



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

Photo Exhibition Provides View of Muslim Life in America

As part its African-American History Month Program, the United States Embassy on Wednesday February 6 in Harar opened the photography exhibition "Building Islam in Detroit." Harari State President His Excellency Murad Abdulhadi and visiting United States speaker Reverend Dr. Elbert Ransom presided over the opening ceremony at the Amir Abdullahi Hall. The exhibition is open to the public and will be on display in Harar until February 9. The exhibition will open

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Mosque in Dearborn, Detroit, USA

Bush Administration Combating HIV/AIDS and Malaria in Africa

**By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer**

Washington -- Deadly infectious diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, have brought humanitarian and economic disaster to sub-Saharan Africa in recent decades as developing countries there have coped with the loss of life, orphaned children and a shortage of working-age adults. One of the hallmarks of President

Bush's administration has been a dramatic increase in U.S. assistance to Africa, including money for disease prevention and care.

In 2003, Bush announced the \$15 billion President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the largest international health initiative ever launched by one nation to address a single disease, with much of its focus on the Afri-

can nations of Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. (The non-African focus countries are Guyana, Haiti and Vietnam.)

When the program first was announced in 2003, it was estimated that only 50,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa were re-

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Photo Exhibition Provides View of Muslim Life in America . . .

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at the Dire Dawa Public Library on February 10, in Addis Ababa on February 25 and in Jimma on March 17.

Building Islam in Detroit is a look at

American diversity and, specifically, Muslim Life in America. The exhibition was developed by the School of International Studies of the University of Michigan to explore the art and architecture of the public and private spaces Muslims have built throughout the history of their settlement in Detroit, Michigan. An interdisciplinary team consisting of architects, historians, sociologists and anthropologists

explored the dimensions of the Muslim presence in Detroit and developed a multi-media presentation of Muslim institutions in Detroit from many traditions including African-American, Albanian, Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and, most recently, Bangladeshi.

Today, roughly 150,000 Muslims live in greater Detroit, and they worship in over 50 mosques. Since 1990 the number of mosques in Detroit has doubled, springing up in the inner city and outer suburbs

alike. Although recent growth of Islam in Detroit has been fueled by immigration from all corners of the globe, it is based on foundations laid by the city's Muslim communities dating back to the late 19th century.

and brought to the U.S. in 1921 by Mufti Muhammed Sadiq) and the Nation of Islam (founded in Detroit in 1930 by W.D. Fard).

The photo exhibition showed in at the University of Michigan in 2005. Since then it has been updated, re-



Muslims first came to Detroit in the 1890s, drawn by the city's booming industrial economy in the 1920s. Some of Detroit's early Muslims came from Europe and the Middle East. Others were African Americans from the United States' "Deep South." These African American Muslims often embraced versions of Islam outside of the traditional Sunni and Shia framework, including the Moorish Science Temple (founded by Noble Drew Ali in 1913), the Ahmadiyya movement (originating in India in the 1880s

reflecting the growth and changes in the Muslim communities of Detroit. In fall of 2007 it showed at Harvard University and the Islamic Center of America. After appearing in Ethiopia, the exhibition will travel to Pakistan, Yemen, Sudan and Tanzania. ♦

Bush Administration Combating HIV/AIDS and Malaria in Africa . . .

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ceiving treatment for HIV/AIDS. As of September 30, 2007, approximately 1,445,500 men, women and children are receiving life-saving anti-retroviral treatment, including 1,358,500 in the 15 focus countries. Sixty-two percent of those treated in the focus countries are women and girls and nearly 86,000 are children under age 14.

Seeking to expand on PEPFAR's success, President Bush announced his intention to double its funding to \$30 billion over the next five years.

Currently, 20 percent of PEPFAR's budget is spent on prevention efforts, such as stopping the transmission of HIV from mothers to their children and educating people on how to remain disease-free. The remaining 80 percent covers care and treatment of patients, laboratory support, anti-retroviral drugs, support for orphans and other vulnerable children, plus other services such as infrastructure costs and training of health personnel.

PEPFAR also is providing funds to help those who suffer from tuberculosis (TB), which is the most frequently occurring opportunistic disease that attacks the weakened immune system of HIV-positive persons. Over the past three years, the funding amount has increased more than six-fold from \$18.8 million in 2005 to at least \$120 million in 2007. By the end of September 2006, PEPFAR had provided care to more than 301,000 who are infected with both TB and HIV in the focus countries.

CARING FOR 6 MILLION AFRICANS SUFFERING FROM MALARIA

Along with fighting HIV/AIDS, the Bush administration also launched the \$1.2 billion President's Malaria

Initiative (PMI) in June 2005 designed to reduce malaria's mortality rate by 50 percent in the three target countries of Angola, Tanzania and Uganda.

dent Bush told U.S. lawmakers "America is leading the fight against disease," through the PMI and PEPFAR programs. In his request to continue U.S. taxpayer funding for the programs, he added "We can



Dr. Walter Kiptirim provides PEPFAR-funded treatment to HIV patient Willy Kausei at the Hope Center in Nairobi, Kenya. (© AP Images)

bring healing and hope to many more."

See "International Partnerships Help To Fight Malaria in Africa (<http://www.america.gov/st/health-english/2007/May/200705071516191EJrehsiFO.1787836.html>)."

As of June 2007, the PMI has provided U.S. aid in the form of life-saving medicines, sprays and bug nets to 6 million Africans who are suffering from malaria in those three countries. With an additional \$30 million in assistance, the list of target countries now is increasing to include Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal and Zambia.

For additional information about U.S. support for health initiatives in Africa and around the world, see Global Health (<http://science.america.gov/science/health/index.html>).

In his January 28 State of the Union address in Washington, Presi-

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Bush Trip Will Showcase Strong Pro-Africa Legacy

By Charles W. Corey
Staff Writer

Washington -- President Bush's February 15-21 trip to five African nations is going to be "very historic and significant" because it will "solidify one of the strongest components" of his legacy: Africa, says the first and former assistant U.S. trade representative for Africa, Rosa Whitaker.

In a January 29 interview with America.gov, Whitaker, who is now president and chief executive officer of her own U.S.-Africa trade consulting firm -- the Whitaker Group -- said when you look at President Bush's trip to Benin, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana and Liberia, the benefits cannot be measured. "One, he is bringing the global media with him that will shine a spotlight on the promise of Africa and its remaining challenges. The second thing I like about this trip is he is going to consult" with African leaders, she said.

Under the Bush administration, Whitaker recalled, there have been a number of excellent Africa initiatives, such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), an enhanced African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), and initiatives on education and malaria prevention.

"These are extraordinary initiatives toward Africa. I think it is great that the president is going to consult with the Africans on how to build on the progress Because the president is coming in the spirit of partnership and consultation -- that is one of the reasons why these initiatives have been effective."

The Bush trip -- which is his second presidential trip to Africa, Whitaker recalled -- is solid evidence that "America is abandoning the traditional tokenism and 'parachute diplomacy' of U.S. policy toward Africa. That," she said, "is now being replaced with a coherent and sustained approach that rewards African nations that are committed to stable democracies and open markets.

"If you look at the countries he has chosen -- they are all stable democracies and open markets. These are precisely the countries that need to be supported," along with others, she said.

Whitaker praised President Bush for being "very attentive" toward Africa, "but in a way that provides dignity to the Africans." The former assistant U.S. trade representative said she is especially pleased that Bush will use the trip to focus on economic development, "particularly as we are in the process of advancing new AGOA legislation in the Congress."

All of the countries being visited on the trip, she said, are AGOA beneficiaries.

The U.S. Congress, Whitaker recalled, is now in the process of considering further AGOA enhancements, such as the possibility of making the trade act permanent rather than having it expire in 2015, expanding its coverage by an additional 1,600 products, and providing tax incentives for American companies that make investments in labor-intensive sectors in Africa.

Whitaker was asked to comment on Bush's Africa legacy and the fact that his trip coincides with the cele-

bration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Department of State's Africa Bureau.

"If you look at President Bush's legacy and where that legacy is strongest," she said, "it is in Africa. I think we have to thank [Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs] Ambassador [Jendayi] Frazer and the Africa Bureau for a lot of that work."

Whitaker recalled that the Africa Bureau has "evolved" over the years from "just paying attention to conflicts and putting out fires in Africa to one that is promoting tangible initiatives on the ground to build economies and sustainable growth. I am very proud of the Africa Bureau," she stressed.

Whitaker said she always has believed that "the who is far more important than the what, so it is going to be very important that subsequent administrations have very strong assistant secretaries of state for Africa Certainly, Ambassador Frazer is a hard act to follow."

Looking to the future, Whitaker said she hopes to see the next U.S. president be even more focused on helping Africa because, despite the president's dedication to the continent, "a lot of work remains."

She expressed confidence that that will happen because there is now a strong constituency for Africa in the United States "like we have never really seen before."

What is most important, she said, is that the constituency exists at the grassroots level and is not just made up of celebrities. "Americans do care about this region of the

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President Bush To Welcome Malian President to White House

By Charles W. Corey
Staff Writer

Washington -- The visit of Malian President Amadou Toumani Toure to the White House for talks with President Bush February 8 "is confirmation of the increasingly close relationship between Mali and the United States" and further exemplifies the president's close, intensive relationship with the leaders and people of Africa.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Todd Moss made that point to America.gov in a February 4 interview that previewed the White House talks.

Moss said the Bush-Toure talks will recognize "the great strides that Mali has made in consolidating its democracy." But he went on to caution that Mali "is still an extremely poor county that faces a lot of challenges, which makes its progress on democracy all the more remarkable."

He added "poor countries are not too poor for democracy. It is not a luxury. I think Mali has shown that."

Moss recalled that, besides democracy, both leaders are expected to discuss Mali's efforts to increase economic growth and prosperity.

The White House meeting comes about one week before Bush is scheduled to depart on his second trip to Africa. He is expected to visit Benin, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana and Liberia February 15-21.

Asked to detail the progress Mali has made to date, Moss said it

stands as a "very open society with a history of religious and political tolerance." Moss also praised it as a country that has been able to avoid some of the problems suffered by



Malian President Amadou Toumani Toure

its neighbors. "It is really a society that is on the right path" to development, he said. "I think there is broad consensus within Mali that there is no turning back from the democratic path," he added.

Asked about the \$461 million compact that Mali recently signed with the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Moss said that compact alone is "confirmation that they are doing well on the indicators that the MCC uses and that the U.S. government views Mali as an important partner in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in West Africa."

Moss quickly added that U.S. assistance is not limited to the MCC pro-

gram. "We have a very robust assistance program with Mali that cuts across a lot of sectors. Mali is part of President Bush's education and malaria initiatives and gets substantial resources in the normal U.S. bilateral assistance program as well," he said. In 2007 alone, Moss said, Mali received \$45 million in bilateral U.S. assistance. Regular U.S. assistance funding for Mali is expected to rise this year, he added.

Mali recently hosted the Community of Democracy summit. Moss stressed that this shows that "the entire international community recognizes Mali's progress on the democratic front and also that it stands as an example for the region -- which has similar aspirations."

Moss acknowledged that Mali still has some significant security issues in its northern areas. He added, however, that the United States continues to work with the Malian government to help it control its borders and territory so that the country cannot become a haven for traffickers or for terrorism.

"Mali," Moss said, "is a close partner in counterterrorism cooperation" and a country with which the United States shares "very good military-to-military relations."

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No Presidential Nominees After 24 States Vote on Super Tuesday

By Michelle Austein
Staff Writer

Washington -- When parties in 24 states scheduled primaries and caucuses for February 5 -- the most races ever on a single day in a primary election season -- most political experts said the parties' nominees would be certain by the end of the day.

The experts were wrong: After a record number of Americans voted on Super Tuesday, there is still no presumptive presidential nominee for either party, and the final delegate count still is being tallied.

All Democratic races and many Republican contests award delegates to the national convention by proportional representation. A candidate must win the support of a majority of convention delegates to become the party nominee.

On the Republican side, Arizona Senator John McCain's strong showing in delegate-rich states helped him gain a large lead in delegates, but he still does not have enough delegates to claim his party's nomination.

Because strong second-place finishers can win as many delegates as the top-placed candidate in a proportional race and because larger states award more delegates, the candidate who wins the most states might not come away with the most delegates. For instance, even though Illinois Senator Barack Obama won the Democratic popular vote in at least 13 of 24 states, New York Senator Hillary Clinton won the vote in the more populous Super Tuesday states, giving her an edge in terms of total delegates.

SURPRISE IN THE REPUBLICAN RACE

After recent primaries, the Republican race seemed to be a two-person contest between McCain and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney. As polls anticipated,



McCain won the most states and will receive significantly more delegates than any other Republican candidate.

McCain won states in many parts of the country: New England, where he won every state voting except Massachusetts; the Midwest with Oklahoma and Missouri; and the West, including his home state of Arizona. He also picked up wins in the most populous states -- Illinois, New York, New Jersey and California. The Republican races in New York and New Jersey award all their delegates to the winner, giving McCain a large advantage in total delegates.

"Tonight I think we must get used to the idea that we are the Republican Party front-runner for the nomination," McCain told his supporters in Phoenix. Romney earned victories in two states where he once had lived, Utah and Massachusetts.

Some other Romney wins included the rural states of North Dakota, Montana and Alaska.

However, what political pundits expected to be a two-person race turned out to be a three-person contest with former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee winning five states, all in the South.

"Today people across this country are saying that, yes, we heard what the pundits said," Huckabee told his supporters. "But this is our vote, not theirs."

DEMOCRATS SPLIT STATES, DELEGATES

The race between Clinton and Obama continues to be tight after a Super Tuesday in which both candidates won states and delegates across the country.

It might take days to determine accurately how many delegates each earned. But, with proportional representation in all Democratic contests, neither candidate is likely to receive a windfall in total delegates as a result of the February 5 contests.

Clinton won the day's smallest and largest contests. The tiny Pacific territory of American Samoa had a record turnout at its Democratic caucus in which a majority of its 285 participants selected Clinton. The New York senator also achieved victory in California, the most populous state in the United States. Nearly 3.7 million Californian Democrats cast ballots in that contest.

Clinton's other victories were scattered across the country and in-

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“Superdelegates” May Decide Democratic Nominee

By Peter Sisler
Special Correspondent

Washington -- When Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy endorsed Illinois Senator Barack Obama January 28, he moved Obama one vote closer to becoming the Democratic Party's nominee. Kennedy is a “superdelegate” to the Democratic Party's convention, so his vote, along with other party leaders' votes, will be counted to determine the party's nominee.

Kennedy is one of hundreds of Democratic Party leaders, including former Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, former Vice President Al Gore and most current and former Democratic governors, senators and congressional representatives. These Democratic leaders and others appointed or elected by the Democratic National Committee will be able to vote as superdelegates at the convention this summer.

Superdelegates are not bound by the primary or caucus voting in their states, unlike the “pledged” delegates who are apportioned according to the vote totals and state party rules, which vary from a winner-take-all system to proportional allocation. The extremely competitive race between Obama and New York Senator Hillary Clinton suggests the superdelegates might play a crucial role in determining the Democratic Party's nominee.

There are 4,049 total voting delegates scheduled to participate in the 2008 Democratic National Convention, after Florida and Michigan were stripped of their delegates for violating the primary season schedule. Of those, 3,253 are pledged delegates selected during the pri-

mary season; another 796 are unpledged superdelegates. To become the party's nominee, a candidate must earn the votes of least 2,025 delegates.

Although Democratic superdelegates are free to vote for any candidate, in some ways, their votes already are being counted. In fact, superdelegates who have announced their commitment to a specific candidate outnumber pledged delegates selected in primaries and caucuses. Ahead of the February 5 primaries, Clinton's campaign counts 188 superdelegates among her 236 delegates; Obama's campaign numbers 102 superdelegates in its 165 committed delegates.

The enhanced role of superdelegates was established in a 1982 rule to give elected Democratic officials and party activists additional influence in the nominating process. The Republican Party uses a different system for selecting its delegates through the primaries and has fewer superdelegates.

Superdelegates also are valuable because the endorsement by a high-profile delegate like Kennedy can bring dozens of other state and party delegates, activists and fundraisers into a candidate's circle. Both the Clinton and Obama campaigns likely are seeking support from well-known superdelegates, including Gore and former presidential candidate Bill Richardson, the current governor of New Mexico, who could sway dozens of delegates.

But relying on superdelegates can be risky, as former Vermont Governor Howard Dean learned in 2004. Dean had been promised support by

more than 130 high-profile delegates, including Gore, as he rose in the polls ahead of the Iowa caucus. When he finished third in Iowa and appeared to lose control of himself during his speech after the caucuses, superdelegates quickly shifted their support to Senator John Kerry, who went on to win the nomination.

Critics such as Joshua Spivak in the Los Angeles Times argue the superdelegate system risks taking the Democrats back to a time before 1972 when there was no uniform primary or caucus system and nominees were selected by delegates and party officials on the convention floor.

“In general, the last place the public would want the nominee selected is on the convention floor,” writes Spivak. “In the heyday of the conventions, when the presidential candidates were selected in backrooms and on the floor, there were always rumors of vote buying and corrupt bargains for the nomination.”

Thus far, Clinton and Obama appear to have split the support of Democratic primary voters fairly evenly. If this trend continues, the superdelegates to the Democratic National Convention might prove to be the tie-breakers in the race for the Democratic nomination.

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Look Behind the Scenes in a Presidential Primary Election

By **Stuart Gorin**
Special Correspondent

Viera, Florida -- The morning sun was not yet up when I entered the building to join nine other citizens to serve as an election official at one of thousands of Florida's voting precincts during the U.S. presidential preference primary.

We had one busy hour to prepare -- post signs, set up portable voting booths and electronic ballot boxes, place the registers of eligible voters on the check-in tables, assemble ballots in privacy folders, and take the oath of office to perform our duties honestly and impartially.

The doors opened to voters at 7 a.m. and remained open for 12 hours. All day there was a steady stream of citizens casting ballots for their favorite presidential candidate, a proposed amendment to the state constitution on property tax exemptions and a referendum on limiting increases on tax revenues.

Florida is a "closed primary" state, meaning voters must belong to one of the two major political parties to vote for one of that party's presidential candidates. Registered Republicans received different ballots from registered Democrats. Independents or citizens who declared no party affiliation received a third ballot, listing only the two tax issues.

This procedure differs from that of "open primary" states, such as New Hampshire, where a voter can use any ballot he or she wishes. In those state, "spoilers" sometimes vote for the weakest candidate in the opposing party to undercut a leading candidate.

THE MECHANICS OF FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

During my 12-hour shift I checked in voters, escorted them to voting booths and ensured they correctly deposited their ballots in the box.

The register book lists alphabetically all eligible voters living within the precinct boundaries. After showing identification and signing the register book, voters receive a ballot inside a folder to ensure the privacy of their vote.

Citizens who recently became residents of the precinct and were not listed in the register book had to bring with them a paper signed by an elections official certifying they were registered appropriately at their former locations. Their names then were written into the book and they received ballots.

The heavy paper ballots had oval marks next to each listed presidential candidate on the respective political party ballots, and next to "yes" and "no" for consideration of the tax issues. Voters used special marking pens at each voting booth to fill in the ovals completely.

Voters deposited their ballots in the electronic box, officially known as the AccuVote Optical Scan Unit, which read the oval markings and tallied the votes. As the citizens left the voting area, they received small stickers declaring "I voted" to wear on their clothing.

If a voter mismarked a ballot by filling in ovals next to more than one candidate's name, the machine rejected the ballot with an "overvoted" message. In such cases the ballots were judged "spoiled" (invalid) and the voter re-

ceived a new ballot. The number of spoiled ballots was tracked for record-keeping purposes.

An AccuVote touch-screen unit with audio and video capabilities was available for handicapped voters. Plastic cards containing ballot information activated an interactive screen that voters could touch to make their selections.

As soon as the polls closed, the leader of our team -- known in Florida as the precinct clerk -- began shutting down the operation. The ballot box printed a paper tape that reported the total number of ballots cast and the number of votes for each candidate and for each side of the proposed amendment and the referendum. The number of voters who signed the registration book had to be tallied, as did the number of ballots issued (less the spoiled ones). The tallies for ballots cast, voters and ballots issued were checked to ensure they matched.

The precinct clerk then reported the results to the county supervisor of elections. As required by law, the voting tally sheet was posted on the entrance door of the building for all citizens to read. The precinct register book, unused ballots and other important items were packed up to be returned to the county election headquarters. With those tasks completed, my long day was over.

Prior to moving to Florida, I lived in Maryland, where I also served as an Election Day official. The equipment and terminology differed, but the process was similar and the goal the same: encouraging all citizens to exercise their right to vote. ♦

Black History Month Honors Stories of Determination and Triumph

By Louise Fenner
Staff Writer

Washington -- Each February, Black History Month honors the struggles and triumphs of millions of American citizens over the most devastating obstacles -- slavery, prejudice, poverty -- as well as their contributions to the nation's cultural and political life.

2008 marks the 82nd annual celebration since Carter G. Woodson, a noted scholar and historian, instituted Negro History Week in 1926. He chose the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and the abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation's bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Woodson, the son of former slaves in Virginia, realized that the struggles and achievements of Americans of African descent were being ignored or misrepresented. He founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), which supports historical research, publishes a scholarly journal and sets the theme for Black History Month each year.

The theme for 2008, "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism," honors Woodson's contributions and his belief "that America should embrace the cultural differences that newcomers



*Carter G. Woodson
founder of Black History Month*

brought with them to America," according to the ASALH Web site. Woodson and other black intellectuals of the early twentieth century believed that democracy "required tolerance of difference and could sustain those differences in harmony."

John Fleming, ASALH president and director emeritus of the Cincinnati Museum Center, believes Black History Month should focus on both positive and negative aspects of the black experience.

"Certainly, struggle has been an ongoing theme in our history from the very beginning," he said. "However, we were not slaves prior to being captured in Africa -- and while slavery was part of our experience for 250 years, we have a

hundred-and-some years in freedom that we also need to deal with. That's not to diminish the slavery period, but it's not just the most encompassing thing."

Fleming said he has seen "substantial progress on many fronts," noting that about 10 percent of congressional representatives are black as well as hundreds of mayors across the United States, and that more blacks are "moving into the middle class and various professions." (See related article (<http://www.america.gov/st/elections08-english/2008/January/200801181212531xeneerg0.8178675.html>).)

"At the same time there are still major problems that have to be addressed, one being the permanent underclass in urban areas now -- we don't seem to be able to break that cycle of poverty. And there are still some major rural pockets of poverty" such as in the Mississippi Delta, he continued.

"I'm glad to see the National African American Museum being developed on the Mall, which will tell a much broader story," said Fleming. In 2003, President George W. Bush signed legislation to establish the new museum, which will be located on the National Mall near the Washington Monument. Although the new museum has not yet been built, it has launched a photo exhibition that is housed at the National Portrait Gallery. (See related article (<http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2007/November/20071127153951GLnesnoM0.6470301.html>).)

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Black History Month Honors Stories of Determination and Triumph . . .

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"From talking with young people, black and white students, the lack of knowledge about African-American history is just appalling," Fleming said. This applies to the general population, he said: "That's why Carter G. Woodson came out with Negro History Week in the first place."

"I think that African-American history gets more attention during February than during any other time of year," he said, "and I think it's an opportunity for us in the field to emphasize that it is something that



The 2007 Black Heritage stamp honors the first lady of song, Ella Fitzgerald. (USPS)

should be studied throughout the year."

Each year, the U.S. president honors Black History Month, or African American History Month as it is also called, with a proclamation and a celebration at the White House. States and cities hold their



own events around the country, and media feature topics related to black history.

"Throughout our Nation's history, African Americans from all walks of life have offered their talents to the betterment of American society," Bush said in this year's proclamation, issued on January 29. "We are reminded of their courage in their struggle to change the hearts and minds of our citizens. While much progress has been made, we must continue to work together to achieve the promise and vision of our great Nation." (See related text (<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2008/January/20080130180130eafas0.9380457.html>).)

ASALH has its headquarters in Washington, where Woodson lived from 1915 until his death in 1950. His home is designated a national historic site. More information is available at the ASALH (<http://www.asalh.org/>) Web site.

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Bush Trip Will Showcase Strong Pro-Africa Legacy . . .

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world," she stressed.

Whitaker called on Africans to take advantage of the "unique opportunity" that the Bush trip presents to them.

"Incumbents leaving office [like President Bush] have the opportunity to be very bold, so the Africans should be very bold in really telling the president what challenges remain [and] how some of our U.S. initiatives can be improved. From PEPFAR, to AGOA, to the Malaria Initiative, to our [U.S. Agency for International Development] programs -- we need to have some serious discussions and not merely symbolism and photo ops -- as important as they might be."

Whitaker said she hoped the Africans call for a "stronger AGOA because we are in agreement that trade and investment are the most effective tools for poverty alleviation."

"I would hope that they would encourage and inspire the president to use his remaining time in office to get an AGOA passed" that would make the trade act permanent and include tax incentives and a serious trade-capacity-building initiative, she said. ♦

Independent Films Encourage Self-Expression

The modern U.S. independent film industry was born when a few courageous directors spent their own money to produce movies that Hollywood studios were not interested in financing. Public appreciation for these usually low-budget, high-quality films, however, has enabled the independent film industry to grow and thrive. Kenneth Turan is the film critic for the Los Angeles Times newspaper and for Morning Edition on National Public Radio. He is the author of several books, including *Now in Theaters Everywhere: A Celebration of a Certain Kind of Blockbuster* (2006) and *Sundance to Sarajevo: Film Festivals and the World They Made* (2002). The following is an excerpt from his article "The Rise of Independents" (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0607/ijse/turan.htm>) published in the *eJournalUSA The Movie Business Today* (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0607/ijse/ijse0607.htm>).

(begin byliner)

Kenneth Turan

Over the past 20-plus years, a parallel American movie industry, the independent film world, has grown up and prospered. It has its own annual festival (Sundance in Park City, Utah) and its own version of the Oscars (the Independent Spirit Awards, held a few days before the Academy Awards). There are even theaters that specialize in showing

independent films and actors and directors who do mostly independent work.

That doesn't mean that there isn't something of a symbiotic relation-



Delta Airlines sponsored a film festival in 2004 that encouraged thousands of students at eight Georgia college campuses to become filmmakers, some for the first time. Sarah Whitmarsh made a film about her University of Georgia student organization. (AP Images/John)

ship between these parts of the American movie whole: There very much is. Big Hollywood stars sometimes gain praise for appearing in independent films, the way Tom Cruise did when he took a part in Paul Thomas Anderson's *Magnolia*. And independent stars sometimes find a home in bigger Hollywood films, the way indie (independent) stalwart Steve Buscemi did when he appeared in traditional blockbusters such as *Armageddon* and *The Island*. And the independents have also come to be a major force in that most Hollywood of institutions, the Oscars.

Finally, though, two key elements

separate the Hollywood movies from the independents. One is budget -- how much money a film costs to make -- and the other is sensibility and subject matter -- what a film is about. As always in the American movie business, the two are linked.

EMPHASIS ON ARTISTRY

When a film costs \$100 million plus, as the average studio film does, it has to appeal to the widest possible audience, not only in the United States but all around the world, in order to make its money back. That means an emphasis on action, the one element that audiences everywhere respond to, as well as on the qualities that appeal to the

25-and-under crowd that is the most frequent moviegoing audience.

Independent films, by contrast, cost less: They can be made for anywhere from a few thousand dollars to \$15 million to \$20 million. Though that may seem like a lot of money, by Hollywood standards it is not. And that lower cost frees these films to be more personal, more idiosyncratic, more concerned with character and story than explosions. These films can care more about artistry and self-expression and less about what will work at the box office, which is one of the

(Continued on page 12)

Independent Films Encourage Self-Expression . . .

(Continued from page 11)

reasons that they tend to do better at the Oscars than the big money-makers.

If any American movie fan wanted these kinds of experiences from movies 40 or 50 years ago, the only place he or she could get them was in foreign-language films, which is part of the reason the 1950s and 1960s saw an ever-increasing audience for films from France, Italy, Japan, Scandinavia, and elsewhere.



John Cassavetes, Actor and Director (AP Images)

The independent alternative, which allowed American audiences to experience these kinds of films in their own language, did not arrive out of nowhere. The late actor and director John Cassavetes (the only filmmaker to have a prize named for him at the Independent Spirit Awards) was making independent-style films as early as 1957, when his legendary *Shadows* was shot.

Many people also credit John Sayles's 1980 *The Return of the Secaucus Seven* with starting the modern independent movement. It cost \$60,000 to make, which Sayles financed himself, partly with money made rewriting studio films, and it ended up earning \$2 million. For the first time it was clear that money as well as creative satisfaction could be had outside the studio system.

THE INDEPENDENT ESTABLISHMENT

Two other films, both distributed by independent world giant Miramax, the company started by Harvey Weinstein and his brother Bob and named after their parents, made it clear that independent films were here to stay. In 1989, Steven Soderbergh's *sex, lies, and videotape* won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance and went on to take the Palme



John Sayles, Writer and Director (AP Images)

d'Or at Cannes, beginning the international recognition of American independent film.

Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* did that film one better, not only winning the Palme in 1994 but becoming the first independent film to earn more than \$100 million at the box office. This underlined the wisdom of the Disney organization when it acquired Miramax the previous year.

Soon every studio, understanding that independent films were too different to be made by their regular personnel, wanted to have an independent arm of its own. Today, these specialty divisions (as they are known in the business) include Fox Searchlight, Warner Independent Pictures, Universal Focus, and

the venerable Sony Pictures Classics.

The films these specialty divisions make are the top-of-the-line independent films, the ones with the biggest budgets and biggest stars. These films may seem like Hollywood movies, but the reality is that Hollywood isn't making these kinds of films anymore. A case in point is *Little Miss Sunshine*. Though the film was nominated for best picture and its script ended up winning an Oscar in February 2007, it had been turned down numerous times by the major studios.

In addition to having a different sensibility, independent films can reflect different constituencies and tell different kinds of stories. Because independent films don't have to cost a fortune, the indie world is a place where African-American directors like Spike Lee and gay directors like Gregg Araki have been able to make films that deal with marginalized characters but potentially speak to a broad audience.

For the full version of this article, see "The Rise of Independents" (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0607/ijse/turan.htm>).

(end byliner)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Diversity One of America's Greatest Assets

(begin transcript)

This is an issue update from America.gov.

In February, America.gov is celebrating diversity in America. Throughout the next month, we're featuring special online and multimedia presentations that explore how immigrants and cultures mix in the United States and create American diversity. Visit www.america.gov to see and hear Americans at work, at leisure and at worship. But first we'll discuss American diversity in the past and present.

The candidacy of Senator Barack Obama for U.S. president is bringing a new energy to the U.S. political scene, according to many. His supporters say that with his message of hope, the Illinois Democratic senator connects to people of all different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Many Americans are attracted to Obama's message of bringing people together. Despite the fact that he is considered by many to be the first African-American with a real chance of winning the presidency, his candidacy is not driven by his race. Diversity is accepted as a vital strength in the United States -- whether related to religion, race, gender, or nationality -- and keeps the nation strong and renewed as

global conditions change.

The story of the American people is a story of the world's peoples. Throughout American history, hopeful immigrants have arrived to establish new lives. They came for many reasons. Some were fleeing oppressive regimes, seeking economic opportunity or simply pursuing personal dreams. Whatever the reason, each new arrival has made a contribution to the American mosaic.

American society is referred to as a "melting pot." Traditional measures that identify a nation, such as race or religion, do not apply in the United States. There are so many races and religions practiced here that it is impossible to claim that any one is "American." Instead, like the immigrants who have come over many years, American society is defined by an idea of hope and optimism.

Today, diversity is being realized as one of America's greatest assets. Universities in the United States are striving to increase diversity. A recent survey shows strong growth in the enrollment of every minority group in U.S. graduate schools over the past decade. International student enrollment in America is also up. And as of 2006, almost 60 percent of U.S. graduate students were female.

Immigrants to the United States continue to find a land of opportunity both for themselves and for their children. The Economic Mobility Project, which profiles factors that make up the so-called American Dream, shows that the children of immigrants attain higher levels of education than their parents, and are even more likely to attain college degrees than the children of non-immigrants. Many experts contend that America is well placed to remain competitive in the world economy because it knows how to accept and integrate a diverse population.

For more on Diversity in America, visit our American Life section at www.america.gov

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(end transcript)

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PEPFAR Prevents Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington -- Soon after Tatu Msangi, a registered nurse from Tanzania, discovered she was pregnant, she also learned she was infected with the HIV virus. In recent years, she would have faced the prospect of passing the virus on to her unborn child. However, her ability to participate in a U.S.-funded program to prevent mother-to-child transmission has ensured that Msangi's now two-year old daughter Faith is HIV-free.

Msangi has since become a counselor at her hospital for other expectant mothers, and has used her story as an example and an inspiration to those who are HIV-positive that they also will be able to protect their children from a pandemic that has been devastating to Tanzania and elsewhere around the world.

The Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) program, involving anti-retroviral treatment for infected mothers and their children, is one of several programs funded by the five-year, \$15 billion President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), announced by President Bush in 2003. Since then, PEPFAR has provided treatment for more than 1.4 million men, women and children.

At his State of the Union address in Washington January 27, Bush renewed his call to double the funding for PEPFAR over the next five years to \$30 billion, saying the program "can bring healing and hope to many more." Msangi and Faith witnessed the speech at the U.S. Capitol at the invitation of first lady

Laura Bush. (See "Tanzanian Mother, Daughter To Be Guests at State of Union Speech (<http://www.america.gov/st/health-english/2008/January/20080128175358WCyeroC0.6981775.html>).")

As a beneficiary of PEPFAR and now a worker in trying to prevent



HIV/AIDS counsellor Tatu Msangi describes how PMTCT saved her baby in a lunchtime briefing.

mother-to-child transmissions, Msangi welcomed Bush's call for increased funding so that help can reach more who suffer from HIV and AIDS.

"All people are important and they need this service. We really need this service because when you prevent one person from being infected, you have saved many," she told America.gov.

MSANGI REPORTS POSITIVE RESULTS IN TANZANIA

Msangi said PEPFAR's program of HIV prevention, care and treatment has yielded many positive results in Tanzania. Along with PMTCT efforts, the counseling program she

has been involved with has helped those with HIV accept and understand their condition and contributed to erasing fear and stigma from their neighbors and co-workers.

Before the program, she said, many were fearful of getting tested for HIV. Now "everybody is tested when they walk in for a prenatal checkup. So it seems that it is normal now for everybody to do it [and] the program helped much to reduce stigma among the communities," she said, adding, "Without stigma ... you are free."

As a counselor, Msangi informs those without HIV that abstinence is the best method for remaining free from infection, but she also gives instructions on the proper use of condoms.

Those who are infected receive care and treatment, and Msangi counsels pregnant mothers on how they can prevent the transmission of HIV to their children.

PEPFAR is "run very well," she said, and the prevention of mother-to-child transmissions "really works in Tanzania." Msangi praised the program's ability to track and follow up on those children who have been exposed to HIV, including those in remote areas of the country.

"They have a system clearly to follow those exposed children to come to the clinic until they go to be tested and they are proved nega-

(Continued on page 21)

Bangladeshi American Is First Muslim Chaplain in Marine Corps

By Phillip Kurata
Staff Writer

Washington -- A man who once was a student in the United States from Bangladesh has become the first Muslim chaplain in the U.S. Marine Corps, using his love for God and humanity to help U.S. military personnel of all faiths and backgrounds.

Abuhena Saifulislam, 45, joined the U.S. Navy in September 1992 after receiving a master's degree in business administration from the University of New Hampshire. He had come to the United States from Bangladesh as a student in 1989 and received residency rights through the U.S. government immigration lottery.

Working in the Navy in payroll and accounting, he became a U.S. citizen at the end of 1995 and then embarked on his quest to become a Muslim military chaplain.

"When I found out that they were looking for Muslim chaplains, I wanted to become one. I was already involved in religious activities inside the Pentagon [Defense Department headquarters], establishing Friday services and other such things," the chaplain said.

In 1996, the Defense Department and the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences in Leesburg, Virginia, set up a program to train Muslim military chaplains, and Saifulislam enrolled as the first student in the program. He completed the rigorous coursework in two years, was inducted into the chaplain candidate program in 1998, and, the following year, received his chaplain's commission. The Navy as-

signed him to the Marines, a subdivision of the Navy, as the corps' first Muslim chaplain. He represents the United States as Muslim military chaplain abroad and at home, helping U.S. service people understand Islam and counseling individual soldiers, most of whom are not Muslim. "Ninety-nine per-



Chaplain Saif wants to educate marines about Islam



Muslims now have their own prayer room on base

cent of the people who come to me for counseling are not Muslim," he said. "We, as chaplains, support everybody. When it comes to personal relationships, marriage, drugs, alcohol, stress or financial problems, religion doesn't play a role. We provide support, grieving in death, anything," he said.

When he counsels soldiers who are torn between their religious convictions, on the one hand, and going to war and possibly killing people, on the other, he said it does not

matter whether they are Muslim.

"I counsel service members before they go to battle, and the majority of them are non-Muslims. I counsel equally, in the same fashion," the chaplain said.

The U.S. intention in Iraq and Afghanistan is to rebuild those countries, he tells service people. "If they are Muslim, I give them the perspective that they can be part of the rebuilding or they can help their comrades understand Muslim culture and Islam. I ask them, 'Do you think that you can contribute?' Then they make the decision," he said.

He also teaches Muslims and non-Muslims to understand one another better. "It's a two-way process. One is to let one group know that although there are some extremist Muslims, who happen to be criminals in my opinion, that is not Islam. I'm a speaker at the National Defense University," he said. "When I was assigned to the naval station at Norfolk, Virginia, I traveled all over the country to train service people -- mainly National Guard and Army who were deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan -- about religious sensitivity."

The chaplain said that in his efforts to teach in the opposite direction, he responds to questions from Muslims about the actions of the U.S. military. "In the Muslim community, there are some groups that associate me with Abu Ghraib [the U.S. military prison in Iraq where U.S. troops abused and humiliated Iraqi prisoners]. I tell them that it is an isolated incident. I know how we train our troops. ... There are isolated incidents, but they are not

(Continued on page 18)

U.S. To Give Additional \$32 Million for Refugee Assistance

(begin fact sheet)

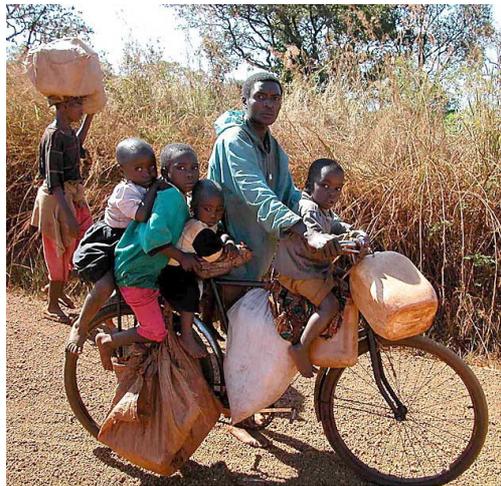
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
January 31, 2008

FACT SHEET

Additional United States Contribution to Refugees and Conflict Victims in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Africa

The President has authorized the use of \$32 million from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) Fund to meet unexpected urgent refugee protection and assistance needs related to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the West Bank and Gaza and to conflicts in Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic (CAR), and Sudan and Chad, and to support the return and reintegration of Mauritanian refugees to Mauritania.

The drawdown provides \$14 million to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) 2008 Emergency Appeal for the West Bank and Gaza



Burundian refugee family

Strip. This emergency funding will support humanitarian assistance for over 1 million Palestinian refugees in Gaza and over 700,000 in the West Bank.

It also provides \$10 million to address urgent needs of Somali refugees and conflict victims who continue to flee to Kenya, Ethiopia and Yemen, to escape the conflict in Somalia.

The authorization also provides \$4 million for organizations that are providing assistance to refugees

from the DRC to Uganda and Rwanda, from Darfur to eastern CAR, and from CAR to Cameroon. An additional \$2 million will be used to support the Chadian Police Humanitarian Protection Force, a key element of the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad's (MINURCAT's) effort to fill the security gap in eastern Chad.

An additional \$2 million will be provided for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and partner organizations to assist in repatriating and reintegrating some 24,000 Mauritanian refugees from Senegal and Mali after two decades of exile.

The ERMA Fund is a no-year appropriation that is drawn upon to meet unanticipated refugee and migration emergency needs whenever the President determines that it is important to the national interest to do so. ERMA provides critical flexibility to respond on a timely basis to emergency refugee and migration crises around the world.

(end fact sheet) ♦

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS	BENEFICIARIES	CONTRIBUTION
UNRWA	Palestinian refugees in West Bank & Gaza	\$14 million
UNHCR, other international organizations (IOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)	Somali refugees and conflict victims	\$10 million
IOs and NGOs	DRC refugees in Uganda & Rwanda; Darfurian refugees in CAR; CAR refugees in Cameroon	\$4 million
UN – MINURCAT	Refugees, conflict victims, and humanitarian relief workers in Eastern Chad	\$2 million

Programs Help Child Soldiers Return Home

By Jane A. Morse
Staff Writer

"... killing had become as easy as drinking water. My mind had not only snapped during the first killing, it had also stopped making remorseful records, or so it seemed..." Ishmael Beah, from his book *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*

Some 300,000 children under 18 are being exploited in more than 30 armed conflicts worldwide, according to estimates from UNICEF.

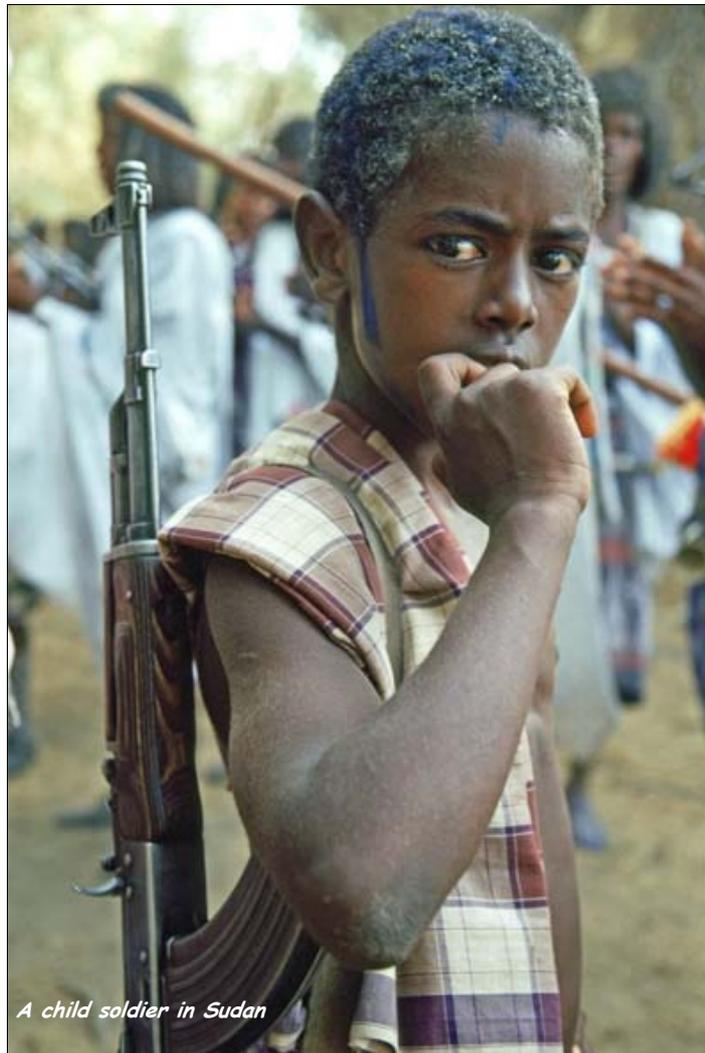
Most of these child soldiers witnessed terrible atrocities; many took part in inflicting them. When the conflicts are over, can these children heal and re-enter normal society?

Yes, say experts with firsthand experience.

John Williamson has studied the outcomes of child soldiers who survived fighting during the 12 years of war in Sierra Leone. In a study he completed in 2006, he found that "most children who have been demobilized appear to be doing as well as other children in their community."

Williamson works with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as the senior technical adviser for its Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF). He looked at the outcomes of 4,674 child soldiers demobilized between May 2001 and January 2002.

Thanks to the Lomé Peace Accord, which provided guidelines for the child soldiers' disarmament, demobi-



A child soldier in Sudan

lization and reintegration into normal society, children were assisted with family reunification. Child soldiers also were given a choice between access to education or skills training. The largest donations to support these programs came from USAID/DCOF.

COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION

Because many communities feared and hated the child soldiers who would be returning, careful sensitization work was needed. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) worked with community leaders, stressing forgiveness for, and ac-

ceptance of, children who had been forced into their roles as soldiers.

Traditional cleansing and healing ceremonies along with religious support also seemed to increase community acceptance of, and trust in, the children, Williamson found. In addition, these ceremonies helped the children themselves feel more acceptable to normal society.

"Ensuring opportunities for children to return to school or receive skills training was a major factor in successful reintegration," Williamson wrote in his study. "This not only helped children to establish a new identity, it also increased their acceptance by fam-

ily, community members and peers." Appearing to be like "everyone else" is important to former child soldiers, Williamson told America.gov.

"NGOs and UNICEF are strongly of the view that it becomes counter-productive at a point to focus on children because they were formerly child soldiers. The whole point of integration is that young people resume a place in the community comparable to others of their age," Williamson said.

"I think there is a consensus among the practitioners that once the for-

(Continued on page 21)

Citizen Journalists To Report on 2008 Beijing Olympics

By Eric Green
Staff Writer

Washington -- The 2008 Summer Olympic Games in China will be covered by a vanguard of what are called "citizen journalists" -- people who use technology like cell phones, text messaging and instant messaging to go beyond the traditional ways of reporting the news.

Melinda Liu, Beijing bureau chief for Newsweek magazine, told America.gov that the Chinese people are "really into mobile phones" and that the country has the "world's biggest cell phone-using population."

News getting into the blogosphere (weblogs or blogs posted on the Internet), she said, can be "easily seen by the outside world -- though not necessarily in China where it's relatively easy to block access to certain overseas-registered Web sites."

Liu said about 700 officially accredited foreign correspondents are presently in China, and that many more accredited journalists will be visiting China during the August 8-24 Olympics. She said the Chinese government expects as many as 30,000 foreign media personnel (accredited and unaccredited) to cover the games. Citizen journalism is important, Liu said, because it is "more likely to reflect the tone" of "grassroots discourse and sentiment in ways that traditional media do not necessarily reflect."

COMMENTS OF JOURNALIST ADVOCATES

Officials from two media advocacy groups recently shared their views of the importance of citizen journalists with America.gov.

Bob Dietz, Asia program coordinator for the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, said most citizen journalists in China are not concerned with Olympic coverage per se, but with deficient living standards in their country, and the outrage about abuse resulting from those conditions.

Dietz, speaking from Hong Kong, said citizen journalism "has a life of its own," and was practiced in China before the Olympics were awarded to the country in 2001.

Citizen journalism is not a new concept, he said, citing Thomas Paine's authorship in the 1770s of a series of pamphlets called Common Sense that advocated independence for the American colonies from England.

The advent of "digital platforms" such as the Internet, where so many people can be reached with so little effort at little cost, gives modern citizen journalism its huge impact, Dietz said. Unlike in Paine's time, when a person needed a printing press and other tools to get their views to readers, anyone in today's world who "can use a computer and knows how to type and spell" can spread information, said Dietz.

Vincent Brossel from Paris-based Reporters Without Borders said Chinese national and local authorities "will do their best to prevent any negative coverage before and during" the Olympics not only by foreign and Chinese reporters but also by citizen journalists.

Brossel, head of his organization's Asia-Pacific desk, said that in recent years Chinese police and local officials are "more and more frequently" using organized crime

groups to prevent journalists from doing their work. Such groups, he said, "could target human rights activists and citizen journalists."

For example, Brossel cited the case of a construction company executive and blogger who was beaten to death January 7 by municipal law enforcement officers in the Chinese province of Hubei for filming a violent attack by private guards against villagers.

Brossel said citizen journalism is important in a country like China "because the traditional media are still under [state] control." He added that citizen journalism "gives a chance for the [Chinese] audience to get access to news that is not covered," and "also obliges traditional journalists to improve their standards and the quality of the content because they are challenged by the citizen journalists."

(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Bangladeshi American Is First Muslim . . .

(Continued from page 15)

policy," he said.

The chaplain said the same applies to acts of discrimination against Muslims that take place within the U.S. military.

"There is prejudice as part of human nature, but it is not condoned or accepted. If it is known, we take action," he said. ♦

Green Joins Glitz at Super Bowl, Indianapolis Auto Race

By Eric Green
Staff Writer

Washington -- Planting trees, recycling waste materials and bringing excess food to homeless shelters seems unglamorous in comparison to perhaps America's biggest and glitziest sports event -- the Super Bowl of professional American football.

But in the parlance of its advocates, "going green" is a smart business investment that also conserves natural resources in the host city for the championship game of the National Football League (NFL). The 42nd Super Bowl will be played February 3 in Phoenix between the New England Patriots and the New York Giants.

Jack Groh, program director for the NFL's environmental program, told America.gov that efficient management of resources is the goal behind each of the league's recycling projects.

For example, in 2007, more than 60,000 pounds of food prepared for but not sold during Super Bowl 41 activities in Miami was distributed to 55,000 people at various soup kitchens, homeless shelters and churches in that city. The donations saved the local food banks approximately \$117,000, said Groh. The prepared food, which must meet state health codes, otherwise would have been discarded.

The NFL's environmental program, begun in 1994, calls for recycling office supplies, building and decorative materials and merchandise.

Groh said salvaging "thousands of yards" of carpets that the Super Bowl venues use only once is an example of good conservation efforts.

One of the NFL's most environmentally friendly teams, the Philadelphia Eagles, says its "Go Green" program, since its inception in 2003 has eliminated some 3 million kilograms of greenhouse gases and recycled nearly 150 tons of paper, cardboard and beverage containers.

Groh said he was particularly proud

BON FOOTPRINT

The league also seeks to lessen its "carbon footprint" -- the carbon dioxide emissions generated by league activities -- by using alternative fuels to power hybrid vehicles that transport officials to different sites in the Super Bowl city.

The league also works with the U.S. Forest Service on reforestation projects. Leading up to the Phoenix Super Bowl, about 40.5 hectares of trees were planted in the White Mountain Apache Indian reservation



Under Secretary Dorr talks with Driver Jeff Simmons about his ethanol-powered car.

of the NFL's "Sports Equipment and Book Donation Project." Local children from the host Super Bowl city bring sports gear and books to their schools for donation to the region's needy children several weeks before the NFL championship game. To date, some 22,000 sports items and books have been donated in the Phoenix area, Groh reported.

REDUCING THE LEAGUE'S CAR-

in east-central Arizona where vast acres of timber were destroyed in a 2002 fire. Groh said Apache tribe members have been hired to work on the reforestation.

"Not only do we get the environmental benefits of reforestation," said Groh, "but we also are able to provide some economic boost" to the Apache tribe by "hiring them to

(Continued on page 20)

Green Joins Glitz at Super Bowl, Indianapolis Auto Race . . .

(Continued from page 19)

do the tree planting for us.”

Groh said what most gratifies him is the “legacy” provided by the league’s conservation efforts in the Super Bowl host city.

“Some of the work we do each year continues after the Super Bowl has ended, whether it involves reforestation, working with local food banks or helping to develop or expand recycling programs,” Groh said.

The NFL, said Groh, practices conservation “because we’re convinced that incorporating environmental principles into our management is by itself a sound business practice and more cost efficient” than wasteful, polluting practices.

“What we’re doing is not just philanthropy, not just warm and fuzzy” sentiments. “There are some real, tangible benefits to it,” Groh said.

The Super Bowl will be telecast in the United States on the Fox network, owned by the News Corpora-

tion, which also has begun its own eco-friendly climate change initiative. The company attempts to use locally grown organic food, bio-diesel fuel, hybrid vehicles, bicycles instead of golf carts and recyclable materials.

ENERGIZING INDIANAPOLIS RACE WITH GREEN POWER

Another annual U.S. sports spectacular is the Indianapolis 500-mile (805 kilometer) auto race, where the 33 cars that qualify for the event now are powered completely by ethanol.

Terry Angstadt, president of commercial activities for the IndyCar series, said the race is in its second full season of using 100 percent fuel-grade ethanol, made from corn grown in the American Midwest. Ethanol advocates say the fuel-grade ethanol (used as a substitute for gasoline) is completely renewable and an environmentally friendly source of energy. The Indianapolis 500 is the premier event of the IndyCar racing circuit, which consists of 17 auto races held from March through September in vari-

ous sites around the United States.

Angstadt told America.gov that ethanol, with a higher octane rating than the traditional gasoline used previously at the Indianapolis 500, results in better fuel mileage for the high-powered race cars that exceed speeds of 320 kilometers per hour.

Working with the Nebraska-based Ethanol Promotion and Information Counsel, IndyCar seeks to spread the word to consumers that a 650-horsepower racing vehicle can be powered on the Indianapolis speedway “efficiently and effectively” by ethanol while also providing environmental benefits, said Angstadt.

“If racing cars can be powered by ethanol,” he said, “your [200-horsepower] passenger car certainly” can be powered the same way.

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No Presidential Nominees After 24 States Vote on Super Tuesday . . .

(Continued from page 6)

cluded New Jersey, New York, Arizona, Oklahoma, Massachusetts and Tennessee.

Obama’s victories, also geographically diverse, included Utah, Minnesota, Alabama and Connecticut.

Although Clinton achieved victories in many of the most populous states, Obama won many of his

states by large margins -- more than 60 percent of voters favored him in Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, North Dakota and Kansas.

In some states, the Democratic race was so close it was difficult to determine a “winner.” For example, some U.S. media outlets reported that Clinton won the Midwestern state of Missouri, only to announce a few hours later that Obama actually had received more votes.

With neither party’s nominee determined, the candidates now turn their attention to the next set of races. Both parties in Louisiana and Washington along with Democrats in Maine and Nebraska, and Republicans in Kansas, will hold contests on the weekend of February 9 and 10. On February 12, the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia will hold their primaries. ♦

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PEPFAR Prevents Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV . . .

(Continued from page 14)

tive," she said.

Asked about improvements she would like to see, Msangi said she wants PEPFAR to expand more into remote regions of Tanzania. "There are some areas where they cannot even afford to get bus fare to travel far away to seek the services. So if the service is there, nearby, so many more can be saved and enjoy the service," she said.

PEPFAR is the largest international health initiative ever initiated by one nation to address a single disease. Currently, the United States is focusing the program on Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia.

When the program was first an-

nounced in 2003, it was estimated that only 50,000 people were receiving treatment for HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

Thanks to PEPFAR, as of September 30, 2007, approximately 1,445,500 men, women and children are receiving life-saving anti-retroviral treatment, including 1,358,500 in the 15 focus countries. Sixty-two percent of those treated in the focus countries are women and girls and nearly 86,000 are children under age 14.

For more information, please visit the PEPFAR Web site (<http://www.pepfar.gov/>).

(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov/>) ♦

Programs Help Child Soldiers Return Home . . .

(Continued from page 17)

mer child soldiers have the same kind of opportunities that other young people in the community have, you don't want to have programs that are just focusing on them," he told America.gov.

THE BIG PICTURE

Lloyd Feinberg, who manages DCOF, said that focusing aid programs on former child soldiers can have unintended consequences.

USAID, he told America.gov, has tried very hard to focus programs on all children affected by conflict.

"Sometimes when you focus on the former child soldiers," he said, "it can either stigmatize those children, or it glorifies them -- everybody else is saying, gee, maybe

we should have become child soldiers because look at all the money that is going to help them and we're not getting anything."

Feinberg said it is important to stay focused on the larger context of a society that suffers conflict and forces children to be soldiers.

"It really goes back to the whole economic development issue," he said. "There are no quick fixes. You can't just take a kid, give him six weeks or six months of training and put him into a job because in most cases there is no market that can support jobs.

"I think that everybody recognizes the largest population of potential candidates for armed groups is kids who don't have opportunities for jobs. We are looking at ways that we can identify vulnerable

communities and really take a longer term approach toward identifying how we do support economic development strategies, policies and programs in ways that really do increase the earning capacity of the families as opposed to just increasing the gross national product," Feinberg said.

For example, USAID funds STRIVE programs (Success Through Incentive Vision Effort) that focus on strategies to increase the economic capacity and status of vulnerable families as well as their children. USAID is studying ways to refine those projects, Feinberg said, by looking at some of the larger, longer-standing programs of economic development and seeing how they have benefited children who had been affected by conflict.

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