime minister in 1996 after leading a government mired in corruption.

Afterwards, the new administration under her bitter rival, Nawaz Sharif, pursued her relentlessly, jailing her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, and launching case after case against her. Facing numerous corruption charges — all of which she denied — Ms. Bhutto was effectively hounded into exile.

What are her chances of returning to power?

Very good. Ms. Bhutto will lead the PPP into parliamentary elections that must be held by January. Her party could win.

At present, the constitution bars anyone from serving a third term as prime minister. This will have to be amended. A law granting her an amnesty on numerous corruption charges has already been passed — although it is now before the supreme court.

Why do many Pakistanis support her?

Ms. Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was a populist prime minister in the 1970s. He was overthrown by Gen. Zia al-Haq in 1977 and hanged two years later. Ms. Bhutto earned a reputation of her own by opposing Gen. Zia's regime, earning her five years in prison, much of it spent in solitary confinement.

What does she stand for?

Ms. Bhutto poses as a modernizing, pro-western, secular leader devoted to building a democratic Pakistan and helping the rural poor. Critics say that she believes in nothing but winning power.

What is she promising now?

Ms. Bhutto has gone out of her way to assure the West that she can deal with

Pakistan's terrorist threat. In particular, she has pledged to drive al-Qaeda's core leadership from the tribal areas lining the northwest frontier.

Can she deliver?

Her record is not encouraging. Ms. Bhutto achieved virtually nothing during her two stints as prime minister. In her second premiership, between 1993 and 1996, Pakistan effectively created the Taliban and helped it to seize most of Afghanistan.

Is there any cause for optimism?

Possibly. Ms. Bhutto does have real popular support. She could emerge as that rare species — a friend of the West who is actually liked by the Pakistani people.

Online: A Deadly Plot

'The attack was planned meticulously and conducted expertly.'

To view a video report go to Today's Videos at ottawacitizen.com

Closure of busy street may help to save Afghanistan medieval minarets

IDNUMBER 200710190219
PUBLICATION: National Post
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: National
SECTION: News
PAGE: A20
ILLUSTRATION: Color Photo: /;
SOURCE: Reuters
WORD COUNT: 174

A group of medieval minarets in Herat, western Afghanistan, could be saved by closing a busy road that threatens their foundations. The minarets are all that remain of a 15th-century madrassa and mosque complex. Most of the mud-brick towers, once sheathed in blue, green, white and black mosaic tiles, have toppled during decades of war and neglect, a process accelerated by heavy traffic on the road that runs through the middle of the remaining minarets. "Herat was due to have been included in the list of World's Cultural Heritage by UNESCO," said Nimatullah Sarwari, head of the city's information and culture department. "[It] had a set of preconditions — preserving the old city and the closure of the road that runs through the minarets. We have prevented big vehicles from using the road and soon we will close the road totally by building a new one."

NDP stuck in a rut

IDNUMBER 200710190213
PUBLICATION: National Post
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: National
SECTION: Letters
PAGE: A17
BYLINE: Larry Comeau
SOURCE: National Post
WORD COUNT: 151

The NDP is rapidly becoming an irrelevant political party. Before the Governor-General could even read the Throne Speech on Tuesday, Jack Layton had whipped his party to vote against it. Many of the items in the speech — helping the homeless, post-secondary education, major tax cuts and cleaning up the environment — are the very things the NDP have been screaming for since the Conservatives came to power.

Obviously the NDP would rather stick to their old tune of wanting Canadian troops out of Afghanistan (though that would hurt Afghans), and the implementation of Kyoto (even if it brings Canada's economy to a halt), and they would continue to harangue the Americans (our biggest trading partners). Let's hope the NDP remains an extreme left party that more and more people take less and less seriously.

Larry Comeau, Ottawa.

KEYWORDS: 0

UAE keen to obtain landing rights in Canada; Jailed Canadian gains leverage in New York

IDNUMBER 200710190182
PUBLICATION: National Post
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: National
SECTION: World
PAGE: A14
COLUMN: Steven Edwards
ILLUSTRATION: Color Photo: Handout / Bert Tatham and fiancée Sara Gilmer.;
BYLINE: Steven Edwards
SOURCE: National Post
WORD COUNT: 506

Business pundits agree the United Arab Emirates is keen to obtain "open skies" landing rights in Canada so Dubai-owned Emirates Airlines can pick up passengers across the country.

Canada, meanwhile, has an extremely pressing humanitarian request of Dubai: release Bert Tatham, a Canadian anti-narcotics official sentenced in June to four years in jail for possession of a small quantity of drugs.

The UAE government has not publicly linked the two, but despite being convicted under a court system Canada more or less respects, Tatham, 36, might normally have expected to be free by now.

Dubai's ruler, Sheik Mohammad Bin Rashid al-Maktoum, routinely grants amnesty to hundreds of prisoners at major Islamic holidays. Indeed, many of Tatham's cellmates were among the 480 released during Ramadan, which ended last week.

As for frustration at Canada's intransigence on the landing rights question, it's right there in the Dubai ruler's family.

His uncle, Sheik Ahmed bin Saeed al-Maktoum, runs Emirates, and has scheduled meetings with the Canadian ministers of transport, trade and foreign affairs after he arrives in Canada on Oct. 29.

That also happens to be the day a Dubai appeals court has set for ruling on Tatham's request for his case to be reviewed.

Sheik Ahmed will be travelling on the inaugural flight of Emirates' thrice-weekly service between Dubai and Toronto.

Canada and the UAE have given each other's airlines permission to operate six flights a week.

The other half of the UAE's share has gone to Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways, whereas no Canadian carrier has snapped up Canada's allotment.

Analysts say Air Canada, the most obvious candidate, is more interested in serving more lucrative markets, notwithstanding Dubai's rapid economic growth.

But Transport Canada officials say Canada won't usually negotiate to expand an agreement unless both sides are filling their current routes to capacity.

Transport Canada does that "to protect the Canadian airline industry," said Jacques Kavafian, an analyst with Research Capital Corp. in Toronto.

It's no secret that Emirates has long positioned itself to make Dubai a hub. Open skies with Canada would allow it to offer flights to many places Air Canada currently serves directly.

Nigel Page, Emirates vice-president of commercial operations in the Americas, denies it's a zero-sum game, citing the airline's New York-Dubai route launched three years ago.

"The business market increased about 30% in a year [and] that means we ... expanded the market."

That argument is fine for UAE, but more leverage would be useful.

Since Tatham's conviction, his parents have worked tirelessly to mobilize Canadian officials to obtain his release. Not only have Canadian embassy staff in the UAE met frequently with the country's officials, Maxime Bernier, the Foreign Minister, made a personal appeal when he met his UAE counterpart, Sheik Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan, at the United Nations this month.

In short, Canada has shown that Tatham's release is something the government wants very much.

"We've been told that six other Canadians in his position served between three and seven months on their four-year-sentences," his mother, Louise, said yesterday.

"He's almost alone in his block now."

This month, she and her husband, Charlie, travelled from their home near Collingwood, Ont., to visit their son, who was arrested after stopping off in Dubai en route to Canada from Afghanistan.

"We just had big hugs when we walked in," she said. "It was nice even to smell him."

Tatham's lawyers argued at his trial the 0.06 grams of hashish found in his jeans pocket were a hazard of his job in Afghanistan, where he was responsible for destroying drugs, while the two poppy pods in his suitcase were for use as props for lectures back in Canada.

sedwards@nationalpost.com

KEYWORDS: CRIME; UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

University honours slain soldier–scholar Widow accepts his diploma

SOURCETAG 0710190333
PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 5
ILLUSTRATION: photo by Brian Donogh, Sun Media Amanda Anderson is hugged by her mother, Teresa Pelda, prior to receiving diploma.
BYLINE: SHANNON VANRAES, SUN MEDIA
WORD COUNT: 230

It wasn't easy to do, but Amanda Anderson felt it was an honour to accept a degree from the University of Manitoba on behalf of her late husband — a Canadian soldier killer in Afghanistan this summer.

The university posthumously conferred a bachelor of arts degree in political science to Cpl. Jordan Anderson, of the Edmonton–based Third Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, at its convocation ceremony yesterday.

"He loved learning ... he always wanted to learn something," Amanda said before the convocation, adding her husband had lofty goals, including becoming an intelligence officer in the Canadian military, which he fully expected to reach.

"It is with great sorrow we will never see him reach his goals," Amanda said while fighting back tears.

Although she said closure is a difficult thing to find, the 31–year–old widow was buoyed by the amount of support she has received from the public, the university and her late husband's friends and colleagues, many of whom attended yesterday's ceremony.

This is the first time the school has posthumously awarded a degree to a serving member of the military killed in wartime.

"It's pretty rare when this happens," said George MacLean, acting head of the political studies department.

MacLean added the soldier spoke with university officials about continuing his education the day he was killed by a roadside bomb, along with five other Canadian soldiers and an Afghan interpreter.

"He was very close to reaching his degree ... basically all of the major components were complete," he said, adding Jordan was an extremely dedicated student who planned on doing post–graduate work.

A bursary has been set up at the university to honour Jordan's memory. KEYWORDS=MANITOBA

U.S. to Arar: Sorry But he still can't visit

SOURCETAG 0710190899
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 42
ILLUSTRATION: photo of MAHER ARAR "Victim"
BYLINE: DEVLIN BARRETT, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
WORD COUNT: 296

U.S. legislators apologized yesterday to Canadian Maher Arar for his seizure by American officials who took him to Syria where he was tortured in what he called an "immoral" American anti-terror program called extraordinary rendition.

Arar, 37, a telecommunications engineer, appeared before a joint hearing of U.S. House Representatives subcommittees by video from Ottawa. He is still on a U.S. government watch list and barred from the U.S.

"Let me personally give you what our government has not: An apology," Democratic Representative Bill Delahunt said as he opened the hearing. "Let me apologize to you and the Canadian people for our government's role in a mistake."

Arar said he was grateful for the legislators' apologies but hoped the U.S. government will eventually officially apologize to him.

"Let me be clear, I am not a terrorist, I am not a member of al-Qaida or any terror group," Arar said. "I am a father, a husband and an engineer. I am also a victim of the immoral practice of extraordinary rendition."

In his first public appearance at an official U.S. hearing, Arar recounted being thrown in a tiny cell and tortured into a false confession that he had trained at a terror camp in Afghanistan. "Life in that cell was hell. I spent 10 months and 10 days in that grave," he said.

Republican Representative Dana Rohrabacher also apologized, but said he would fight efforts by Democrats to end the practice of extraordinary rendition.

Representative Jerrold Nadler, another Democrat, described it as "a kidnapping." He also apologized to Arar. "Yes, we should be ashamed" of what happened in this case, Rohrabacher said. But the Republican added: "That is no excuse to end a program, which has protected the lives of hundreds of thousands if not millions of American lives."

The administration of U.S. President George W. Bush has not apologized. Despite appeals from top Canadian officials, Arar is still barred from travelling to the U.S. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Letters to the Editor Column

SOURCETAG 0710190886
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: 24
COLUMN: Letters to the Editor
WORD COUNT: 637

WE NEED THE BREAK

Re "Take a break on holiday idea" (Christina Blizzard, Oct. 17): I am certain these same arguments against a stat holiday were used every other time a new holiday was proposed. What? The gap in income between us and Americans will grow? Schools will have to add a day at the end of the year? Businesses will lose money? Say it ain't so! I'm as much a capitalist as anyone. I understand there are impacts of stat holidays. But with more people working more hours for free in the private sector, staying late, working weekends, not taking vacation time — stat holidays are often the only time people can actually take off. And the last thing North Americans need to worry about is not working enough. We live to work here while Europeans work to live. I'll take the February day off and suffer the fact I make even less than Americans. Higher taxes are the real reason for that.

TIM SCOTT

BARRIE

(We'll take the day, too)

ANOTHER ANTI-HARPER RANT

Greg Weston's juvenile anti-Harper mutterings would be tiresome if they weren't so amusing ("One heel of a plan," Oct. 16). We all know the press has a grudge against Stephen Harper for daring to seize control of them rather than letting them control him. And I understand why journalists are in a snit about it. But gee whiz, enough is enough. If all Weston can do is nit-pick and whine about frivolous things like Harper's new press centre, he should just do the right thing and shuffle on over to the radically left-wing CBC or Toronto Star where I'm sure his sookie-baby, anti-Harper tirades will go over really well.

RON LAFFIN

TORONTO

(Should we instead get Greg to bow upon seeing Harper? Fat chance)

RESERVE TTC PARKING

The TTC has parking lots at several subway stations. Why doesn't the TTC take a leaf from GO's book and rent out reserved spaces to regular commuters? I'm sure commuters would be happy to pay for a reserved parking space instead of having to arrive at the crack of dawn to get one, and that would provide additional cash flow for the TTC.

DIANNE SINGER

TORONTO

(There are Metropass only parking lots)

SILENCE IS DEAFENING

It's odd. When a Canadian soldier falls in essentially uncivilized Afghanistan, protesters flood Parliament Hill. Opposition politicians, who sent the soldier to Afghanistan, line up on TV to demand the troops be brought home. But a Mountie falls in "civilized" Canada and there's nary a protester to be seen. Opposition politicians now hide from TV cameras with nothing to say. Clearly, police officers' lives aren't worth much.

RONALD MCCRACKEN

(Sad, isn't it?)

HEALTH CARE EQUALITY

Re "Boomers need to fix medicare," (Mindelle Jacobs, Oct. 16): The only way to fix medicare is to unleash the free market into the system. Unfortunately, free market principles have taken a back seat to ever-growing waiting lists. It seems as though some Canadians, along with the political hacks that keep getting elected, believe in equality, as in equal access to mediocre health care.

DAVID MAHARAJ

ETOBICOKE

(Back of the line for you)

AIRPORT FEES REDUCED

Re "Costs at Pearson will be touching down" (Oct. 17): So the Greater Toronto Airports Authority is reducing landing charges by 3.1% and terminal charges by 4.7%. Big whoop. Our dollar has risen an average of 10 per cent this year against the Euro, Pound, Yen and American dollar. It has risen more than 40 per cent against the U.S. buck in the past five years. Three and four per cent is a start but it is still a blatant tax grab. At least they have promised to pass the savings on Jan. 1. When do we see reductions on books, magazines, cars, etc.?

Randy Brown

Aurora

(Up always happens quicker than down, when it comes to prices)

Whether singing the national anthems or cheering on an embattled Leaf, the voices were positive at the ACC

SOURCETAG: 0710190856

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.10.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 2

ILLUSTRATION: 3 photos by Joe Warmington, Sun Media 1. Nataly Jagarinec, 22, has help from Leafs mascot Carlton celebrating her singing of the national anthems last night at the ACC. 2. Brian Townsend, proudly wearing his Bryan McCabe jersey last night, says there's no way he would ever boo No. 24. 3. photo of KYLE BEDDOWS Forgiving of McCabe

BYLINE: JOE WARMINGTON

WORD COUNT: 547

They were supposed to boo Bryan McCabe but instead used their lungs to cheer him when he scored and to carry a young woman along to complete her dream.

Maple Leafs fans are like that. All class.

And no one was more appreciative of that than 22-year-old Nataly Jagarinec, who could have found out how poor McCabe feels if it had been a nastier set.

The former Curves employee who lives in Scarborough was out on Air Canada Centre ice before last night's tilt with the Florida Panthers to sing both national anthems.

The catch is she had never done it before.

"I had to learn the Star-Spangled Banner in two days," she said.

It's all part of a reality show called The List, to appear Nov. 13 on Slice TV, where host Liza Fromer helps people achieve their dreams — even though they may actually have no business out on that stage.

Needless to say it was a recipe for disaster at The Hangar last night with many ravenous Leaf fans saying in the pre-game skate they were going to shower the Leafs embattled defenceman with jeers for his goal on his own net in Buffalo earlier this week, as well as for the general poor play of such a highly paid star.

"It was a pretty stupid move," Evan Green, 14, said of McCabe, who with cousin Zack Green gave the Leaf a little vocal rattle when he came on the ice for the pre-game skate.

But it was interesting when word got out about what Nataly was up to. The two Greens helped the rest of the capacity crowd at The Hangar cheer her on, and later went nuts when McCabe scored in the second period.

All that when it could have gone really badly for Nataly, who after the first line of the Star-Spangled Banner stopped and lost her place.

Whether singing the national anthems or cheering on an embattled Leaf, the voices were positive at the ACC

For a split second it was almost hard to watch, and I caught the look of fear on the faces of Fromer, the show's vocal coach Orville Heyn and the ACC's game producer Nancy Gilks. The last thing they wanted was for the poor girl to go out there and fall flat on her face.

But that didn't happen — thanks to the ACC crowd, who started to roar and helped her pick up the lyrics.

She continued to sing, but when she got to "when the rockets red glare" she hesitated again.

The crowd jumped in once again and screamed loudly — helping her finish. It was quite an unusual moment at the ACC, which is famous for such professional anthem singers as Michael Burgess and John McDermott.

The newest singer on that ice had a great voice and she nailed O Canada — much to the delight of the crowd that included members of the Leafs who banged their sticks in support. It was a refreshing development in a week with so much negativity surrounding McCabe and the Sun's fabulous McKlutz headline.

Of course, not everyone thought it was fabulous. "There is no way I would boo that guy," said Brian Townsend, 20, who was proudly wearing his No. 24 sweater last night.

Same goes for Kyle Beddows. "The guy just made one mistake on a play."

Maybe that's why fans went a little easier on McCabe than expected.

The big question I was going to ask if they did boo was, were they there to hand him a standing ovation when he handed a \$16,000 cheque to the Canadian Relief Foundation last year? Or would they applaud when they learned he takes all sorts of time to meet and sign autographs for fans in wheelchairs?

One guy who knows is Spencer Miller, who has used one since birth and says McCabe is one hell of a guy. "He really is class and super with the disabled," Miller said. "I think fans have the right to boo him, but I certainly never would. He's too good a guy."

I remember when the Canadian troops were at a game last year and it was McCabe, Darcy Tucker and Wade Belak who stayed back and hung with the Afghanistan veterans after the game.

Now no one is saying McCabe won't get booed in the future, but last night Leafs fans did themselves proud and took the high road and didn't.

They deserve a cheer too. KEYWORDS=OTHER NEWS

Whether singing the national anthems or cheering on an embattled Leaf, the voices were positive at the ACC

Liberals to stand down Divided caucus touts amendment, but will let throne speech pass

SOURCETAG 0710180444

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.10.18

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 4

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Tom Hanson, CP Liberal Leader Stephane Dion is applauded by Deputy Leader Michael Ignatieff and other Liberal caucus members during his response to the throne speech yesterday in the House of Commons.

BYLINE: ALAN FINDLAY, NATIONAL BUREAU

WORD COUNT: 462

He barked, but he didn't bite.

Liberal Leader Stephane Dion offered several criticisms of the Conservatives' new legislative plan yesterday, but ultimately said his party will allow it to pass in order to sidestep the first threat of a fall election.

"We will not make the government fall on its throne speech," Dion announced near the end of a 43-minute speech to the Commons.

Even so, he took aim at the lack of action and spending cuts around environmental and climate change initiatives. He also criticized the government for its intention to extend Canada's commitment in Afghanistan to 2011, noting that it fails to specify whether it would continue to be a combat mission.

"If the government wants to transform it into a training mission after 2009, that would be an acceptable option," Dion said.

He went on to state that the government's throne speech failed to address poverty among children and seniors and its lack of progress on reducing medical wait times.

CONFIDENCE MEASURE

That said, it could have been worse, he remarked.

"It's not as bad as the one we would have heard from the Conservative Party if it had been a majority government," he said.

He was also conciliatory on the Conservative plan to make an omnibus law-and-order bill a confidence measure when it is tabled. Dion said the Liberals supported five of six original bills to be included in the new bill before the Conservatives prorogued Parliament this summer and allowed the bills to die.

In a proposed Liberal amendment, Dion concedes that Canada might not meet its climate change commitments under the Kyoto accord by 2012, but calls on the government to make up for lost time in the international pact's post-2012 phase. The amendment also calls for a clear commitment to end Canada's combat role in Afghanistan as of February 2009.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper made note of Dion's decision to no longer demand Canada reach its Kyoto targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2012.

"As I listened to the leader of the official Opposition, I must say it reminded me a little bit of the professor who goes through our term paper, marks all over it everything he disagrees with and then passes us anyway," said Harper.

If the amendments pass, which is unlikely, the Liberals would vote in favour of the throne speech. If they fail, the Liberals will still allow the throne speech to pass by simply abstaining from the vote.

INTERNAL RIFTS

Dion's decision comes as his party seeks to repair the damage of several internal rifts centred largely on its Quebec wing and plunging popularity in that province.

Earlier in the day, Dion held a long caucus meeting in which several MPs were said to have argued in favour of forcing an election despite the party's troubles.

Grit MPs like Garth Turner (Halton) and Jim Karygiannis (Scarborough–Agincourt) emerged from the caucus meeting with a hawkish view. But both deferred to Dion to make the final decision on whether to force an election.

"The government needs to be brought down," Turner said in the morning.

"This is a defining moment for Stephane Dion," he said later in the day. "It is going to define how he is seen by millions of Canadians and remembered so it is a moment he has to make up his own mind."

KEYWORDS=CANADA

'Solid' year for top museums

SOURCETAG 0710190284
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 22
BYLINE: DENIS ARMSTRONG, SUN MEDIA
WORD COUNT: 211

Canada's most popular museum isn't as popular as it was in 2005–06, but it's still pretty popular, according to the Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation's 2006–07 annual report, which was released yesterday.

The corporation — which runs the Museum of Civilization and the Canadian War Museum — claims that with combined attendance of 1.8 million (1.3 million for CMC, 477,000 for CWM) and \$13 million in on-site sales, they're still the most-visited museums in the country, though those figures are down marginally from the 1.9-million visitors and \$13.2 million in on-site sales the corporation reported for 2005–06.

The survey also suggests that the CMC exhibitions Petra: Lost City of Stone and Masters of the Plains: Ancient Nomads of Russia and Canada and the CWM's controversial Afghanistan: A Glimpse of War and Canada Under Attack: The Battle of the St. Lawrence were winners with museum-goers. Both the CMC and CWM report a visitor satisfaction rate of 95%.

The Corporation's 2007 History Costume Ball, which was held on Wednesday night at the CWM, raised \$544,000 for acquisitions for both museums.

"We enjoyed solid contributions from every quarter within the corporation, and tremendous support from our Canadian and foreign visitors," wrote Victor Rabinovitch, president and CEO of the Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Feds accused of stalling court case on detainees

SOURCETAG: 0710190487
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: City & Region
PAGE: B10
ILLUSTRATION: 2 photos by Reuters 1. LOOKING FOR MINES: A Canadian soldier from the NATO-led coalition uses a knife to probe for roadside bombs on a route frequently mined by Taliban insurgents near Panjwaii town in Kandahar province in southern Afghanistan yesterday. The vast majority of Canadian deaths on the Afghan mission are from roadside bombs. 2. WELL DONE: Canadian Forces engineers from the NATO-led coalition leave the scene of a deactivated roadside bomb on a route frequently mined by the Taliban in Kandahar province.
BYLINE: CP
DATELINE: OTTAWA
WORD COUNT: 373

A blizzard of legal arguments from the federal government is obscuring the fundamental issue of whether Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan are handing over detainees to face potential torture at the hands of local authorities, says Amnesty International.

Paul Champ, a lawyer for the human rights group, told Federal Court yesterday that it's time to get beyond narrow technical issues and move to the heart of the case.

"We are talking about a small, identifiable group of individuals and their right to be free from arbitrary detention . . . and most importantly, their fundamental right to be free from torture," said Champ.

Amnesty joined forces with the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association to launch a court action in February aimed at blocking the transfer of any more prisoners to Afghan authorities unless procedural safeguards are put in place to ensure they won't be mistreated.

But government lawyers, using a tactic known as a motion to strike, are asking Justice Anne Mactavish to throw the case out of court before it can ever get to a detailed analysis of the constitutional issues at stake.

Alex Neve, head of the Canadian section of Amnesty, suggested the tactic is part of a strategy by the Conservative government to stall the case in the hope it will peter out.

"We're deeply disappointed and profoundly frustrated," Neve said outside the courtroom.

The key argument advanced by the human rights groups is that Canada is violating the Charter of Rights and Freedoms by denying the Afghan detainees fundamental justice, access to legal counsel and protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

The courts have wrestled before with the extent to which the Charter applies to Canadian police operating abroad, and judges have set guidelines for them to follow in gathering evidence to be used back home.

This is the first case, however, that hinges on the actions of Canadian military personnel engaged in operations overseas — in effect, raising the question of whether the Constitution travels with the troops.

J. Sanderson Graham, representing the federal Justice Department, contended earlier this week that the Charter doesn't apply in Afghanistan because Canada is not an occupying power there, and it would need the consent of the Afghan government to enforce Canadian legal rules.

Federal lawyers also maintain, as part of their motion to halt the case, that the key issues are political rather than judicial, that the court has no jurisdiction to hear such matters, and that Amnesty has no legal standing to mount its challenge. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Soldier killed in Afghanistan given posthumous degree

SOURCETAG	0710190485
PUBLICATION:	The London Free Press
DATE:	2007.10.19
EDITION:	Final
SECTION:	City & Region
PAGE:	B10
ILLUSTRATION:	photo CPL. JORDAN ANDERSON: Given arts degree by University of Manitoba.
BYLINE:	CP
DATELINE:	WINNIPEG
WORD COUNT:	98

A Canadian soldier has been given an arts degree from the University of Manitoba three months after being killed in Afghanistan.

Cpl. Jordan Anderson is the first member of the military in decades to be given a posthumous degree.

The 25-year-old had almost completed his political science major when he was killed by a roadside bomb near Kandahar in July.

His widow, Amanda Anderson, fought back tears as she described her husband as a dedicated man with an intense hunger for learning.

Three colleagues from Anderson's Edmonton-based regiment came to the university ceremony as a sign of respect and support.

Cpl. Adam Bowness said Anderson was very focused on his educational goals, and would frequently be found working on his papers while other soldiers partied. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Arar gets apology from U.S. The Canadian was seized by U.S. authorities and sent to Syria, where he was tortured.

SOURCETAG: 0710190444
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A5

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Tom Hanson, CP VIDEO TESTIMONY: Maher Arar talks with reporters in Ottawa yesterday after testifying via video link to a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee hearing in Washington. U.S. legislators apologized to Arar for his seizure by U.S. officials who took him to Syria where he was tortured.

BYLINE: DEVLIN BARRETT, AP
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
WORD COUNT: 354

U.S. legislators apologized yesterday to Canadian Maher Arar for what he called an "immoral" anti-terror program called extraordinary rendition that let U.S. authorities seize and send him to Syria, where he was tortured.

Arar, 37, a telecommunications engineer, appeared before a joint hearing of U.S. House of Representatives subcommittees by video from the University of Ottawa.

Arar said he would have preferred to be there in person, but he's still on a U.S. government watch list and barred from the United States.

"Let me personally give you what our government has not: an apology," Democratic Representative Bill Delahunt said as he opened the hearing on Capitol Hill. "Let me apologize to you and the Canadian people for our government's role in a mistake."

Arar said he was grateful for the legislators' apologies, but hoped the U.S. government would eventually officially apologize to him.

"I would like them to acknowledge that what they did to me is wrong," Arar told reporters in Ottawa. "Second, I would like them to commit that this will not happen to other human beings."

Arar told the hearing: "Let me be clear, I am not a terrorist, I am not a member of al-Qaida or any terror group."

"I am a father, a husband and an engineer. I am also a victim of the immoral practice of extraordinary rendition."

Arar recounted being thrown in a tiny cell and tortured into a false confession that he had trained at a terror camp in Afghanistan.

Arar gets apology from U.S. The Canadian was seized by U.S. authorities and sent to Syria, where he was t

"Life in that cell was hell," he said. "I spent 10 months and 10 days in that grave."

Republican Representative Dana Rohrabacher also apologized, but said he would fight any efforts by Democrats to end extraordinary rendition — a practice under which terror suspects are grabbed by U.S. government agents and taken to another country where local authorities may torture confessions out of them.

Representative Jerrold Nadler, a Democrat, described what happened to Arar as "a kidnapping." He also apologized.

"Yes, we should be ashamed" of what happened in this case, Rohrabacher said. But the Republican added: "That is no excuse to end a program which has protected the lives of hundreds of thousands if not millions of American lives."

Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian citizen, was detained by Homeland Security agents on Sept. 26, 2002, as he stopped over in New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport en route home from a vacation.

Days later, he was flown by private jet to Syria where he was interrogated and tortured. After nearly a year there, he was released without charges.

Back in Canada, a public inquiry headed by Justice Dennis O'Connor concluded that Arar had no link to terrorism. The inquiry also determined he was indeed tortured. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Student gets OK for anti-war event

SOURCETAG 0710190438

PUBLICATION: The London Free Press

DATE: 2007.10.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A3

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Morris Lamont, Sun Media PERMISSION GRANTED: South secondary school student Martin Schoots-McAlpine will be given the opportunity to organize an anti-war alternative to a Canadian Forces recruitment drive scheduled for next Wednesday at the school.

BYLINE: PATRICK MALONEY, SUN MEDIA

WORD COUNT: 220

A battle brewing at a London high school over the upcoming visit of a Canadian Forces recruiter has ended peacefully.

One Grade 12 student irked by next Wednesday's military event at South secondary school has received permission from administrators to hold a simultaneous anti-war event in another part of the school.

"We just wanted to be able to get our viewpoint out," said 18-year-old Martin Schoots-McAlpine. "I'm really pleased."

He said that earlier this week it looked as if his counter-recruitment event — he asked the school for permission last week — wouldn't be allowed.

But presenting all opinions is always a good idea, principal Barb Sonier said yesterday.

While this isn't the first time the military has dropped into a high school to present post-secondary school and career options, the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan makes the issue more sensitive, critics say.

"This really seems like what they do in the U.S." said Beth Guthrie, local co-ordinator for a group that takes in American soldiers fleeing the Iraq war. "We hear the stories from (those U.S. soldiers) about the recruiting that goes on at the schools there. This is a slippery slope as far as I'm concerned."

The lunch-hour Canadian Forces event is a "normal career visit," said Chris Dennett, a Thames Valley school board spokesperson.

When the student spoke out against it, Dennett noted, South's administrators offered him his own platform.

For Schoots-McAlpine, who acknowledged many classmates see no problem with the military visit, it's much different than a regular university or college recruitment session.

"We have a right to be in a war-free environment in school," he said.

"To have them come to our school and try to get kids signed up for something that could put them in mortal danger, it just seems strange." KEYWORDS=LOCAL

Afghans want soldiers to stay 60% in favour, says poll

SOURCETAG 0710190752
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 36
BYLINE: THE CANADIAN PRESS
DATELINE: TORONTO
WORD COUNT: 215

A poll of Afghans suggests a strong majority want NATO-led troops including Canadians to stay to fight and help them rebuild their country.

The results are in what Environics Research bills as the first ever public opinion poll conducted in people in Afghanistan on behalf of The Globe and Mail, the CBC and La Presse.

Published accounts of the poll reported that 60% said that the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing.

Only 16% said it was a bad thing, while 22% said it was equally good and bad. Support in Kandahar, where the Taliban are stronger, was weaker but most respondents still wanted the soldiers to stay.

The poll was conducted between Sept. 17 and 24 and sampled 1,578 men and women.

While polls show most Canadians want the country's military mission in Afghanistan to end in February 2009 or sooner, the Environics survey indicates Afghans want it to continue. The published accounts of the poll reported that 64% said they believe the foreigners have made a lot or some progress in fighting the Taliban, and only one-quarter said they should leave immediately or within a year.

It also indicates a sense of optimism in the country with 60% saying they were better off than five years ago.

When it comes to Canada's presence in the country, it has a relatively high profile, ranking fourth in public awareness after the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom. But virtually no Afghans are apparently aware Canadian soldiers are involved in fighting the Taliban. **KEYWORDS=CANADA**

Troops injured

SOURCETAG 0710190750
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 36
BYLINE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
DATELINE: KABUL, Afghanistan
WORD COUNT: 38

Nine U.S.-led coalition troops were wounded yesterday after the Taliban used heavy machine guns and rocket propelled grenades to ambush a patrol in southern Afghanistan.

A coalition statement says the attack took place near Kandahar city. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Roadside bombs linked to Iran

SOURCETAG 0710190622
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 28
BYLINE: REUTERS
DATELINE: KABUL
WORD COUNT: 126

A shipment of roadside bombs intercepted in Afghanistan came from Iran, the commander of NATO-led troops said yesterday, adding it was hard to believe Tehran's military didn't know about the arms.

Gen. Dan McNeill said the International Security Assistance Force, the ISAF, had scored tactical successes against Taliban rebels in the last year, but more needed to be done to bring security, development and good governance to Afghanistan.

Weapons from neighbouring countries only exacerbate the problems of achieving those goals, the U.S. general added.

McNeill said the ISAF "intercepted a weapons convoy on Sept. 5 in the western part of this country. "

U.S. leaders have accused Iran of supplying weapons to Taliban insurgents, but Afghan President Hamid Karzai has refrained from repeating the charge and insists Iran and Afghanistan enjoy warm neighbourly relations.

Tehran strongly denies the charge it was responsible for the arms. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Afghan support for NATO high

SOURCETAG 0710190621
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 28
BYLINE: CP
DATELINE: TORONTO
WORD COUNT: 131

A poll of Afghans suggests a strong majority want NATO-led troops, including Canadians, to stay to fight and help them rebuild their country.

Published accounts of the Environics poll reported 60% said the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing.

Only 16% said it was a bad thing, while 22% said it was equally good and bad. Support in Kandahar, where the Taliban are strong, was weaker, but most respondents still wanted the soldiers to stay.

The poll was conducted between Sept. 17 and 24 and sampled 1,578 men and women.

While other polls show most Canadians want the country's military mission in Afghanistan to end in February 2009 or sooner, the Environics survey indicates Afghans want it to continue.

The poll reported 64% said they believe the foreigners have made a lot or some progress in fighting the Taliban, and only 25% said they should leave immediately or within a year.

It also indicates a sense of optimism with 60% saying they were better off than five years ago.

KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

THE AFGHAN MISSION: THE METHODOLOGY No simple phone surveys in war-torn Afghanistan

Locally hired interviewers conduct poll inside homes, with women asking women questions and men asking men

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072920270

DATE: 2007.10.19

PAGE: A18

BYLINE: ALAN FREEMAN

SECTION: International News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Ottawa ONT

WORDS: 459

WORD COUNT: 393

ALAN FREEMAN OTTAWA Opinion research may be old hat in Canada, but it's not quite so simple in a country with virtually no telephones, where fewer than half the people are literate and where most women wear burkas.

That was the challenge facing Environics Research when it decided to conduct the first Canadian-sponsored survey of Afghan public opinion this year, co-sponsored by The Globe and Mail, the CBC and La Presse, as well as two think tanks linked to the University of Toronto.

Other surveys had been done by the BBC, the Asia Foundation and the United Nations, but none had been done from a Canadian perspective, according to Keith Neuman, group vice-president at Environics.

So Environics turned to the Afghanistan Centre for Social and Opinion Research, a Kabul-based subsidiary of D3 Systems Inc., a U.S. firm, with extensive experience in polling. A telephone survey was out of the question so the survey, conducted last month, was done face-to-face by interviewers who asked the questions to respondents in their homes across Afghanistan. "It's the way surveys were done 40 or 50 years ago," Mr. Neuman said.

The response rate for the survey was an astounding 85 per cent.

In a telephone survey in Canada, where people frequently are not available or refuse to answer, the response rate is usually 15 to 20 per cent.

Mr. Neuman said that questions were asked in Dari or Pashto by locally hired interviewers. To deal with the separation of gender that is pervasive in Afghanistan, men asked men questions and women asked women.

And as in Canada, pollsters discovered a gender divide in Afghanistan.

"Women tended to be more positive about things getting better and a little more positive about the foreign and Canadian presences.

Men tend to be more aware of the facts on the ground than the women but the women tend to be more negative about the Taliban." Mr. Neuman said the survey was conducted in as non-threatening a manner as possible and people responded accordingly, with little sign that those surveyed felt intimidated.

"It is Afghans asking other Afghans about the current state of affairs in Afghanistan," he said.

"They are not representing the military, the government or any insurgent group, so there is no reason for respondents to lie to them.

"People are not giving a party line," he added, noting that sensitive issues like abortion or the right to contraception were not raised in the survey.

Polling took place in all of Afghanistan's 34 provinces with a representative sample of 1,578 Afghans.

The margin of sampling error is 2.7 per cent for the national sample and 5.9 per cent for the Kandahar sample, according to Environics.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: public opinion polls

ORGANIZATION NAME: Environics Research

THE AFGHAN MISSION: POLLING THE WAR ZONE

Majority of Afghans want foreign troops to stay and fight

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072920269

DATE: 2007.10.19

PAGE: A1 (ILLUS)

BYLINE: ALAN FREEMAN

SECTION: International News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Ottawa ONT

WORDS: 1489

WORD COUNT: 1729

ALAN FREEMAN OTTAWA A strong majority of Afghans approve of the presence of NATO-led troops in their country, including from Canada, and want the foreign soldiers to remain to fight the Taliban and support reconstruction efforts.

In a poll of Afghans conducted by Environics Research on behalf of The Globe and Mail, the CBC and La Presse, respondents expressed optimism about the future, strong support for the government of President Hamid Karzai and appreciation for the work being done by NATO countries in improving security.

In Kandahar, where the Taliban is stronger and violence more pervasive, support for the foreign troops was weaker, but respondents still want the soldiers to stay.

According to the survey, conducted between Sept. 17 and 24 with a sample of 1,578 men and women, 60 per cent said the presence of foreigners in the country was a good thing. Only 16 per cent said it was a bad thing, while 22 per cent said it was equally good and bad.

In Kandahar, where the Canadians are centred, Environics added to the number of respondents and asked a series of special questions.

There, 61 per cent said the foreign presence was good while 23 per cent responded that it was a "bad thing." While a majority of Canadians oppose the military mission in Afghanistan and are anxious to see it end in February of 2009, if not sooner, Afghans are considerably more sanguine about the NATO presence and want it to continue.

Nationally, 64 per cent of respondents said they believe the foreigners have made a lot of progress or some progress in the fight against the Taliban.

In Kandahar, where the insurgency is still raging, 58 per cent still say the foreigners are doing a good job fighting the Taliban.

When asked about the future of the foreign soldiers, only 14 per cent said they should leave right away while 11 per cent said they should leave within a year. Another 27 per cent said the troops should stay between two and five years, but the biggest group by far – 43 per cent – thought the foreign military presence should last "however long it takes to defeat the Taliban and restore order." In Kandahar, the heart of the Taliban

movement, there was less enthusiasm for the foreign presence, with 32 per cent saying the soldiers should leave right away or within a year, but 18 per cent said Canadians and other foreigners should stay for two to five years and 31 per cent for as long as it takes to defeat the Taliban.

The survey pointed to a general sense of optimism in the country with 60 per cent of the national sample and 61 per cent in Kandahar saying they were better off than five years ago.

When it comes to the status of women, 73 per cent of respondents nationally said that the women are better off now than they were in 2002.

"It's the first poll ever done by a Canadian organization [in Afghanistan] and the first one that has asked about the Canadian mission and has focused on Kandahar," said Keith Neuman, group vice-president at Environics.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay told reporters yesterday "it's very positive that the Afghan people feel that way, feel positively towards the presence of Canadians and others from NATO that are there to help them secure their country . . . but I think the more telling issue is the fact that they're able to have a poll, that this democratic process exists." When it comes to Canada's presence in the country, it has a relatively high profile, ranking fourth in public awareness after the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Asked which foreign countries are present in Afghanistan with soldiers, aid workers and businessmen, 95 per cent named the United States, 63 per cent named Germany, 52 per cent Britain and 46 per cent Canada.

But virtually no Afghans are apparently aware that Canadian soldiers are involved in fighting the Taliban. Asked which foreign countries are involved in battling the Taliban, 89 per cent of Afghans mentioned the United States and none mentioned Canada.

Even in Kandahar, 90 per cent said the United States was fighting the Taliban while only 2 per cent identified Canada. On the other hand, 25 per cent of respondents in Kandahar said that Canada was providing reconstruction assistance, compared with 27 per cent who said Britain and 28 per cent who said Germany.

Yet when the question was asked differently, awareness of the Canadian role was higher. When respondents in Kandahar were asked what the main purpose of the Canadian presence was in the province, 47 per cent responded that the main goal was to fight the Taliban, while 16 per cent mentioned reconstruction and 10 per cent answered that Canada was there to support the Karzai government.

Mr. Neuman said that because the United States has by far the most troops in the country, respondents immediately identified U.S.

forces as the major fighters against the Taliban, but in Kandahar, awareness of the Canadian presence was high and their role was well-regarded, particularly when it comes to reconstruction work.

Support for the Taliban was surprisingly low, with only 14 per cent of respondents nationally saying they had very positive or somewhat positive views of the Taliban. In Kandahar, those positives rose to 20 per cent.

Respondents were overwhelmingly opposed to suicide bombings, with 71 per cent nationally saying they were never justified.

Despite the enmity toward the Taliban, 74 per cent said they supported negotiations between the Karzai government and Taliban representatives as a way of reducing conflict. In Kandahar, support for talks jumped to 85 per cent.

By the numbers 51 Percentage of Afghans who think the country is headed in the "right direction" 73

Percentage who think women are better off now than under the Taliban 71 Percentage "very" or "somewhat" positive about their government 59 Percentage who believe President Hamid Karzai represents their interests 84 Percentage who have "a lot" or "some" confidence in the Afghan National Army 76 Percentage who have confidence in the Afghan National Police 60 Percentage who say foreign presence since the Taliban's fall has been a "good thing" 64 Percentage who say foreign countries are doing a good job fighting the Taliban 65 Percentage who believe foreign countries are doing a good job providing reconstruction assistance 64 Percentage who say the U.S.

is doing a "good job of helping Afghanistan where it needs it most" 95 Percentage aware of U.S. presence in the country 46 Percentage aware of Canadian presence POLL BREAKDOWN: A closer look at the perspective of those living in the volatile south In Kandahar province, where the Canadians are centred and where the Taliban is stronger and violence more pervasive, support for foreign troops is weaker, but respondents still want the soldiers to stay Surveyed in Kandahar: 260 Margin of error: +/-7.7% Are you aware that Canada currently has troops in Kandahar province? Don't know 10% No 29% Yes 60% How did you know these are Canadians rather than from some other country? Maple leaf symbol 4% Direct experience with Canadian troops/aid workers 8% Uniforms/equipment 17% Friends or family members 40% Local media 27% Other 2% DK/NA 2% What is your overall opinion of the Canadian troops in Kandahar province? Is it: Very negative 5% Somewhat negative 14% Very positive 26% Somewhat positive 34% Neither 4% DK/NA 17% Why do you have a positive opinion of Canadian troops in Kandahar province? Helping to remove poppy cultivation 1% Helping people 3% Removing Taliban 3% Training ANA and ANP 6% Establishing security 40% Reconstruction of clinics and schools 36% *DK/NA 10% Why do you have a negative opinion of Canadian troops in Kandahar? Killing innocent people 45% Searching houses without permission 24% They are infidels 10% *DK/NA 20% Do you think that overall, the Canadians are doing a better or worse job than other foreign countries in helping Afghanistan? DK/NA 17% Worse job 12% Canadians doing better job 48% No difference 22% From what you know or have heard, what is the main purpose of the Canadians' presence in Kandahar? Train police 2% Train army 5% Support Karzi Govt. 10% Fight the Taliban/others 47% Rebuild schools/hospitals, etc. 16% Other 3% DK/NA 17% Have you had any direct experience with Canadians in the past 12 months? DK/NA 19% No 67% Yes 13% What type of experience was this? Military passed through village/neighbourhood 40% Met military/soldiers 9% Met aid workers 31% Other 9% *DK/NA 11% Would you say this experience with Canadians was: Very negative 9% Somewhat negative 26% Very positive 0% Somewhat positive 46% Neither positive/negative 3% DK/NA 17% Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding Surveys conducted Sept. 17–24, 2007

SOURCE: ENVIRONICS |ADDED SEARCH TERMS: |GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada; Kandahar |SUBJECT TERM:public opinion polls; foreign policy; strife; reconstruction; internal security; political; statistics; table |ORGANIZATION NAME: North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Taliban

HEARING ON RENDITION Several U.S. congressmen apologize to Arar Democrats decry practice of sending terrorism suspects to countries where they face strong possibility of torture

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DATE: 2007.10.19

PAGE: A19 (ILLUS)

BYLINE: PAUL KORING

SECTION: International News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Washington DC

WORDS: 666

WORD COUNT: 602

PAUL KORING WASHINGTON A clutch of U.S. congressmen apologized publicly yesterday to Maher Arar, the man Canada's Mounties once fingered as a terrorist and who was later shipped by the Bush administration to Syria where he was tortured.

"Let me personally give you what our government has not – an apology," said Bill Delahunt, a Massachusetts Democrat, who chaired the extraordinary hearing yesterday.

The image of Mr. Arar, 37, was beamed in from Ottawa by video link and appeared on a huge monitor on the wall of the wood-panelled chamber on Capitol Hill. Despite an apology from Prime Minister Stephen Harper and a \$10-million compensation payment from Canadians for being wrongly accused of al-Qaeda links, the Syrian-born software engineer remains barred from the United States as a terrorist suspect.

"I am not a terrorist; I am not a member of al-Qaeda or any terror group," Mr. Arar told the joint hearing of the justice and foreign affairs committees of the House of Representatives, where the Democrats hold a majority.

Democrats echoed Mr. Delahunt, keen to portray the Bush administration as wrong, arrogant, unwilling to admit its mistakes and too keen to ship people off to places where they face a strong possibility of being tortured.

Even some Republicans apologized to Mr. Arar.

"We should be ashamed" of what happened to you, Dana Rohrabacher, the committee's senior Republican, told the Canadian.

But Mr. Rohrabacher pointedly noted that it was Canadian police who first fingered Mr. Arar and then warned U.S. counterterrorism agents that he would be roaming free if he were allowed to return to Canada.

"The Canadian government had told our FBI that Mr. Arar was under investigation for possible terrorist activities and ties to al-Qaeda.

. . . At the time, one year after the worst foreign attack on American soil in the history of our country, our government had in its custody a man whom we were told was a probable terrorist with al-Qaeda connections.

To complicate the situation, the Canadian government informed our FBI that they did not have enough evidence to charge Mr. Arar; thus he would most likely go free if returned to Canada." Mr. Rohrabacher called it a terrible mistake. But he defended both the practice of extraordinary rendition – the forcible removal of suspects to third countries – and extreme interrogation methods.

At one point, he asked Mr. Arar whether he would approve of water boarding, in which the person being interrogated believes he is being drowned, if it would prevent a terrorist attack that could kill his children.

Mr. Arar, who was tortured in Syria where he told interrogators that he had been in Afghanistan, said information extracted under duress is unreliable. Mr. Arar subsequently denied ever visiting Afghanistan, a claim he repeated yesterday.

"Extraordinary renditions have eroded American prestige," Mr.

Delahunt said. "Rather than a country of laws, we are viewed as a country that employs torture by proxy." But while Democrats used Mr. Arar's case to argue that rendition must be stopped, Mr. Rohrabacher said it was a vital tactic in the war on terrorism.

"Today's hearing is an attempt to do away with rendition, a government program used to fight our war against radicals who want to end our way of life and murder thousands or millions of Americans," he said.

But contrition and a chance to poke a finger in the eye of the administration dominated yesterday's hearing.

"The fact he is still on the no-fly list is unacceptable," Mr.

Delahunt said. "It's the responsibility of the executive branch to respond to what I believe to be an overwhelming feeling on the part of Congress that there has to be an acknowledgment, there ought to be an apology." Just before Mr. Arar's face faded from the screen, Mr. Delahunt told him: "We have incredible empathy for you and your family; please accept our apology; it's true of most Americans and most of us in Congress."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: United States; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: justice; terrorism suspects; human rights; statements; political

PERSONAL NAME: Maher Arar; Dana Rohrabacher

When to use a feather

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IDN: 072920213

DATE: 2007.10.19

PAGE: A23

BYLINE: RICK SALUTIN

SECTION: Comment Column

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 712

WORD COUNT: 710

RICK SALUTIN I was fantasizing my way through the Throne Speech on Tuesday. It helped to be listening in the car. So the Governor-General is scanning some parts as she reads others. She mutters out the side of her mouth in a way only the PM can hear: "Do you mind if I skip these bits?" He scowls. A few minutes later, she says: "The Canadian model of constitutional democracy and economic openness combined with social safety nets, equitable wealth creation and sharing across regions has much to offer –" He lurches awake and hisses, "You made that up!" "I did not," she says, "it's here." He says, "Is not.

I wrote this, not Tommy Douglas." So she points and it's there; that kind of thing happens when you write for others.

I park at the house and, as I get out, the opposition leaders (in my mind) trip into each other as they trade scrums in the foyer of the House. "Look," says Stephane to Jack and Gilles, "you both want troops out of Afghanistan and commitment to Kyoto." They nod.

So, he says, let's agree publicly to bring down the government over that, then go to the G-G and say we'll form a majority to do things a majority of Canadians want? "Hey," says Bob Rae, who's loitering in the foyer, "that's what David Peterson and I did in Ontario in 1985. The Conservatives had the most seats but together we had more, so we signed a deal, defeated them, went to the lieutenant-governor with our plan and took power." "I like it," says the Greens' Elizabeth May, eavesdropping, "because it sort of gives us proportional representation by stealth." Someone else, maybe a historian – I'm not sure how he got there – says they should call it the Great Coalition, like John A. Macdonald in the 1860s.

Reality, by contrast, had a more drag-ass quality. The Bloc and NDP would vote no but couldn't force an election. The Liberals were opposed but wouldn't vote no. Everyone postured and nothing happened.

In my dreams, the country gets what it wants, leaders look good, the system works and Bob's your uncle. But it won't happen. Why? The King-Byng Affair of 1926.

Back then, Liberal prime minister Mackenzie King had lost the third-party support that kept him in power, so he went to governor-general Lord Byng to request an election. The G-G turned him down and asked Conservative leader Arthur Meighen to form a government, which lasted briefly, then fell. The Liberals turned the King-Byng wingding, hardee har, into the big issue of the ensuing campaign and won a majority. Ever since, it's been assumed that a G-G must call an election if a government falls. The Rae-Peterson scenario doesn't fit because that Conservative government hadn't begun to govern before it fell, if you follow the distinction.

Never mind; the point is, none of it is legally binding. It's parliamentary practice, experts may agree, but things are always changing. Parliamentary procedure is a meandering river, says political science know-it-all Nelson Wiseman, not a rigid code. What if Arthur Meighen had sustained power, the way a coalition with a clear end date and a program supported by Canadians, might have done. Then the King Liberals couldn't have run on the issue and used it to win. The precedent would've become the opposite: You do call on other parties when a government falls, rather than go to an election.

Fantasy, though, isn't inevitably better. I just watched *Elijah*, about Elijah Harper, the native legislator who, all alone, stopped the Meech Lake Accord juggernaut in 1990 by sitting in his place holding an eagle feather and saying No. (It screens tomorrow at the ImagineNATIVE filmfest in Toronto.) That was fresh politics.

It even spawned a flipbook in which he waves the feather and mouths "No." It was a pure case of positive negativity, like the Barthian *Nein* in theology or Herbert Marcuse's "power of negative thinking." That's the trick: Find a useful, unexpected way to oppose. Something deft and light as a feather.

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ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada

SUBJECT TERM:throne speech; government; political

CANADA ABROAD Glad you're here, say the Afghans

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DATE: 2007.10.19

PAGE: A22

BYLINE:

SECTION: Editorial

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 473

WORD COUNT: 522

Canadians may be experiencing an existential crisis over the country's mission in Afghanistan, but the Afghan people apparently don't share their anxiety. A landmark study of attitudes in Afghanistan toward the role there of Canada and its allies provides a remarkably upbeat assessment of the situation, affirms support for the foreign troops – more than that, expresses respect for the "good job" being done by Canadian soldiers – and serves as a pointed rebuke to critics of the mission. This does not at all jibe with those in this country who would portray Afghans as victims of Stephen Harper adventurism.

Canadians remain deeply divided over our mission in Afghanistan.

Canada's Parliament is also bitterly divided, with the New Democrats demanding immediate withdrawal and Stephane Dion's Liberals setting a deadline of February, 2009, to have the troops out. In contrast, the Conservative government made it clear in the Speech from the Throne that it will not abandon Afghanistan and seeks to extend the mission to 2011. But what of those who have suffered the most, the people of Afghanistan? What do they think? It turns out they would be squarely on the side of Mr. Harper, were the survey findings applied to Canada's domestic debate.

The poll by Environics on behalf of The Globe and Mail, CBC and La Presse reveals that Afghans think that the NATO mission is working and that their lives are getting better because of improved security and international reconstruction assistance. In particular, they said overwhelmingly that the lives of women have improved. Nationally, 62 per cent of respondents said they believe foreigners have made some or a lot of progress in the fight against the Taliban, while 68 per cent saw some or a lot of progress from the reconstruction efforts. Even in war-ravaged Kandahar, 61 per cent said the foreign presence was good while 23 per cent said it was bad. (The survey's margin of error here is 7.7 per cent, compared with 4 per cent for Afghanistan as a whole.) As for the critical question of how long foreign troops should remain in Afghanistan, 58 per cent nationally answered either "three to five more years" or "however long it takes to defeat the Taliban/restore order." In Kandahar, the largest share of those surveyed favoured long-term foreign involvement over either immediate or short-term withdrawal. None of this is consistent with the idea that Canada is an unwanted army of occupation. To the contrary.

We have known all along that Afghanistan was in need of help, and that by offering such help Canada enhanced its own security and that of its Western allies. What this report indicates is that Afghans value the presence of Canadians and value our help. All the more reason for Canada to extend its mission.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM:public opinion polls; foreign policy; security; reconstruction; strife; statistics; political

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

The Movie List; Capsule reviews by Sun movie critics Katherine Monk and Jay Stone Movies are rated out of five stars.

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PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun
DATE: 2007.10.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Arts & Life
PAGE: H4
KEYWORDS: 0
SOURCE: Vancouver Sun
WORD COUNT: 3310

n Opening today

30 Days of Night fffAlaska is the perfect place for vampires. Once the sun sets in the winter, it doesn't come up again for 30 days. With Josh Hartnett, Melissa George and Danny Huston. 18A. 112 min. Oakridge, Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, Esplanade, SilverCity Metropolis, SilverCity Coquitlam, Richmond Centre, SilverCity Riverport, Colossus Langley, Criterion White Rock, Empire Guildford, Grande Surrey, Meadowtown Centre, Cottonwood Chilliwack, SilverCity Mission, Towne Abbotsford.

* The Comebacks This comedy spoofs inspirational sports movies. 14A. 88 min. Tinseltown, Park & Tilford, SilverCity Coquitlam, SilverCity Riverport, Colossus Langley, Criterion White Rock, Empire Guildford, Grande Surrey, Meadowtown Centre, Cottonwood Chilliwack, SilverCity Mission, Towne Abbotsford. (Movie not reviewed.)

Death at a Funeral fffh A man must deal with his unruly British family as he tries to make his father's funeral a perfect event. With Matthew Macfadyen and Peter Dinklage. Written by Dean Craig. Directed by Frank Oz. 14A. 91 min. Tinseltown.

Gone Baby Gone ffffBen Affleck gets behind the camera for an adaptation of Mystic River author Dennis Lehane's novel about two private investigators searching for a missing girl in Boston's underworld. With Casey Affleck, Michelle Monaghan, Morgan Freeman and Ed Harris. 14A. 114 min. Oakridge, Tinseltown, Park & Tilford, Station Square, SilverCity Coquitlam, SilverCity Riverport, Colossus Langley, Empire Guildford, Grande Surrey, Meadowtown Centre, SilverCity Mission.

* Goya's Ghosts Stellan Skarsgard portrays the Spanish painter in this historical epic directed by Milos Forman (Amadeus). With Javier Bardem and Natalie Portman. (Movie not rated, not reviewed.) Granville.

Into the Wild ffffAfter graduating from Emory University, top student and athlete Christopher McCandless (Emile Hirsch) abandons his possessions, gave his entire \$24,000 savings account to charity and hitchhiked to Alaska to live in the wilderness. Along the way, Christopher encounters a series of characters that shape his life. Parental guidance. 148 min. Ridge Theatre, Tinseltown, SilverCity Coquitlam, SilverCity Riverport, Colossus Langley, Grand Abbotsford. (IMDB.com)

My Kid Could Paint That fffA look at the work and surprising success of a four-year-old girl whose paintings have been compared to the likes of Picasso and has raked in hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Movie List; Capsule reviews by Sun movie critics Katherine Monk and Jay Stone Movies are rated out of 144

Parental guidance. 84 min. Tinseltown. (IMDB.com)

Rendition fffhTsotsi director Gavin Hood makes his American debut with a film that examines the practice of rendition as used by the U.S. government, in which terror suspects are secretly transported from country to country for interrogation. With Jake Gyllenhaal, Reese Witherspoon, Peter Sarsgaard and Meryl Streep. 14A. 123 min. Fifth Avenue Cinemas, Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, Esplanade, SilverCity Metropolis, SilverCity Coquitlam, Richmond Centre, SilverCity Riverport, Colossus Langley, Empire Guildford, Meadowtown Centre, Grand Abbotsford, SilverCity Mission.

Things We Lost in the Fire fffh After her husband is killed, a woman (Halle Berry) forms a relationship with his best friend, a heroin addict (Benicio Del Toro), as they attempt to pull their lives together. With David Duchovny . Parental guidance. 118 min. Tinseltown, Park & Tilford, SilverCity Metropolis, SilverCity Coquitlam, SilverCity Riverport, Colossus Langley, Empire Guildford, Grande Surrey, Grand Abbotsford, SilverCity Mission.

* Not Reviewed

n Special Events

Get Reel film series presents The Road To Guantanamo The Caprice Theatre, 2381 King George Hwy, Surrey, 604-536-8333. This provocative docudrama tells the true story of three British men on a visit to Pakistan and Afghanistan who were arrested by U.S. authorities and spent two years in Guantanamo Bay prison. The re-creation of conditions there are horrific; prisoners are chained, beaten, brutalized and tortured. It's a frightening movie that provides a window into the true cost of the war on terror. 18A. 86 min. Wed, 7 pm.

Hollywood Theatre 72nd Anniversary 3123 W. Broadway. 604-738-3211. » Celebrating one family's ownership of the theatre since 1935, award winning animations will screen with proceeds to Vancouver Children's Hospital, Wed. 11:20 am.

Pacific Cinematheque 1131 Howe St. Info: www.cinematheque.bc.ca or 604-688-FILM. « JEAN-LUC GODARD'S PIERROT LE FOU: Stars Jean-Paul Belmondo and Anna Karina as "the last romantic couple" on the run in the South of France on new 35mm print. Oct. 18-24. » GUS VAN SANT'S MALA NOCHE: Gus Van Sant's (Paranoid Park, Last Days, Elephant, My Own Private Idaho) acclaimed and rarely seen debut feature, the raw and authentically personal story of romantic deadbeat's unrequited love for a Mexican immigrant on the streets of Portland. In restored 35mm print, Oct. 20, 21, 24. » THE EARRINGS OF MADAME DE...: Max Ophuls' romantic film starring Danielle Darrieux, Charles Boyer and Vittorio De Sica. Back by popular demand. Oct. 18-19, 22. » BUSTER KEATON & FILM: Screenings featuring Beckett's Film and several key Buster Keaton silent comedies from the silent era: Sherlock Junior, The Boat, The General, and One Week, Oct. 25, Nov. 1.

Transformers in IMAX Uber-action director Michael Bay resurrects the 1980s-era robotic action figures in a live-action film about a war on Earth between the good guy Autobots and the villainous Deceptacons. With Shia LaBeouf, Tyrese Gibson, John Turturro and Jon Voight. Parental guidance. 143 min.Colossus Langley, SilverCity Riverport.

Vancity International Film Centre 1181 Seymour St. 604-683-FILM. www.vifc.org » FRAGMENTS JERUSALEM: Encompassing everything from the Biblical to the modern, and constantly shifting between past and present, Ron Havilio's monumental film depicts a city where ancient history informs all aspects of modern life, Oct. 20-25.

n First Run

The Movie List; Capsule reviews by Sun movie critics Katherine Monk and Jay Stone Movies are 145

3:10 to Yuma ffff A small-time rancher agrees to hold a captured outlaw who's awaiting a train to go to court in Yuma. A battle of wills ensues as the outlaw tries to psych out the rancher. 117 min. Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, SilverCity Coquitlam, Colossus Langley, Towne Abbotsford.

Across the Universe fff The Beatles definitely played an important part in inspiring this 1960s love story of Jude (Jim Sturgess) and Lucy (Evan Rachel Wood). Parental guidance. 133 min. Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, Fifth Avenue Cinemas, Esplanade, SilverCity Metropolis, Empire Guildford, Colossus Langley, SilverCity Coquitlam, SilverCity Riverport, SilverCity Mission, Towne Abbotsford.

African Adventure 3D: Safari in the Okavango ffff A giant screen visit to one of the most beautiful and pristine wildlife reserves on Earth. General. 40 min. CN Imax at Canada Place.

The Assassination of Jesse James ffff An action western surrounding the private life and public exploits of America's most notorious outlaw, Jesse James. As the charismatic and unpredictable outlaw plans his next great robbery, he wages war on his enemies, who are trying to collect the reward money—and the glory—that is riding on his capture. Parental Guidance. 160 min. Fifth Avenue Cinemas, Esplanade, .

Balls of Fury A broke former professional Ping-Pong player (Dan Fogler) is recruited by the FBI to infiltrate the world of underground Ping-Pong tournaments and take down his father's killer, the villainous ping-Pong-Player Feng (Christopher Walken). Parental guidance. 91 min. Eagle Ridge.

Becoming Jane fff Jane Austen's early years, with Anne Hathaway as the budding writer. With Maggie Smith, Julie Walters and James McAvoy. Parental guidance. 120 min. Denman Cinema.

Bhool Bhulaiyaa From racy America to his hometown in the interiors of India, it was a long journey indeed for Siddharth (Shiney Ahuja). But nothing could match the mind-boggling journey that now lay in front of him. For it was a journey into an astounding maze in which each step meant mystery, discovery, surprise, shock and revelation. Grande Surrey.

Bourne Ultimatum ffff Hyper-efficient killing machine Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) goes on the run again when the people who trained him attempt to bump him off. With Julia Stiles, Joan Allen and David Strathairn. Parental guidance. 138 min. Granville, Station Square, SilverCity Coquitlam, SilverCity Riverport, Hollywood Surrey, Colossus Langley.

The Brave One ffff Jodie Foster plays a New York radio host who becomes an anonymous vigilante after she is attacked and her fiance is killed. Terrence Howard plays a police detective trying to stop her. 14A. 122 min. Granville.

The Darjeeling Limited fffh Three American brothers who have not spoken to each other in a year set off on a train voyage across India with a plan to find themselves and bond with each other—to become brothers again like they used to be. Their "spiritual quest," however, veers rapidly off-course (due to events involving over-the-counter pain killers, a poisonous snake, and pepper spray), and they eventually find themselves stranded alone in the middle of the desert with eleven suitcases, a printer, and a laminating machine. Parental Guidance. 91 min. Fifth Avenue Cinemas, Tinseltown.

Dinosaurs 3D: Giants of Patagonia Following Professor Rodolfo Coria, a world-renown Argentinian paleontologist, the film takes you to the sites of major discoveries he has contributed to in Patagonia and travel back in time to see these amazing beasts come to life. General. 45 min. CN Imax at Canada Place.

Eastern Promises ffff Director David Cronenberg reteams with his A History of Violence star Viggo Mortensen, who plays a hit man for one of London's most powerful crime families and must stop a woman (Naomi Watts) who has evidence damaging to the family. 18A. 101 min. Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, Fifth

Avenue Cinemas, Station Square, Colossus Langley, SilverCity Coquitlam, SilverCity Riverport, Hollywood Surrey.

Elizabeth: The Golden Age ff 'Elizabeth – The Golden Age' tells the story of one woman's crusade to control love, crush enemies and secure her position as a beloved icon of the western world. As Elizabeth's cousin Mary Stuart conspires with Philip of Spain to topple the throne, Sir Francis Walsingham, Elizabeth's trusty advisor works tirelessly to protect her from the many plots and conspiracies against her. Parental Guidance. 115 min. Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, SilverCity Metropolis, Park Theatre, Grande Surrey, Park & Tilford, SilverCity Coquitlam, Richmond Centre, SilverCity Riverport, Empire Guildford, Colossus Langley, Rialto White Rock, Meadowtown Centre, SilverCity Mission, Towne Abbotsford, Paramount Chilliwack.

Feel The Noise A young man from the South Bronx dreams of making it as a rapper, until a run-in with local thugs forces him to hide in Puerto Rico with the father he never knew. Granville.

The Game Plan An NFL quarterback living the bachelor lifestyle discovers that he has a 7-year-old daughter from a previous relationship. General. 110 min. Esplanade, SilverCity Metropolis, SilverCity Coquitlam, Grande Surrey, Colossus Langley, SilverCity Riverport, Criterion White Rock, Empire Guildford, Meadowtown Centre, Paramount Chilliwack, SilverCity Mission, Towne Abbotsford.

Good Luck Chuck ff In order to keep the woman of his dreams from falling for another guy, Charlie Logan has to break the curse that has made him wildly popular with single women: Sleep with Charlie once, and the next man you meet will be your true love. 18A. 100 min. Station Square, Colossus Langley, SilverCity Coquitlam, SilverCity Riverport, Hollywood Surrey.

Hairspray ffff The film version of the stage musical based on John Waters' 1988 comedy about dance-crazy teens in early-1960s Baltimore. With John Travolta, Queen Latifah and Michelle Pfeiffer. Parental guidance. 117 min. Granville, Eagle Ridge.

Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix The evil wizard Voldemort is on the loose, but Harry and his friends must first deal with a meddling new professor who is intent on disrupting preparations for the coming battle against evil. With Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson and Helena Bonham Carter. Parental guidance. 139 min. Granville, Eagle Ridge.

The Heartbreak Kid ffh A newlywed man who believes he's just gotten hitched to the perfect woman encounters another lady on his honeymoon. Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, SilverCity Metropolis, Grande Surrey, Empire Guildford, Colossus Langley, Richmond Centre, SilverCity Riverport, SilverCity Coquitlam, Clova, Twilight Drive-In, Towne Abbotsford, Meadowtown Centre, SilverCity Mission.

The Jane Austen Book Club fff Six Californians start a club to discuss the works of Jane Austen, only to find their relationships — both old and new — begin to resemble 21st century versions of her novels. Parental guidance. 106 min. Rio on Broadway, Station Square, Grand Abbotsford.

The Kingdom f Culture clash in the desert as an elite American investigation unit, led by an FBI special agent (Jamie Foxx), attempts to track down a terrorist cell in Saudi Arabia but faces tough resistance from the Saudi government. With Jennifer Garner, Chris Cooper, Jason Bateman and Jeremy Piven. 18A. 110 min. Tinseltown, Park & Tilford, SilverCity Metropolis, SilverCity Coquitlam, Richmond Centre, SilverCity Riverport, Clova, Colossus Langley, Empire Guildford, Hollywood Surrey, Meadowtown Centre, Towne Abbotsford.

Laaga Chunari Mein Daag An extraordinary story of a woman, her sacrifice, and her eventual fall from grace. Grande Surrey.

Lust, Caution fffh With WWII underway, shy Wong has been left behind by her father, who has escaped to England. As a freshman at university, she meets fellow student Kuang. He has started a drama society to shore up patriotism and Wong finds herself as the troupe's new leading lady. Kuang convenes a core group of students to carry out a radical and ambitious plan to assassinate a top Japanese collaborator, Mr. Yee. 18A. 158 min. Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, Fifth Avenue Cinemas, SilverCity Riverport.

Michael Clayton ffh Michael Clayton (George Clooney) is an in-house "fixer" at one of the largest corporate law firms in New York. A former criminal prosecutor, Clayton takes care of Kenner, Bach & Ledeen's dirtiest work at the behest of the firm's co-founder Marty Bach (Sydney Pollack). Parental guidance. 119 min. Oakridge, Tinseltown, Esplanade, Station Square, SilverCity Coquitlam, Grande Surrey, Colossus Langley, SilverCity Riverport, Richmond Centre, Empire Guildford, Rialto White Rock, Meadowtown Centre, Grand Abbotsford, SilverCity Mission, Cottonwood Chilliwack.

Mitti Wajaan Maardi A new Bollywood musical. Not rated. Grande Surrey, SilverCity Mission.

Mr. Bean's Holiday fff Rowan Atkinson takes his pratfalling, nearly mute character Mr. Bean on vacation to Cannes, where he's mistaken for a kidnapper and a world-famous filmmaker. General. 89 min. Station Square, Richmond Centre, Hollywood Surrey.

Mr. Woodcock f When a man (Seann William Scott) discovers that his mother (Susan Sarandon) is being romanced by the gym teacher (Billy Bob Thornton) who made his childhood years misery, he will do anything to stop the relationship from developing. Parental guidance. 87 min. Twilight Drive-In.

Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs follows researchers and explorers as they piece together the archeological and genetic clues of Egyptian mummies. These relics of the past create a window into the fascinating and mysterious world of the pharaohs. Omnimax Theatre at Telus World of Science.

Ratatouille ffff Pixar's latest outing follows a rat (and wannabe chef) into the sewers of Paris, where he lives beneath the five-star restaurant of his cooking hero and secretly teams up with the kitchen garbage boy to turn the world of high cuisine on its ear. With the voices of Patton Oswalt, Brian Dennehy, Brad Garrett and Janeane Garofalo. General. 111 min. Eagle Ridge.

Resident Evil: Extinction fh Survivors of the Raccoon City catastrophe travel across the Nevada desert, hoping to make it to Alaska. Alice (Milla Jovovich) joins the caravan and their fight against the evil Umbrella Corp. 18A. Tinseltown, SilverCity Metropolis, Colossus Langley, SilverCity Riverport, SilverCity Coquitlam, Meadowtown Centre.

Ride Around the World: A Cowboy Adventure This film explores the thriving culture of exotic horse-and-cattle peoples in Morocco, Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Patagonia, Texas and B.C. General. Omnimax Theatre at Telus world of Science.

Rush Hour 3 ff While in Paris, Lee and Carter inadvertently get mixed up with the Chinese Triad crew. Parental guidance. 91 min. Denman Cinema, Twilight Drive-In.

Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure Stunning photo-realistic computer-generated animation transports audiences back to the Late Cretaceous, when a great inland sea divided North America in two. The film follows a curious and adventurous dolichorhynchops – familiarly known as a 'dolly' – as she travels through the most dangerous oceans in history. Along the way, she encounters long-necked plesiosaurs, giant turtles, enormous fish, fierce sharks, and the most dangerous sea monster of all, the mosasaur. CN Imax at Canada Place.

The Seeker: The Dark is Rising fff A boy's life is turned upside down when he learns that he is the last of a group of immortal warriors who have dedicated their lives to fighting the forces of the dark. Station Square, SilverCity Coquitlam, Colossus Langley, Cottonwood Chilliwack.

Shake Hands with The Devil ffh This fictionalized account of the experiences of Gen. Romeo Dallaire is less immediate than the documentary on the same subject, and less intense than *Hotel Rwanda*; it feels like a footnote to the story that has been told before. Still, it features a strong performance by Roy Dupuis and provides another reminder of a tragedy the world must not forget. Not rated. 113 min. Granville.

Stardust ffff In a countryside town bordering on a magical land, a young man makes a promise to his beloved that he'll retrieve a fallen star by venturing into the magical realm. Parental Guidance. 128 min. Eagle Ridge.

Superbad fff The 40-Year-Old Virgin director Judd Apatow produced this story of much younger virgins as two high school friends go off to college and race to get lucky. With Jonah Hill, Michael Cera, Seth Rogen and Bill Hader. 18A. 113 min. Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, Station Square, SilverCity Coquitlam, Colossus Langley.

Sydney White A modern retelling of Snow White set against students in their freshman year of college in the greek system. Parental Guidance. 108 min. Park & Tilford, Station Square, SilverCity Coquitlam, Empire Guildford, Colossus Langley, SilverCity Riverport, Towne Abbotsford.

Transformers Uber-action director Michael Bay resurrects the 1980s-era robotic action figures in a live-action film about a war on Earth between the good guy Autobots and the villainous Deceptacons. With Shia LaBeouf, Tyrese Gibson, John Turturro and Jon Voight. Parental guidance. 143 min. Denman Cinema.

We Own The Night ffh A New York nightclub manager tries to save his brother and father from Russian mafia hit men. 14 A. 117 min. Dunbar Theatre, Tinseltown, Van East Cinema, SilverCity Metropolis, Park & Tilford, SilverCity Coquitlam, Grande Surrey, Empire Guildford, SilverCity Riverport, Colossus Langley, Criterion White Rock, Meadowtown Centre, SilverCity Mission, Grand Abbotsford, Cottonwood Chilliwack.

Weirdsville fff A pair of slackers get in way over their heads when they try to dump the body of a dead girlfriend in the basement of a drive-in movie theater where a satanic cult performs ritual sacrifices. 14A. 92 min. Granville.

n Second Run

Alaska: Spirit of the Wild A tour through the Arctic ice and the majesty of Mt. McKinley. General. 45 min. CN Imax at Canada Place.

Avenue Montaigne Jessica, a beautiful and spirited young woman from the provinces, comes to Paris to experience life in its infinite variety. In French with English subtitles. Parental guidance. 105 min. Paramount Chilliwack.

Daddy Day Camp Cuba Gooding Jr. stars in this follow-up to the Eddie Murphy vehicle *Daddy Day Care*. With Lochlyn Munro, Richard Gant and Tamala Jones. General. 89 min. Clova.

The Human Body ffff Imax film that uses body-exploring cameras, heat-sensitive devices and very little computer-generated technology to show how our bodies work, both externally and internally. Educational and entertaining. General. Omnimax Theatre at Telus World of Science.

In The Shadow of The Moon ffff The surviving crew members from NASA's Apollo missions tell their story in their own words. General. 100 min. Granville.

No Reservations fff A no-nonsense Manhattan chef (Catherine Zeta-Jones) inherits a niece (Abigail Breslin) and meets a charismatic sous-chef (Aaron Eckhart) at the same time. With Patricia Clarkson. General. 105 min. Denman Cinema, Hollywood Theatre.

Ocean's Thirteen ffh More caper action from George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon and director Steven Soderbergh, with Al Pacino and Ellen Barkin joining them on the already-crowded marquee. Parental guidance. 123 min. Hollywood Theatre.

Pulse: a STOMP Odyssey Using the universal language of rhythm, Stomp's percussive performers showcase an array of musicians from diverse cultures and surroundings. Omnimax Theatre at Telus World of Science.

The Simpsons Movie fffh After 18 seasons, 400 episodes and no immediate end in sight, Matt Groening and company have made a movie. With the voices of Dan Castellaneta, Julie Kavner, Nancy Cartwright, Yeardley Smith, Hank Azaria and Harry Shearer. Parental guidance. 86 min. Eagle Ridge, Hollywood Surrey.

Nathan Hornburg's dad says thanks

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PUBLICATION:	Calgary Herald
DATE:	2007.10.19
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SECTION:	Q: Queries – Quibbles – Quirks
PAGE:	A27
COLUMN:	You Said It Best
ILLUSTRATION:	Photo: Calgary Herald Archive / Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, 24-year-old reservist, was killed in Afghanistan on Sept. 24. ;
KEYWORDS:	0
BYLINE:	Michael Hornburg
SOURCE:	Calgary Herald
WORD COUNT:	190

Honours – To the citizens of the world, Canada, Ontario, Alberta and Calgary, on behalf of our immediate family, our extended family and the many personal friends of Nathan Hornburg, I would like to extend a very heartfelt and grateful thank-you for all the countless kindnesses and support which have been shown to us during this intensely stressful period of our lives' journey.

In particular, I would like to thank the Canadian military for their incredible thoughtfulness and support, Pierson's Funeral Home, the many police, fire and EMS services which assisted in the various processional routes Nathan travelled on, and all of the people — strangers and friends we will never know — who lined the routes to salute and honour Nathan's valour and willingness to help the less powerful and fortunate people of the world.

I would also like to thank the media and the general public for being so considerate and respectful of our privacy in this most trying and difficult times.

Michael Hornburg,

Calgary

— — —

Each day, a letter that expresses a view particularly well is featured on Q.

Each month, one outstanding letter will be chosen for a special prize.

Afghans seek more aid as violence soars; 'Old weapons and equipment' hamper progress

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PAGE: A21

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Jonathan Ernst, Reuters / U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, right, welcomes Afghanistan's Defence Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak to the Pentagon on Thursday. ;

KEYWORDS: IMPOSTORS; WAR; TERRORISM

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BYLINE: Kristin Roberts

SOURCE: Reuters

WORD COUNT: 355

Afghanistan's defence minister asked Thursday for more money and equipment to fight soaring Taliban violence as America's Pentagon chief criticized NATO allies for failing to deliver promised aid.

Afghan Defence Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak said suicide bombings were up 50 per cent from a year ago and the Afghan army needed more troops and equipment.

"We have achieved a great deal with limited manpower and old weapons and equipment," Wardak said after meeting with U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates at the Pentagon. "Imagine what we could do with better equipment and additional help."

Despite six years of war in Afghanistan, the Taliban regained strength in 2006 and has ramped up attacks on U.S., Afghan and NATO forces this year. NATO forces also have begun to intercept convoys of bomb technology coming into Afghanistan from Iran, according to NATO and U.S. military officials.

Wardak called the past two years "the most difficult and challenging since 2001." The Taliban government was overthrown that year by Afghan and U.S.-led forces.

"The enemy has stepped up his activities, operating in smaller units over a wider geographic area, with heavy reliance on IED (improvised explosive devices) and suicide bombing," he said.

That rising violence comes as NATO commanders say they still face shortages in troops, trainers, helicopters and other equipment needed to fight the war.

The United States, which boosted its troop and equipment commitment to Afghanistan to fill some of those gaps this year, has complained repeatedly about its European allies' unwillingness or inability to meet stated commitments.

NATO defence ministers will meet next week in the Netherlands, and Gates is expected to press his counterparts again to fulfil promises made last year. "One of the problems that we encounter is that, while we have 40 countries co-operating in Afghanistan to help Afghanistan, both in terms of security and in terms of

development, not all of those countries have delivered on the commitments that they made," Gates said Thursday.

"I expect this subject to be the centrepiece of those discussions, of people meeting the commitments that they've made," he said.

A U.S. military official said attack levels had climbed every year since 2003 in four major categories — small arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades, suicide bombings and improvised explosive devices.

Al-Qaeda, Taliban made threats

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PUBLICATION: The Hamilton Spectator
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EDITION: Final
SECTION: Canada/World
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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Shakil Adil, the Associated Press / Rescue workers assist a badly injured man near Benazir Bhutto's truck, ;
DATELINE: ISLAMABAD, Pakistan
BYLINE: Kathy Gannon
SOURCE: The Associated Press
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 420

No one quickly claimed responsibility for the bombings that devastated Benazir Bhutto's festive return to the southern city of Karachi on yesterday, but militants linked to al-Qaeda and the Taliban had threatened to meet her with attacks.

The former prime minister's strong criticism of Islamic extremists who control swaths of Pakistan's northern border with Afghanistan made her many enemies, as did her openness to working with the United States and even allying with Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf.

Government officials had warned that intelligence reports suggested at least three groups sympathetic to Osama bin Laden's terror movement and the hardline Taliban religious militia were plotting attacks on Bhutto.

Earlier this month, a Pakistani Taliban commander, Baitullah Mehsud, reportedly promised that his suicide bombers were waiting for Bhutto.

"My men will welcome Bhutto on her return," Mehsud was quoted as saying by Saleh Shah, a representative of the religiously conservative tribal region along the Afghan border and a close friend of the Taliban commander.

Speaking with the English-language weekly Friday Times, Shah quoted Mehsud as saying: "We don't accept President General Musharraf and Benazir Bhutto because they only protect the U.S. interest and see things through its glasses."

Other groups posing a threat to Bhutto include Jaish-e-Mohammed and Laskar-e-Tayyaba, both affiliated with al-Qaeda, banned by Pakistan's government, but still operating under other names. They allegedly train suicide bombers in tribal regions for attacks on U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan. Jaish-e-Mohammed was an ally of the former Taliban regime in Afghanistan, and its leader, Masood Azhar, was a frequent visitor of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar.

Azhar's organization has a strong base in Karachi, Bhutto's hometown, and is affiliated with extremist Islamic schools there, the largest being Banuri Town, where Afghans in the Taliban trained. Some of al-Qaeda's top operatives have hidden in Karachi with the help of extremist groups. One, Ramzi Binalshibh, was captured in the city in September 2002.

Bhutto has said extremist violence will not deter her from trying to rally Pakistani moderates to stand up to Islamic militancy. "I am not scared. I am thinking of my mission," she told reporters yesterday.

She also addressed her aims in an article published yesterday in The Boston Globe: "The Pakistan People's party and I represent everything they fear the most — moderation, democracy, equality for women, information, and technology. We represent the future of a modern Pakistan, a future that has no place in it for ignorance, intolerance and terrorism."

U.S. overhauls Afghan police; New \$2.5b program third attempt at bolstering 72,000-member force

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SECTION: Canada/World
PAGE: A7
DATELINE: KABUL
SOURCE: New York Times News Service
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 333

American military officials are carrying out a sweeping, \$2.5-billion US overhaul of Afghanistan's police force that will include retraining the country's entire 72,000-member force and embedding 2,350 U.S. and European advisers in police stations across the country.

The new effort represents a vast expansion of the American program and is the third significant attempt to bolster the country's feeble police force since the United States-led invasion in 2001.

Improving the police force is seen by some military officials as a key to defeating the Taliban and salvaging the credibility of the central government, which is widely viewed as corrupt.

Major General Robert W. Cone took over the Afghan effort in July after revamping the training of American troops bound for Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I want in every district in this country the same kind of full-court press," he said. "I want to break the corruption."

Some American and Afghan officials involved in the overhaul warn that corruption, drug trafficking and rising lawlessness pose graver threats to the government than even the Taliban. But rooting out the corruption in the force has proven to be a gargantuan challenge.

After leaving police training to Germany for the first two years after the fall of the Taliban, the United States has steadily increased what it spends on the task.

In 2005, the military took over from the State Department and spent more than \$2-billion US on equipment and increased pay for police. Officials now say that it has become clear that retraining is also needed.

The weakness of the national police force has contributed to Afghanistan's becoming the world's largest producer of opium, they say. Last year, after another bumper crop, it produced 93 per cent of world supply, according to the United Nations.

Some Afghan and American officials have complained that the Defence Department is trying to militarize the Afghan police and use them to fight the Taliban, a mission they say should be conducted by the Afghan army. But military officials argue that lightly armed Afghan police need strengthening. Across the country, the military can drive the Taliban out of areas, but Afghan police cannot hold those gains.

Around Canada

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DATE: 2007.10.19

PAGE: A13

SECTION: Canada Wire

WORD COUNT: 574

DataSpecials Accused cop killer in Yellowknife court **YELLOWKNIFE** — A man accused in the fatal shooting of an RCMP officer uttered only a single word when he made his first appearance in court Thursday to be formally charged with first-degree murder.

Emrah Bulatci, 23, responded "Yes" when the judge asked him if he understood what he was being charged with. Bulatci, 23, was arrested after eluding police for almost a week after the Oct. 6 shooting death of Const. Chris Worden in Hay River, about 400 kilometres south of Yellowknife.

Prosecutor Christine Gagnon said no bail application has yet been made.

BC Ferries gone to pot **VICTORIA** — B.C. Transport Minister Kevin Falcon said Thursday he has arranged to meet with BC Ferries and its major union to discuss ways to combat drug use by crew members.

The Transportation Safety Board issued a warning Wednesday that pot was being used by some crew members on the Ferries' northern routes.

Albertans speed demons? **CALGARY** — The day that new provincial figures were released showing a 15 per cent jump in traffic collisions in a year, a new poll suggests Albertans — more than other Canadians — want to go even faster on city roads.

The number of traffic fatalities dropped by three per cent, to 453, and another 26,000 people were injured in road collisions in Alberta in 2006 — 1,460 more than in 2005, Department of Infrastructure and Transportation figures released Thursday show.

Amnesty seeks action **OTTAWA** — A blizzard of legal arguments from the federal government is obscuring the fundamental issue of whether Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan are handing over detainees to face potential torture at the hands of local authorities, says Amnesty International. Paul Champ, a lawyer for the human rights group, told Federal Court on Thursday that it's time to get beyond narrow technical issues and move to the heart of the case.

Our privacy invaded? **OTTAWA** — The federal Conservative party's central database is set up to track the confidential concerns of individual constituents without their knowledge or consent, says a former Tory MP.

The issue spilled onto the floor of the House of Commons on Thursday when Garth Turner, the expelled Tory-turned-Liberal MP, accused Prime Minister Stephen Harper of an "unethical invasion of Canadians' privacy." Another Trudeau is born **OTTAWA** — One of Canada's most famous sons is now a dad.

Justin Trudeau became a father shortly after noon on Thursday when his wife, Sophie Gregoire, gave birth to the newest member of the Trudeau clan, Xavier James Trudeau. Originally due on Oct.

5, Xavier James weighed in at a hefty nine-pounds, two ounces after a long labour. Xavier James may have waited to share a birthdate with his paternal grandfather — Pierre Elliott Trudeau was born Oct. 18, 1919.

Climate tops terror issue RED DEER, Alta. — The top safety and security issue for the world is not terrorism, it's climate change, says Nobel prize nominee Sheila Watt-Cloutier.

The cost of inaction will be horrific in terms of floods, drought, heat waves, and forest fires, she said in an interview this week after speaking to 300 people at Red Deer College. Watt-Cloutier, 53, was nominated for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize recently awarded to former United States vice-president Al Gore.

— Compiled from news services { Yellowknife NT }

Around the World

PUBLICATION: WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

DATE: 2007.10.19

PAGE: A18

SECTION: World Wire

WORD COUNT: 313

DataSpecials China takes U.S. to task BEIJING — China warned the United States on Thursday that its honouring of the Dalai Lama "gravely undermined" relations between the two countries, and demanded Washington stop supporting the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader and take steps to repair ties.

Mideast effort ramped up LONDON — President George W. Bush will send his national security adviser to the Middle East next week to keep up pressure on Israel and the Palestinians to reach agreement on launching formal peace talks, a senior U.S. official said Thursday.

The announcement came as U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said she was encouraged by her four days of intense talks with politicians and businessmen on both sides.

Iranian arms intercepted KABUL, Afghanistan — The top NATO commander in Afghanistan said Thursday his troops intercepted a weapons convoy coming from Iran last month that contained sophisticated explosive devices and blamed the Iranian military for involvement in its shipment.

U.S. Army Gen. Dan McNeill, the commander of NATO's 40,000-strong International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, said the convoy contained "a number of advance technology improvised explosive devices" and was intercepted on Sept. 5 in western Afghanistan.

BBC cuts spark strike talk LONDON — The British Broadcasting Corp. announced Thursday it will cut 1,800 jobs, broadcast fewer programs and require staff to create content for television, radio and the Internet in a move that appeared to make a showdown with journalists and other employees inevitable.

Union leaders vowed to strike if the BBC went forward with the radical overhaul, which includes major cuts in the news and documentary divisions.

BBC journalists say the cuts threaten the quality of the broadcast and the union said a strike vote could begin Friday at noon.

— From the news services {Beijing CHINA}

Truly great writers don't need Nobel Prizes

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SECTION: Focus

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DataSpecials Christopher Hitchens Almost intoxicating to see that the Nobel committee did something honorable and creditable for a change ... It's as though the long, dreary reign of the forgettable and the mediocre and the sinister had been just for once punctuated by a bright flash of talent. And a flash of 88-year-old talent at that, as if the Scandinavians had guiltily remembered that they let writers Vladimir Nabokov and Jorge Luis Borges die (yes, die) while they doled out so many of their awards in literature to time-servers and second-raters.

Had they let this happen to Doris Lessing, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature last week, eternal shame would have covered those committee members. Harold Bloom, the Yale University professor and literary critic, might conceivably be right (actually, if it matters, I do think he is right) to say that Lessing hasn't written much of importance for the last 15 or so years. But that's not to say that she shouldn't have received the Nobel laurels 20 years ago, if not sooner. It was Hemingway who first acidly pointed out that authors tend to get the big prize either too early or too late.

In his own case, he compared it with swimming ashore under his own steam and then being hit over the head with a life belt.

To review the depth and extent of Lessing's work is to appreciate that some writers really do live for language and are willing to take risks for it. It's also to understand that there is some relationship between the hunger for truth and the search for the right words.

This struggle may be ultimately indefinable and even undecidable, but one damn well knows it when one sees it.

I can remember with crystal precision when I first read her early fiction. It was in white-ruled Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), more than three decades ago. Two of her stories -- The Grass is Singing and This Was the Old Chief's Country -- combined the sad indistinctness of a melancholy memoir with the very exact realization that a huge injustice had been done to the "native" inhabitants of the land to which she had been transplanted.

For much of her life, the battle against apartheid and colonialism was the determining thing in Lessing's life. She joined the Communist Party and married a German Communist exile (who was much later killed as the envoy of East Germany to Idi Amin's hateful regime in Uganda), and if you ever want to read how it actually felt, and I mean truly felt, to believe in a Communist future with all your heart, her novels from that period will make it piercingly real for you.

Later on, and in a way that is now so familiar that we take it for granted, she gave up this animating faith. But not without writing about it in such a way as to make you catch your breath. There is a short fiction called The Day Stalin Died that would deserve reprinting in any anthology of the prose of the 20th century. I have only twice had the experience of reading a story that was so good, and that seemed so much to know what I might be thinking myself, that I was almost afraid to read on. The first time was with Katherine Mansfield, and the second was when holding Lessing's tale The Temptation of Jack Orkney (which is incidentally also about a crisis of faith).

Please make a resolution to acquire the volumes in which these occur.

It will help you to determine the gold standard in modern writing.

I would say it was a sure thing that it was respect for language, rather than any immediate political trauma, that drove her out of the Communist Party. She once told me that she had been in the party's so-called "writers' group," which often discussed the "problems" of "committed" writers, before realizing that the main writing problem had to do with being in the group, not to say the party, in the first place.

Saturated The Nobel committee, saturated as usual in its obligation to be worthy, dutifully cites the epic element in Lessing's pioneering feminism. Well, there is no need to disagree here. But in stressing the buried desires and ambitions of the female, and in forcing her readers to confront what in a sense they already "knew," she rather tended to insist that what a real woman wanted was a real man. The making of this elemental point lost her almost as many admirers as it gained. But, once again, she simply could not employ her literary and emotional capacities for mere propaganda purposes.

I do not want to make her out to be a sage, or a grand dame. Her most anti-Communist book — *The Wind Blows Away Our Words* — is somewhat too romantic an account of the rebels fighting the Red Army in Afghanistan. I don't find her science fiction compelling and was put off when she tried to interest me in the work of the Sufi mystic charlatan Idries Shah (whose "books" were once summarized by Gore Vidal as "a good deal harder to read than they were to write").

What is seriously remarkable, however, is her willingness to experiment with so many forms of writing, and even, if you like, to take the risk of looking foolish rather than to allow herself to become standardized or calcified or type-cast.

I was touched and interested to see Doris Lessing photographed last week, outside the same row house in the rather rough and plebeian district of North London where she has lived for so many decades.

Having been an avenging angel of sexuality in her youth, she doesn't mind in the least looking a bit like a bag lady or a cat collector as she approaches her 90th year. (Actually, she once did produce rather a good book about felines.) There was a serenity to the scene: a person who has just happened to get the Nobel Prize but who really doesn't need that sort of confirmation.

Christopher Hitchens is a columnist for *Vanity Fair* and *Slate Magazine* (www.slate.com), where this column originally appeared.

The author of more than a dozen books, his latest is *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*.

Degree for fallen soldier U of M bestows first-ever posthumous recognition

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Nick Martin Nick Martin Amanda Anderson barely held back her tears as she prepared to receive her husband Jordan's posthumous degree Thursday.

"It'll be an honour," she said in a brief interview moments before the University of Manitoba fall convocation began.

"I wish it wasn't me doing it, I wish it was him. I'll do it for him," Anderson said.

Cpl. Jordan Anderson died in a roadside bombing in Afghanistan in early July.

He'd been completing a distance education degree in political studies through U of M's military support office, and was very close to finishing when he died.

"It was elective credits that were left," Anderson said.

U of M awarded Jordan Anderson a posthumous degree, the first time the university has ever given a degree to an active soldier killed in wartime.

Several family members accompanied his widow from Alberta Thursday, and the audience at the convocation at the Church of the Rock was speckled with uniforms, from enlisted soldiers who'd served and buddied with Jordan Anderson, to senior officers.

"The regiment made sure some of his closest friends could be here," Anderson said. "The interest has been amazing from the general public.

"It was his friends — they were the ones who contacted the university." Prof. George MacLean, acting head of political studies, persuaded the university's senate to take the unprecedented step. Anderson had completed all his political science courses, and had hoped to go on to graduate school and become an intelligence officer.

"He loved learning," said Anderson. Her husband would read something in the newspaper, then go to other sources to learn as much about a subject as he could, she recalled.

"Everyone in the military support office has been terrific over the past five years," she said. "It's something he wanted to do — I'll finish it for him." Jordan Anderson's friends have raised \$10,000 to establish two bursaries in his memory.

"He was always doing some kind of homework," said Cpl. Jeff Black with a smile. "Once he got his mind on something, you couldn't shake him.

"He was an easygoing guy, but he was the most dedicated soldier I've ever seen," said Black, who served with Anderson in Edmonton as a member of the Third Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

"It's a great honour being asked to come here," said Black.

"He was a joy to talk to. He was (of) above-average intelligence," said Cpl. Adam Bowness, a friend from Anderson's first of two tours of duty in Afghanistan.

"We were working basically out of a trench for six months," Bowness said. "He wanted to be an intelligence officer, and he wanted to be a graduate student. Black said that if Anderson could have been at convocation Thursday, "He'd probably have his trademark cackling laugh, and be grinning ear to ear." The fall convocation was moved to the Church of the Rock because of an ongoing strike by support service workers at U of M.

Environmentalist Prof. Louis Fortier and educator Don Robertson received honorary degrees as 1,271 students graduated. Among them were the first six master of arts students to graduate in school psychology — in such high demand that each student has already been recruited and hired, all in Manitoba.

"We're not surprised; the school psychologist is a valuable team member contributing to a healthy, functioning community, and these are top-notch students," said Prof. Barry Mallin, co-ordinator of the U of M's school psychology program.

"School systems today are asked to respond to the needs of children with highly diverse and complex issues," Mallin said. "Children with learning and behavioural problems, issues of cognitive functioning, health, emotional and family concerns and the occasional crisis are all part of the job." nick.martin@freepress.mb.ca Widow's grateful words Jordan's commitment and appreciation of lifelong learning was instilled in him at an early age. The fact that he was within a few credits of obtaining his bachelor's degree while working full-time in the Canadian Forces, with two deployments to Afghanistan, and numerous exercises away from his home base, is a testament to his perseverance and dedication.

Jordan could not have succeeded without the fantastic support from his partners in education. Appreciation needs to be extended to the University of Manitoba and the Canadian Forces for offering an educational program with so many supports for success. The flexibility of the program, coupled with the counsel from the Military Support Office, made the goal of a university degree attainable.

Jordan had lofty goals, and every expectation of meeting them.

After he earned his degree, his intentions were to obtain his master's in strategic studies, climb through the officers' ranks, and ultimately become an intelligence officer.

It is with great sorrow that we'll never see him achieve his goal.

A bursary entitled On The Ramp has been established at the University of Manitoba in Jordan's name. This bursary will be awarded to two students, one a serving member of the Canadian Forces, and one a cadet. The bursary is open to full-time, part-time, or as Jordan did, distance education students. Often during downtime in the army, Jordan would share his knowledge of history and politics with his comrades. This bursary will be his legacy for years to come, sharing his passion for learning.

We are truly grateful for the honour of receiving this bachelor's degree. A sincere thank-you to the University of Manitoba, the political science department, and the Military Support Office. Thank you to his regiment, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, for their work in making this happen. We also wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to his friends at Army.ca for making representation to the university, in order for him to receive his degree posthumously, and for the work in establishing the bursary in Jordan's name.

We would also like to extend our best wishes to all the graduates.

We are honoured to be part of today's convocation.

— Amanda Anderson

Arar gets apology from U.S. mlegislators House committee weighs 'extraordinary rendition'

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CP Wire Devlin Barrett WASHINGTON — U.S. legislators apologized Thursday to Canadian Maher Arar for what he called an "immoral" anti-terror program called 'extraordinary rendition' that let U.S. authorities seize and send him to Syria, where he was tortured.

Arar, 37, a telecommunications engineer, appeared before a joint hearing of U.S. House of Representatives subcommittees by video from the University of Ottawa. Arar said he would have preferred to be there in person, but he's still on a U.S. government watch list and barred from the United States.

"Let me personally give you what our government has not: an apology," Democratic Representative Bill Delahunt said as he opened the hearing on Capitol Hill.

"Let me apologize to you and the Canadian people for our government's role in a mistake." Arar said he was grateful for the legislators' apologies but hoped the U.S. government will eventually officially apologize to him.

"I would like them to acknowledge that what they did to me is wrong," Arar told reporters in Ottawa afterward. "Second, I would like them to commit that this will not happen to other human beings." Arar told the hearing: "Let me be clear, I am not a terrorist, I am not a member of al-Qaida or any terror group." "I am a father, a husband and an engineer. I am also a victim of the immoral practice of extraordinary rendition." Arar recounted being thrown in a tiny cell and tortured into a false confession that he had trained at a terror camp in Afghanistan.

"Life in that cell was hell," he said. "I spent 10 months and 10 days in that grave." Republican Representative Dana Rohrabacher also apologized, but said he would fight any efforts by Democrats to end extraordinary rendition — a practice under which terror suspects are grabbed by U.S. government agents and taken to another country where local authorities may torture confessions out of them.

Representative Jerrold Nadler, a Democrat, described what happened to Arar as "a kidnapping." He also apologized.

"Yes, we should be ashamed" of what happened in this case, Rohrabacher said. But the Republican added: "That is no excuse to end a program which has protected the lives of hundreds of thousands if not millions of American lives." Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian citizen, was detained by Homeland Security agents on Sept. 26, 2002, as he stopped over in New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport en route home from a vacation.

Days later, he was flown by private jet to Syria where he was interrogated and tortured, according to Canadian officials and Arar himself. After nearly a year in a Syrian prison, he was released without charges and returned to Canada.

Back in Canada, a public inquiry headed by Justice Dennis O'Connor concluded that Arar had no link to terrorism. The inquiry also determined he was indeed tortured.

O'Connor's report, based on testimony from dozens of witnesses and thousands of pages of documents, says Arar was unfairly branded a terrorist by the RCMP, which shared that conclusion with U.S.

authorities. The Americans in turn arrested Arar and sent him to Syria.

Some U.S. legislators pointedly said Arar's ordeal was prompted by the wrong intelligence from Canada.

In August, previously censored portions of O'Connor's findings were released. The material showed the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had suspicions early on that the CIA had shipped Arar to a third country and that he could face torture. There was no indication, however, that CSIS alerted its political masters at that time.

It was also disclosed that the RCMP had used evidence obtained abroad from other suspects — likely under torture — to obtain search and wiretap warrants in Canada for its anti-terrorist investigations.

The Canadian government has apologized to Arar and agreed to pay him C\$10.5 million in compensation.

U.S. President George W. Bush's administration has not apologized.

And despite appeals from top Canadian officials, Arar is still barred from travelling to the United States.

The administration insists the extraordinary rendition program is an extremely important tool in combating terrorists.

Legal experts say the case shows the United States has violated a 1998 law specifically prohibiting the government from turning a suspect over to a foreign country when they think that country may torture the suspect.

U.S. authorities say they get diplomatic assurances the person will not be tortured before turning them over. Nadler scoffed at such an assurance from Syria, which he says is not trusted by the U.S. administration itself.

— The Associated Press, with files from The Canadian Press

Parliament; Getting back to business

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Having convictions means you don't have the luxury of picking your battles. It means taking firm and principled positions and risking fights you may not win because it is the right thing to do. There is honour in defeat so long as you believe in your cause.

But you can't have it both ways if you want to be a credible and inspirational political leader. You can't rail against government policies as being bad for the country but then back down because opposition to those policies carries political consequences. That's why the Liberal party's decision to simultaneously condemn and tacitly support the government's agenda is a dubious strategy.

Liberal Leader Stephane Dion lambasted the throne speech and raised serious concerns over its main planks, including the abandonment of the Kyoto emissions targets and the extension of the mission in Afghanistan, which fly in the face of clear positions taken by his party.

But then Dion waffled and said the Liberals would prop up the government by abstaining from the final vote on the throne speech.

"It reminded me a little of the professor who goes through your term paper and marks all over it everything he disagrees with but then passes you anyway," Prime Minister Stephen Harper said to chuckles in Parliament.

Dion's decision to prop up the minority Conservatives should be well-received by election-weary Canadians who want their governments to govern and not campaign. But no one should be under any illusions Dion made it for the good of the country. He is shying away from an election only because his party, which is low on funds and racked with dissent, is ill-prepared to fight one.

Now that Dion has made that decision, he and his party must allow Harper to carry out his plans without being unnecessarily obstructionist, as they were in the last legislative session. The Liberals should debate the legislation and suggest constructive amendments but avoid playing games because their failure to oppose the throne speech has given Harper a green light to govern and implement what appears to be a sensible and moderate agenda.

The government's omnibus law and order bill that was introduced Thursday repackages several pieces of legislation that failed to pass in the last sitting. Harper has made its passage a matter of confidence and it is clear he is willing to fight an election over its passing. The legislation has broad appeal given many Canadians perceive our justice system as lax and soft on repeat offenders.

The bill would stiffen penalties for impaired driving, raise the age of sexual consent to 16 from 14, impose stricter bail conditions for those who commit gun crimes and introduce mandatory minimum prison sentences for gun crimes. As well, the legislation would amend the Criminal Code so that offenders convicted of three violent or sexual offences would have to prove they should not be labeled dangerous offenders.

This bill will be unpalatable to the Grits, who opposed some of the measures in the last sitting, but they will be hardpressed to oppose it given their tacit support of the throne speech. Ditto for the government's plans to extend the mission in Afghanistan until 2011 and its abandonment of the Kyoto emissions targets in favour of a made-in-Canada climate change plan.

Canadians don't want an election any more than the floundering Liberals and the reality is that Harper's legislative agenda isn't cause for one. It isn't perfect but it's a sensible document offering many of the things, including broad based tax cuts, for which Canadians have been asking.

Stéphane Dion's week started badly and just kept getting worse; Chrétien's book, caucus anger and Quebec defections are making leader's life a misery

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Stéphane Dion's really bad week started with a book – Jean Chrétien memoirs blasting his Liberal successors for failing to implement Kyoto and for redeploying Canadian troops in Afghanistan from Kabul to "the killing fields" of Kandahar.

At the very moment when Dion urgently needed Liberals to unite behind his leadership, on the eve of a new parliamentary session, Chrétien reopened the bitter party divisions between Paul Martin's camp and his own.

Never mind that when Chrétien agreed to the Kyoto Protocol, Canada had no plan for emissions reductions, or that emissions increased by about 25 per cent over 1990 levels during his decade in office to the end of 2003.

Never mind that Canadian troops were deployed to Afghanistan on Chrétien's watch as prime minister, without any helicopter lift capacity because of his decision to cancel the EH-101s on his first day in office in 1993.

That's all beside the point. As it happened, Dion was minister of the environment for 18 months in the Martin government from its re-election in 2004 to its defeat in 2006. Kyoto also didn't get done on Dion's watch.

As for how Canadian troops got to Kandahar in 2005, Dion was at the cabinet table when the redeployment was approved in 2005, and then in 2006 joined many former members of the Martin government in voting against the extension of the mission they had themselves authorized.

It was very inconvenient, and made for an extremely bad start to Dion's week.

Then on Tuesday, in the hours before the Throne Speech, the fragile unity of Liberals from Dion's own province of Quebec unravelled in the most public place in Ottawa – the lobby of the House of Commons.

First, Gatineau MP Marcel Proulx quit as Quebec lieutenant, then Dion couldn't get anyone in the House to take the job. Denis Coderre and Pablo Rodriguez both declined the honour. None of them, walking into the opposition lobby, made any attempt to gloss over the rupture with the leader.

Proulx made it very clear he wouldn't be the scapegoat for the Liberals' disastrous performance in last month's three Quebec by-elections. Coderre is the party's ablest organizer in Quebec, and Rodriguez is one of its

Stéphane Dion's week started badly and just kept getting worse; Chrétien's book, caucus anger and Quebec defections are making leader's life a misery 169

biggest talkers. Both of them, leadership supporters of Michael Ignatieff, refused la main tendue, the outstretched hand, of Dion. He finally persuaded Céline Hervieux-Payette to be his Quebec No. 2, from the Senate. It's tough work, she admitted, but someone's gotta do it. She is not known for having friends in the House caucus.

Then, the Liberal Party director-general in Quebec, former MP Serge Maril, announced he was quitting. Flat broke, the party might not be able to keep its Montreal office open.

And the party's own polls confirm they have fallen to single digits in voter support in most of Quebec outside Montreal.

All that bad news was out there even before the Throne Speech, while Dion was trying to make up his mind whether to prop up the government and avoid an election, or bring it down and force one.

At Wednesday's caucus meeting, dozens of Liberal MPs implored Dion not to trigger an election, in spite of his own apparent inclination to do so. After all, he had been underestimated in the leadership race, and if he could win the convention he could also win the country. And an election would unite the party at least for the duration of the campaign.

After four hours he pledged a responsible course but kept his decision for his Leaders' Day Address on the Throne Speech late Wednesday afternoon.

He took 45 minutes to say Canadians didn't want an election and he wouldn't force one. Then he offered a four-part amendment to the Throne Speech on Afghanistan, Kyoto, social programs and corporate tax cuts, knowing full well the NDP want our troops out of Afghanistan now, not in 2009 as Dion proposed, and that the socialists would never support tax breaks for corporate Canada.

When their own amendment is defeated on Monday, the Liberals will abstain on the main motion next Wednesday, allowing it to pass and the government to survive. This was all Dion's brilliant idea.

And it was as feeble as the rest of his speech.

In the auxiliary press gallery on Wednesday, former Outremont MP Jean Lapierre was discussing the chaos in Liberal ranks.

"You had a better seat down there," he was told.

"I find it more comfortable up here," he replied.

No kidding.

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