Embassy of the United States, Addis Ababa

Volume 9, Issue 34

August 23, 2007

Weekly Special Report

Produced by the Public Affairs Section

U.S. Embassy Plants Trees at Ten Secondary Schools to Celebrate Ethiopian Millennium

The U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Section, in cooperation with the Addis Ababa Regional Bureau of Education, is planting indigenous trees from August 22 to 27 at ten newly built secondary schools in Addis Ababa. The opening ceremony for the tree planting campaign was held on August 22 at Meskerem 2 Secondary School.

Representative of Addis Ababa Bureau of Education, Ato Solomon Asrat (left), planting tree at Meskerem 2 Secondary School.

Other schools participating in this project are Delachen, Medah-

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USAID to Handover Assayita Livestock Market in Afar Region

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2007 Addis Ababa – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is pleased to announce the handover of the Assayita Livestock Market completed under the Pastoralist Livelihoods Initiative (PLI) on August 23, 2007. The Assayita market, located in Assayita town of Afar Region, represents a link in an improved "value chain" to strengthen livestock sector performance that will lead to economic benefits for pastoralists. The handover ceremony, organized by ACDI/VOCA (formerly VOCA-Ethiopia) was attended by officials of the Regional government.

In October 2005, USAID launched the PLI project in Somali, Afar and Oromia Regions of Ethiopia to help pastoralist communities build more sustainable livelihoods and become less vulnerable to drought and other shocks. The livestock marketing component of PLI, implemented by ACDI/VOCA, seeks to strengthen Ethiopia's livestock marketing system by increasing sales to high value domestic and export markets. An essential activity toward achieving this goal is to construct key livestock market facilities to reduce costs and improve pastoralists' access to markets.

The market sites to be constructed were selected based on agreed criteria and through consultations with pastoral-

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USAID Supports Ethiopian Teacher Training Colleges through American Volunteers

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is improving the quality of primary education in Ethiopia by introducing American teachers to Ethiopian teacher training colleges. Over the last ten years, nearly 140 American volunteers have been assigned to 39 Ethiopian education institutions and the Ministry of Education through a program called the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH). The American volunteers have helped approximately 50,000 Ethiopian students, teachers and community members by addressing poor classroom practices, responding to cross-cutting issues such as gender disparities, teaching HIV/AIDS education and improving English language teaching. IFESH has also donated reference books worth $2 million dollars to teacher training colleges. IFESH is a U.S.-based charitable, private, organization that has been working in Ethiopia since 1996.♦

IFISH volunteer works one on one with Ethiopian students from Awassa Teacher Training College

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ists, livestock traders, government officials and NGOs, as well as on recommendations from a value chain analysis conducted by ACDI/VOCA and other PLI partners.

The Assayita market is one in a series of market sites to be constructed to boost pastoralists' livelihoods with integrated services such as water, feed and veterinary care. In the short term, pastoralists will be able to boost their bargaining power by providing the option of holding their animals until the next market day to obtain a higher price. In the medium and long term, these market improvements will increase Ethiopia's competitiveness at an international level.

"The new Assayita livestock market is one of 25 sites to be built with USAID support, making a tremendous difference in the lives of pastoralists," said Ms. Brutawit Dawit Abdi, ACDI/VOCA Country Representative for Ethiopia. ACDI/VOCA is an international development organization which has been working in Ethiopia since 1994 to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and pastoralists through enhanced market opportunities.

On July 14, 2007, USAID announced the inauguration of the Andido Livestock Market, also completed under the PLI project. Glenn Anders, USAID Mission Director, officially opened and handed over the market to Federal and Regional government officials as part of the inauguration ceremony. The Andido Livestock Market, located in Amibara Woreda of Afar Region, is the first of its kind in the area.♦

U.S. Embassy Plants Trees at Ten Secondary Schools to Celebrate Ethiopian . . .

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nealem, Dejazmach Balcha, Lem, Firehiwot, Mesrak Goh, Millenium, and Birhan Guzo Secondary Schools. Cultural Affairs Officer of the U.S. Embassy, Patricia Johnson, will also be donating footballs, dictionaries and English language books to the selected schools.

The tree planting project is in celebration of the Ethiopian Millennium and a continuation of the ceremony held at Haddis Alemayehu Secondary School on April 23 when U.S. Ambassador Donald Yamamoto planted a zigba tree in celebration of Earth Day. Earth Day is a worldwide holiday set aside to celebrate and protect the environment.♦

U.S. Embassy Cultural Affairs Officer Patricia Johnson presenting soccer ball to the principal of Meskerem 2 Secondary School, Ato Getachew Tarekegn.

VOA's Studio 7 for Zimbabwe Expands Programming To Weekends

Washington, D.C., Aug. 17, 2007 -- The Zimbabwe Project at the Voice of America (VOA) is expanding its Studio 7 broadcasts to Zimbabwe with the addition of one-hour programs on Saturday and Sunday, bolstering its existing schedule of 90-minute evening broadcasts Monday through Friday in response to the country's deepening crisis, upcoming elections and state jamming of VOA signals.

Weekend broadcasts will begin on Saturday and Sunday, August 18 and 19, at 7 p.m. Zimbabwe time (1700 UTC) on 909 medium wave from Botswana and shortwave frequencies 4930, 13755 and 15775 kiloHertz.

VOA's Studio 7 for Zimbabwe has been on the air since January 2003 and posted strong audience growth through 2005 and 2006 to establish an audience of more than 1 million listeners in the Southern African country. Jamming of Studio 7's medium-wave signal began in mid-2006 and the government has acknowledged that it is responsible.

The Studio 7 weekend programs are to comprise 20-minute segments in the indigenous Shona and Ndebele languages as well as English, which is widely spoken in Zimbabwe. As during the week, the Saturday-Sunday programs will pursue breaking or developing stories while presenting discussions on critical topics including the continuing political and economic crisis, efforts to mediate a solution to the crisis, intensifying shortages of food and other essential goods, and efforts to stem a major HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Studio 7 will add audience participation to the mix with callbacks to listeners who would like to express their views on news topics, especially in the run-up to the general and presidential elections to be held in March 2008 following local ballots in January.

Since its inception, Studio 7 has established itself in Zimbabwe as a balanced and reliable source for news and analysis of the evolving crisis which has pitted the government and ruling ZANU-PF party of President Robert Mugabe against the opposition Movement for Democratic Change and a broad array of reform-minded civil society organizations.

The Zimbabwe Project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International

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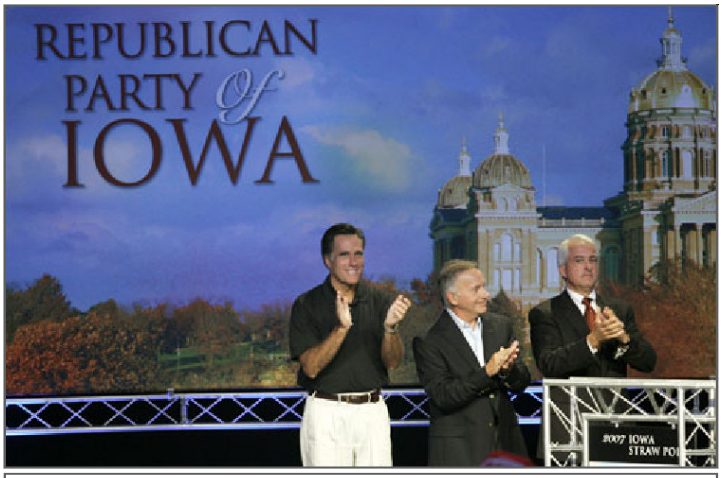
Presidential Campaign Pageantry Begins in Iowa

By Lea Terhune
USINFO Staff Writer

Ames, Iowa -- Politics come to Iowa in a big way each summer before an American presidential election year. The show begins with the Ames Straw Poll, a fundraising event that gathers Republican presidential hopefuls at the University of Iowa Ames campus.

Republicans rallying together are natural magnets to Democratic Party rivals who also congregate in this key Midwestern state. Democratic candidates crisscrossed Iowa in the week after the August 11 straw poll, meeting voters in small towns and at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines. Their trek culminated in a Democratic "Iowa debate" August 19.



Republican presidential hopefuls former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney (left), Representative Tom Tancredo and Chicago businessman John Cox stand together during the Iowa Straw Poll, August 11 in Ames, Iowa. (© AP Images)

Events like the straw poll let voters assess candidates in person. Iowans are treated to time-honored American political pageantry: hot air balloons, campaign placards and T-shirts advertise candidates; rock bands entertain crowds. This year, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee fronted his own band on bass guitar. Huckabee is competing for the Republican presidential nomination.

Candidates make speeches, shake hands and pose with supporters. Red, white and blue confetti and streamers fill the air. Free barbeque meals are in every campaign tent.

The Ames Straw Poll is not a real election, nor is it a reliable forecast of whose name will be on the 2008 presidential ballot -- particularly because several important candidates opted out. It is more a gauge of the earning power of candidates.

Iowa Republican and U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley called it an important lead up to the January 2008 party caucus, which is the procedure Iowa uses to nominate presidential candidates. "[The straw poll is] going to spotlight two or three to a greater extent," he said, adding that since the votes are usually paid for by candidates, it is not a true democratic election, but a show of support that raises funds for the Republican Party.

The poll also shows what a candidate can do. "Viability of a candidate is somewhat based on the ability to raise money and to have an organization," Grassley said.

This year's winner, Mitt Romney, spent more than $800 per vote, the Washington Post estimated, a tab that included TV campaign ads, county-by-county work by the Romney team, the purchase of large quantities of tickets at $35 apiece to distribute to Iowa voters, transporting voters to the poll venue, and feeding and entertaining them. He paid a $25,000 fee to rent the best available space, the quad in front of the Hilton Coliseum entrance, through which all voters must pass. Romney, a wealthy venture capitalist and former governor of Massachusetts, did not disclose his Iowa outlay. He amassed 4,516 votes, or 31 percent.

Huckabee saw his second-place 2,587-vote finish as a victory for grassroots support. He said he spent a mere $150,000 on his Iowa campaign, and a third of those who voted for him paid for their own tickets.

Democrats eschew straw polls, calling them unscientific. Iowa Democratic Party State Chair Scott Brennan said the party prohibits them, adding, "I'm not sure the results of the straw poll are meaningful in any way, but it makes a lot of money."

Democrats prefer to concentrate on the January 2008 Iowa caucuses. These neighborhood meetings held in 2,400 Iowa voting precincts serve the same function that primary elections do in other states: they determine each party's favored presidential nominee. In contrast to a primary, where individuals cast votes to determine the nominee,

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Mass Media Play Important Role in U.S. Elections

Washington -- It would be hard to overestimate the importance of mass media in the U.S. electoral process. National television networks reach 99 percent of all American homes, making contact across the entire socioeconomic spectrum. Cable news stations, radio and television talk shows, newspapers, news magazines and Internet sites all provide voters with information about the candidates. The content and emphasis of their coverage are among the most powerful factors in determining how voters perceive the candidates and the issues.

Studies have shown that broadcast media devote most of their coverage to the competition between the candidates rather than providing an explanation of issues and the candidates' stances on them. Eager to attract viewers, broadcasters focus on dramatic moments that highlight candidates' mistakes, attacks on opponents and suggestions of scandal or problems.

Even when the media do provide campaign coverage, the candidates may not get much direct airtime. In an academic study of major network coverage of the 2000 elections, it was found that the news reporters talked for 74 percent of the time; only 12 percent of the time did viewers hear the actual candidates' voices and, when they did, the sound bite averaged only 7.8 seconds.

As a way of communicating more directly with voters, candidates buy television and radio advertising time. In the 2000 presidential election, the two major-party candidates spent $285 million, with about 60 percent of it going to advertising. The high cost of reaching voters requires the campaigns to concentrate their ad buys in areas where they believe they have a chance of affecting undecided voters' opinions -- resulting in the residents of some media regions being bombarded with political ads and others having little exposure to them.

The 2004 election was the first in which the Internet played a significant role as a medium for campaigning and for raising money. Former presidential hopeful Howard Dean, governor of the small state of Vermont, used his Web site to form a network of thousands of enthusiastic volunteers. Before dropping out of the race, Dean raised more money than his opponents in the Democratic primaries and received favorable media coverage for demonstrating the political power of the Internet.

The other candidates in the race followed Dean's lead and made good use of the Internet. President Bush and Senator John Kerry had elaborate Web sites, where they promoted their agendas and attempted to refute their opponents' campaign messages.

Candidates also try to make news that they hope the media will cover. This might be the announcement of a new plan on an issue of interest to voters or an appearance at a symbolic location. An incumbent president has an advantage here, because what the president does always makes news -- whether it is a ceremonial bill signing, a meeting with a foreign head of state or a visit to an area where a natural disaster has occurred.

Academic studies indicate that most voters tend to seek out and believe information that reinforces beliefs that they already hold. They tune in to broadcasters who present a political viewpoint similar to their own. Two-thirds of the electorate -- a figure that coincides with the number of voters who identify with a particular party -- says that they have made up their minds before campaigning even begins.

The relatively small percentage of so-called swing voters whose minds are not made up are the ones on whom media coverage and campaign ads have the most effect. Campaign media strategies, however, are not entirely designed with swing voters in mind. It is also important for parties to maintain strong support among their traditional supporters, known as their base, and pursue a national media campaign as well those tailored for regional audiences.

In recent years, a controversy has developed around the media's use of "exit polling," the media's practice of asking voters as they depart a polling place how they voted and then using this information, often based on very small percentages, to predict a winner. While the exit polling results, generally, have proven to be fairly accurate, states on the West Coast, where voting places close hours after those on the East

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caucus decisions involve precinct delegates and are based either on proportional representation or "winner takes all," depending on the party rules.

The Ames Straw Poll, held when there is no Republican incumbent running for president, dates back to 1979. The 2007 turnout was less than in other years, with 14,302 voting compared to 23,685 in the 1999 poll when George W. Bush ran.

About 30,000 people in all attended the event.

Romney supporter Steve Evans told USINFO, "It's part of the American process. It starts here in Iowa and keeps rolling and rolling." He added, "This is literally grassroots, and it's kind of fun to be a part of that."

Jacob Overman, supporter of libertarian Republican candidate Representative Ron Paul (Texas), told USINFO he likes to hear the candidates: "I love the fact that we have freedom of speech here. And bringing people together around central issues and what needs to be done."

Supporters of presidential hopeful U.S. Representative Ron Paul cheer after he finished speaking at the Iowa Straw Poll in Ames, Iowa, August 11. (Janine Sides/State Dept.)

Grassley, Brennan and others agreed top issues are the war in Iraq, health care and immigration. Brennan added energy: "[E]thanol – it's a huge issue in Iowa; we are an agricultural state."

Straw polls may mean the most to people like Paula Burggraaf, who appreciated the chance for a free peek at the candidates: "I was really interested to see what they had to say and what they are standing for because I have my beliefs and I wanted to see who lined up with that."

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Mass Media Play Important Role in . . .

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Coast, complain that early predictions influence those who have not yet cast their ballots.

Finally, in 2004 another medium not usually associated with political campaigns entered the fray: motion pictures. A documentary-style, feature-length film released in June 2004 criticized the Bush administration's actions in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. In September 2004, another motion picture meant to counter its claims appeared in U.S. movie theaters. Whether such films will be around in future election years remains to be seen, but in 2004, at least, they were clearly part of the media mix.

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Electoral College System Affects U.S. Campaign Strategies

Washington -- On Election Day, when American voters mark their ballots for their favorite presidential candidate, they are, in actuality, voting for a group of state electors. These electors are pledged to vote for that candidate in the Electoral College, the body of representatives that really elects the president and vice president.

Set up in the early days of the republic, the Electoral College currently has 538 members. Each state is represented by electors in equal number to the number of senators and representatives that represent that state in Congress. The District of Columbia -- where Washington is located -- has no voting representation in Congress, but nevertheless has three electoral votes. The candidate who wins the presidency is the one who receives an absolute majority (at least 270) of the electoral votes.

Under this electoral system, it is possible to win the presidency without winning the popular vote. This happened most recently in 2000, but it has also happened three other times in the history of the United States. This anomaly occurs because nearly all the states use a "winner-take-all" system so that whichever candidate wins the popular vote in that state gets all its electors in the Electoral College. The only exceptions are the states of Maine and Nebraska, where two electors are chosen by statewide popular vote and the remainder by the popular vote within each congressional district.

Consequently, political parties must consider each state to be a separate race, keeping in mind that it is not the national total of votes that counts; it is how many electoral votes a candidate receives that will determine who goes to the White House. Candidates must run both a national campaign in which their messages are carried by the country's mass media and more targeted state races that address local and regional issues and concerns.

Many states, by virtue of their demographics or economic profile, will predictably favor a certain candidate or party. In recent years, there has been a wide discussion of so-called red and blue states, states that have tended to vote in majority for Republicans (red) or Democrats (blue). The maps illustrating these distinctions show most blue states along the coasts and most red states in the south and center of the country. Those states that are too hard to predict -- known as battleground or swing states -- tend to be the focus of many of the resources of both campaigns.

People mark their ballots on electronic voting machines in the U.S. midterm elections Nov. 7, 2006. (Xinhua/AFP Photo)

Battleground states, where the candidates are currently running within a few percentage points of each other, can change from election to election or even during a single election season. In 2004 there were 10 battleground states: Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Together, these 10 states represented 116 of the 270 electoral votes needed to win.

Campaign strategists must calculate how much time and money a candidate needs to spend in any given state in order to have the best chance of winning. In 2004, President George Bush and Senator John Kerry made numerous visits to battleground states like Pennsylvania and Ohio during the campaign. In addition to the presidential candidates themselves, their vice presidential running mates, family members and other surrogates such as popular local politicians made speeches on behalf of the campaigns in the various states.

In a close race, voter turnout is decisive, so both campaigns organize get-out-the-vote efforts to identify supporters and either get them to the polls on Election Day or encourage them to vote early by mailing in absentee ballots. Both parties also have active voter registration programs aimed especially at communities likely to favor their candidates.

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Initiatives, Referendums Important in U.S. Elections

By Michelle Austein
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – When American voters head to the polls, often they are not just selecting their future leaders. Many also weigh in on a variety of issues, including how their taxes are spent or what rights their state constitutions guarantee.

Ballot measures, including initiatives and referendums, give voters an opportunity to enact or repeal laws, endorse proposed laws, determine how funds will be raised or spent and approve or reject potential amendments to the state constitution. Some states also use ballot measures to seek the recall of an elected official, as in California, where in October 2003 voters decided that Governor Gray Davis should not remain in office. Arnold Schwarzenegger succeeded Davis.

In the 2006 general election, 204 ballot measures went before voters in 37 states – an increase from the 162 ballot measures that Americans voted on in 2004, according to the Initiative and Referendum Institute, part of the University of Southern California School of Law.

The most common ballot measures are initiatives, which in 24 states allow citizens to vote on proposals that have garnered a set number of signatures on a petition. In eight states, petitions for legislative action first are submitted to the state legislature, which can choose to act on the petition or allow the voters to decide.

Each state has its own rules governing how ballot measures are placed before the voters, but there are many common requirements. For example, each state has requirements about how many petition signatures are needed for the initiative to be placed on the ballot. The required number usually is based on a percentage of votes cast for governor in the most recent gubernatorial election. The average number of signatures required is 7.23 percent of those votes for a legislative initiative and 9.17 percent for a constitutional amendment, according to the institute.

Between 1904 and 2006, some 2,231 initiatives have appeared on state ballots; 41 percent of those were approved by the voters, according to the institute's data. The average number of ballot measures has increased over the past 20 years, said John Matsusaka, president of the institute, in an interview with USINFO.

Ballot measures often can be a good indicator of how strongly the electorate feels about an issue. If support for an issue turns out to be stronger than expected, state and national lawmakers would take notice, Matsusaka said. Because of the potential for national impact, "some groups deliberately use the initiative process to jump-start the legislative process and send signals to national lawmakers," he added. A ballot measure's popularity also could affect a race for political office by increasing voter participation.

There is no provision for nationwide ballot measures in the United States. Although many opinion polls show this would be popular, Matsusaka said, it would take an amendment to the U.S. Constitution for this to be an option.

COMMON BALLOT MEASURES

The more than 200 propositions that appeared on ballots in 2006's midterm elections covered a wide range of topics, including funding education, establishing lotteries and changing immigration laws.

How states spend certain funds is commonly an issue on which citizens vote. For example, in Florida voters approved an initiative that requires the state to use tobacco settlement money on a public relations campaign to prevent teen tobacco use. Several states also considered raising cigarette taxes and allocating that money to tobacco prevention and education. These proposals passed in Arizona and South Dakota, but failed in California and Missouri.

The most common issues appearing on ballots in 2006 were state constitutional amendments dealing with gay marriage and with eminent domain (the government's right to seize private property). Seven states approved ballot measures that defined marriage as between one man and one woman; bringing the total of states that have banned gay marriage to 23. In the same election, Arizona became the first state to reject such a measure. Eleven states had ballot measures on eminent domain – nine of which passed.

Among the more unusual ballot measures in the last election season was Arizona's Voter Reward Act initiative, which would give $1 million to a randomly chosen voter after each election as a way to encourage voter turnout. It failed, with 67 percent of Arizona voters voting against it.

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Teen Rockers Reap Benefits of Online Copyright Protections

By Carolee Walker
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – Teenagers often are viewed as the worst violators of copyright laws, illegally downloading and sharing music on the Internet, but as artists they also have much to gain from copyright protection in the United States.

The Internet, the frequent tool of intellectual property piracy, also has made it easier to protect intellectual property and earn legitimate income for teenage artists who copyright and license their music online.

Rock musician Dana Wilentz was 2 years old when her mother asked her where she learned the song she was singing on a train. "When I told her I wrote it, she didn't think I was a musical prodigy," Wilentz told USINFO. "She thought I was a liar."

Today, Wilentz, 16, composes music, writes songs and plays guitar, drums, piano, ukulele and the pan flute. She is a founding member, singer and bass player of the increasingly popular rock band Lemonface. The band has performed at CBGB's in New York and at Washington's 9:30 Club, opening for the bands Flogging Molly in 2006 and Rooney in 2007.

Along with being a talented artist, the secondary school senior in a Washington suburb is a savvy businesswoman.

Wilentz and fellow Lemonface members Brendan McCusker, 16, drummer, and Richard Wynne, 16, guitarist, hired a producer to copyright their music and protect the band from intellectual property theft by licensing its songs through several Internet music sites, including iTunes, DigStation and CD Baby. Now, in addition to selling T-shirts and CDs at Lemonface live performances, the band cashes in on fees paid to download its music. All three members of Lemonface have parents who, as professional musicians, know the economic consequences of piracy.

Increasingly, people under the age of 19 are copyrighting their original songs and compositions, which makes them eligible for public performance royalties, said Phil Crosland of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). More than 3,400 writer/composers under the age of 19 are members of ASCAP, and about 60,000 are in their 20s, he added.

Lemonface band members Dana Wilentz, bass/vocals; Brendan McCusker, drums; and Richard Wynne, guitar/vocals, sell downloads of their music on iTunes, DigStation and CD Baby. (Photo courtesy of Lemonface)

In the United States, copyrights, patents and trademarks are legal forms of intellectual property protection. Copyright protects authors of literary, dramatic, musical, artistic and other intellectual works.

"If you've written a music composition or song you should be entitled to some kind of compensation whenever it is publicly performed," Crosland said.

ASCAP, a professional organization founded in 1914 by several pioneering songwriters and composers, including Irving Berlin and John Philip Sousa, represents 300,000 individuals and provides public performance licensing for nearly 8.5 million songs and musical compositions to the users of music.

Because there is a tremendous amount of music use in the United States, the challenge for such organization as ASCAP is to keep people, especially teenagers who perform and listen to music, aware of current copyright rules and protections.

"We've got an entire generation that has grown up with the Internet

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Spanglish Offers Stepping-Stone to English, Professor Says

By Jeffrey Thomas
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Spanglish, a hybrid form of English and Spanish especially popular among young people, is one of the most striking ways two of the world's most widely used languages are evolving in response to immigration and globalization.

Spanglish is "a very creative, jazzy way of being Latino in the U.S. today," said Ilan Stavans, a professor of Latin American and Latino culture at Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts, who has studied and defended this hybrid language.

Almost 92 percent of U.S. Latinos say it is very important to learn English, and another 7 percent say it is somewhat important, according to the Latino National Survey, the most in-depth look at the country's 43 million people of Latin American descent. But English-language acquisition usually does not happen all at once. In Spanglish: The Making of A New American Language (2003), Stavans presented thousands of American words with both Spanish and English etymological roots spoken by a wide array of people, young and old -- immigrants, Latinos born in the United States and non-Latinos.

"It is also a general form of communication used in Puerto Rico, the U.S.-Mexican border and other 'hybrid' spaces. In other words, it breaches boundaries," Stavans told USINFO.

Spanglish is widely spoken in the Latino community, although its usage varies from place to place and generation to generation. Stavans sees it as a good thing. He has been translating Don Quijote de la Mancha, or Don Quixote, by Cervantes, into Spanglish, just in case anyone doubts what this hybrid can do.

One of Stavans' favorite Spanglish words is estressar, which expresses a very modern form of anxiety, in English to be stressed out. Some Spanglish words render an English word -- average, for example -- in a form easier for Spanish speakers to say: averaje (a-ve-RAH-je). Others show the wit and imagination characteristic of all slang: someone who is assimilating may be referred to as an avocado, or a dynamic female may be referred to as an aeróbica (ay-RO-bi-ka).

Bianca Alvarez helps Esmeralda Vargas, 6, in a dual-language first grade classroom in Dodge City, Kansas. (© AP Images)

Stavans, who was born in Mexico to a Jewish family with roots in Eastern Europe, was raised in a multilingual environment. He has authored many books, including Dictionary Days (2005), On Borrowed Words: A Memoir of Language (2001) and The Hispanic Condition: The Power of a People (1995).

He sees Spanglish not as an expression of alienation from U.S. culture but as "an attempt to break that alienation, to find ways for Latinos to assimilate -- although on our own terms." Spanglish speakers are constructing a positive identity and the use of Spanglish seems to accelerate or facilitate their Americanization.

To those who worry that Spanglish will corrupt English or Spanish, Stavans says: "Language exists in a state of perennial corruption. Spanglish doesn't pollute English or Spanish more than the languages of adolescents, sports, advertising, etc. -- or, for that matter, any other foreign language. A healthy national language always figures out a way to negotiate with its counterparts, internally and externally, no matter in what state of development these tongues find themselves."

Moreover, Spanglish continues to develop and change. Stavans has taught courses on Spanglish at Amherst and elsewhere, and several of his former students now are pursuing careers in the field, becoming part of a network of researchers and informants. "I've been regularly adding numerous entries to my da-

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Teen Rockers Reap Benefits of Online Copyright . . .

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and really believing that everything on the Internet is free or should be free," Crosland said.

Even when a person streams or downloads copyright music to a personal computer, including sample demos, there is an element of "public performance," Crosland said. To comply with U.S. law, any user that performs or broadcasts copyright music -- whether it is a radio station or a restaurant or an Internet site such as iTunes -- is required to obtain permission to use the copyright material. This is easily done through a license from one of the three performing rights organizations (PROs) representing music creators recognized by the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976: ASCAP, Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) and SESAC (originally known as the Society of European Stage Authors and Composers).

Each time music is publicly performed from an Internet site, the copyright holders -- including the songwriter, composer and publisher -- receive payment from one of the PROs. According to Crosland, the most frequently visited Internet sites today are licensed by ASCAP for that public performance.

ASCAP began a search in 2004 for an effective campaign to educate teens about legal downloading of music, Crosland said. Early in 2007, ASCAP and the Recording Industry Association of America partnered with iSafe, a national children's Internet safety organization sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, Microsoft and Verizon, to launch a comprehensive school program based on a cartoon character, Donny the Downloader. This year alone, 2.2 million middle and secondary school students will be introduced to Donny, a typical 14-year-old who discovers his illegal downloading really hurts people.

For now, Wilentz and Lemonface are just having fun doing what they love, but Wilentz plans to make music her lifetime career. "I'm young but I know I definitely want to be in the music industry playing and writing," she said.

"I'll be playing music for the rest of my life – absolutely -- if not with Lemonface then with something equally great."

More information (http://www.lemonface.net/) about Lemonface is available on the band's Web site.

Additional information (http://isafe.org/) on legal downloading of copyrighted material is available on the iSafe Web site.

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Spanglish Offers Stepping-Stone to English, Professor . . .

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tabase. I hope to bring out a new edition [of the dictionary] in the next few years," he said.

"Spanglish should be used as a stepping-stone in the process of English-language acquisition," he said. "And it's crucial to stress that as appealing and fashionable as Spanglish is, the only route for Latinos to become full-fledged Americans is through English. This, of course, doesn't mean they should abandon Spanglish; instead, they should use it as a key to open the American door."

Or, as Stavans put it in an interview with National Public Radio: "Latinos are learning English. That doesn't mean that they should sacrifice their original language or that they should give up this in-betweenness that is Spanglish. Spanglish is a creative way also of saying, 'I am an American and I have my own style, my own taste, my own tongue.'"

For more on Spanglish and other recent developments in English, see the new electronic journal Dynamic English (http://usinfo.state.gov/pub/ejournalusa.html).

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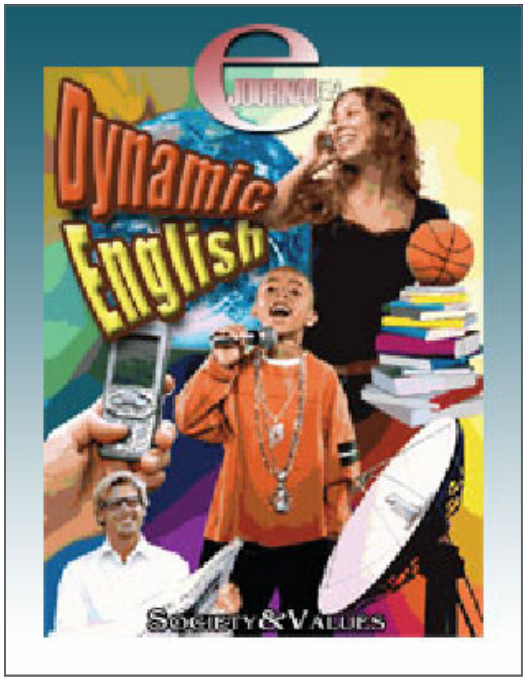
Forces Changing English Language Examined in New eJournal



The August 2007 edition of eJournal USA, Dynamic English, examines the forces that shape everyday English usage. From cultural and international influences, to popular media, to new words arising from technological developments, the authors present examples of ways in which English changes daily.

Other articles explore the mysteries of teen slang, idioms derived from sports and the blogosphere, and the effects of Spanish and Arabic on American English.

The full text (http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0807/ijse/ijse0807.htm) of Dynamic English is now available in English on the USINFO Web site, in both PDF and HTML formats.

The journal will be available in several other languages in the coming weeks. To view those versions, and to obtain a complete listing of other issues, see Current eJournal USA (http://www.usinfo.state.gov/pub/ejournalusa.html).

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Bush Radio Address on Iraq, Provincial Reconstruction Teams

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Crawford, Texas)
Saturday, August 18, 2007

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

In recent months, American and Iraqi forces have struck powerful blows against al Qaeda terrorists and violent extremists in Anbar and other provinces. In recent days, our troops and Iraqi allies launched a new offensive called Phantom Strike. In this offensive, we are carrying out targeted operations against terrorists and extremists fleeing Baghdad and other key cities -- to prevent them from returning or setting up new bases of operation. The terrorists remain dangerous and brutal, as we saw this week when they massacred more than 200 innocent Yezidis, a small religious minority in northwestern Iraq. Our hearts go out to the families of those killed, and our troops are going to go after the murderers behind this horrific attack.

As we surge combat operations to capture and kill the enemy, we are also surging Provincial Reconstruction Teams to promote political and economic progress. Since January, we have doubled the number of these teams, known as PRTs. They bring together military, civilian, and diplomatic personnel to help Iraqi communities rebuild infrastructure, create jobs, and encourage reconciliation from the ground up. These teams are now deployed throughout the country, and they are helping Iraqis make political gains, especially at the local level.

In Anbar province, at this time last year, the terrorists were in control of many areas and brutalizing the local population. Then local sheikhs joined with American forces to drive the terrorists out of Ramadi and other cities. Residents began to provide critical intelligence, and tribesmen joined the Iraqi police and security forces. Today, the provincial council in Ramadi is back, and

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U.S. Condemnation of Death Sentences for Iranian Journalists

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
August 15, 2007

Statement by Sean McCormack, Spokesman

Government of Iran Sentences Journalists to Death
Continues to Thwart Independent Views

By sentencing journalist Adnan Hassanpour and writer and environmental activist Abdolwahed (Hiwa) Butimar to death after a fundamentally flawed trial, the Iranian government has once again shown a willingness to both trample on the rights of its citizens and disregard the most basic standards of acceptable international behavior.

Other reports that the regime has intensified its campaign against the Iranian press paint a sadly familiar and troubling picture of what is happening in Iran under the Ahmadi-Nejad government. A significant number of Iranian editors, journalists, and bloggers have been harassed, arrested and convicted for exercising their universal right to freedom of expression and assembly, highlighting the regime's intolerance toward the expression of independent views.

Iran was criticized for executing large numbers of people. Iran hangings (File Pic.)

Iranian authorities continue to keep their citizens from accessing unbiased information by cracking down on independent media outlets, harassing internet providers, and confiscating satellite dishes. A free press and active civil society are fundamental elements of any democracy and are essential to the ability of the Iranian people to protect their basic rights. We call on the Iranian authorities to cease persecution of journalists and activists and urge them to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The United States stands with all people of Iran struggling for their universal rights, including freedom from discrimination, and justice in their country.

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Olympic Program Helps Refugees, Displaced People Worldwide

By Eric Green
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – The international sports community is reaching out to many of the world's 20 million refugees and internally displaced people in an effort to meet some of their basic needs and provide hope for a better future.

The Giving is Winning campaign brings together members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) with the United Nations in encouraging athletes, officials and corporate partners to donate sports and casual clothing for distribution to refugee camps worldwide.

Already in 2007, the U.S. Olympic Committee is sending through the campaign more than 5,000 articles of sportswear, valued at more than $124,000, to a refugee camp in Chad. The British Olympic Association sent clothing to Rwanda, which the IOC says has more than 49,000 refugees and 730 asylum seekers.

An official with the U.S. Olympic Committee told USINFO August 15 that its donation consists of excess athletic equipment that was ordered for outfitting U.S. Olympic athletes. The clothes include athletic shorts, pants, jackets, T-shirts, polo shirts and sleeveless vests.

In 2004, the U.S. Olympic Commit-

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Bush Radio Address on Iraq, Provincial Reconstruction . . .

(Continued from page 12)

last month provincial officials re-opened parts of the war-damaged government center with the help of one of our PRTs. Thirty-five local council members were present as the chairman called the body to order for its inaugural session.

Similar scenes are taking place in other parts of Anbar. Virtually every city and town in the province now has a mayor and a functioning municipal council. The rule of law is being restored. And last month, some 40 judges held a conference in Anbar to restart major criminal trials. In the far west town of al Qaim, tribal leaders turned against the terrorists. Today, those tribal leaders head the regional mayor's office and the local police force. Our PRT leader on the ground reports that al Qaim is seeing new construction, growing commercial activity, and an increasing number of young men volunteering for the Iraqi army and police.

In other provinces, there are also signs of progress from the bottom up. In Muthanna, an overwhelmingly Shia province, the local council held a public meeting to hear from citizens on how to spend their budget and rebuild their neighborhoods. In Diyala province, the city of Baqubah re-opened six of its banks, providing residents with much-needed capital for the local economy. And in Ninewa province, local officials have established a commission to investigate corruption, with a local judge empowered to pursue charges of fraud and racketeering.

Unfortunately, political progress at the national level has not matched the pace of progress at the local level. The Iraqi government in Baghdad has many important measures left to address, such as reforming the de-Baathification laws, organizing provincial elections, and passing a law to formalize the sharing of oil revenues. Yet, the Iraqi parliament has passed about 60 pieces of legislation.

And despite the lack of oil revenue law on the books, oil revenue sharing is taking place. The Iraqi parliament has allocated more than $2 billion in oil revenue for the provinces. And the Shia-led government in Baghdad is sharing a significant portion of these oil revenues with Sunni provincial leaders in places like Anbar.

America will continue to urge Iraq's leaders to meet the benchmarks they have set. Yet Americans can be encouraged by the progress and reconciliation that are taking place at the local level. An American politician once observed that "all politics is local." In a democracy, over time national politics reflects local realities. And as reconciliation occurs in local communities across Iraq, it will help create the conditions for reconciliation in Baghdad as well.

Thank you for listening.

An audio link (http://whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/08/20070818.a.mp3) to the address is available on the White House Web site.

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Olympic Program Helps Refugees, Displaced People . . .

(Continued from page 13)

tee donated unused clothing and a variety of sports equipment such as volleyballs and volleyball nets to the Lukole refugee camp in Tanzania. More than 20,000 refugees, mostly young people, benefited from the contribution.

Peter Ueberroth, the U.S. Olympic Committee's chairman of the board, said in a July 6 statement that "one of the guiding principles of the worldwide Olympic movement is the spirit of giving, and we are proud to have the opportunity to contribute to this worthwhile" Giving is Winning campaign.

Giving is Winning is geared to the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, and aims to fill 10 large containers -- each more than six meters wide -- with the clothes. The IOC, which is spearheading the humanitarian effort with the United Nations, says the goal is to "bring a little joy to refugees through sport."

The first Giving is Winning campaign began with the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, and gathered nearly 30,000 articles of sports clothing.

In 2004, the campaign was conducted only during the actual games. Besides Tanzania, contributions went to Afghanistan, Eritrea, Kosovo and Azerbaijan.

The IOC says that because of the success in collecting clothes in Athens' Olympic Village in 2004, it wanted to begin the second Giving is Winning campaign much sooner -- this time in the one-year run-up to the Beijing Games, scheduled for August 8-24, 2008.

U.S.-BACKED ACTIVITIES

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) also is using sports to provide diversionary activities for at-risk youth. In Tanzania, for example, a USAID-backed program helped young people participate on football teams, which the agency said shifted the youngsters' attention away from such risky practices as premature sexual activity and involvement with drugs.

In Jamaica, a USAID-supported community-wide football competition is helping to break the cycle of violence in a dangerous neighborhood in the country's capital of Kingston.

Regarding the Darfur region of Sudan, U.S. speed skater Joey Cheek donated the $25,000 he received from the U.S. Olympic Committee for winning a gold medal in the 2006 Winter Olympics to refugees in that area. Cheek's winnings went to the Right to Play organization, which uses sports to advance development, health and peace. (See related article (http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2006/Feb/16-217238.html).

ROLE OF SPORTS IN BUILDING SOCIETY LAUDED

The joint UNHCR/International Olympic Committee "Giving is Winning" campaign which aims to bring sports clothing to thousands of refugees was launched in Guatemala City during the 119th session of the IOC. UNHCR/M. Echandi

The Giving is Winning campaign began with a July 6 ceremony in Guatemala City, where IOC President Jacques Rogge handed over a bag of sportswear to a representative from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Rogge said that those who have been "ravaged by war and disease, deprived and marginalized" can benefit from the role "sport plays in building a safe, more prosperous and peaceful society."

U.N. High Commissioner for Refu-

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Tsunami, Earthquake Detection Improved Since 2004 Disaster

By Cheryl Pellerin
USINFO Staff Writer

This is the first in a series of articles about U.S. contributions to a global early warning system for tsunamis and other hazards.

Washington -- Peru is two continents and an ocean away from the Indian Ocean, but the speed and accuracy with which a massive earthquake near Lima recently was measured is a direct result of the global response to the 9.1-magnitude temblor and tsunami that struck South and Southeastern Asia on December 26, 2004.

The deadliest disaster in modern history caused the loss of nearly 230,000 people. At the time, the United States and Japan were the only nations whose shores were protected by tsunami early warning systems, and people around the world looked to experts in those countries for help.

Today, in an effort coordinated by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), a global tsunami warning and mitigation system slowly is taking shape in the world's oceans and along its coastlines. (See related article (http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2005&m=August&x=20050816155403lcnirellep0.76318&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html).)

EARTHQUAKE IN PERU

One hundred to 200 kilometers off the Peruvian coast, tectonic plates that cover the planet are active. There, the Nazca Plate grinds under and pushes up the South American Plate, releasing energy that sometimes becomes an earthquake.
In the early evening on August 15, an 8.0-magnitude earthquake occurred near the coast of central Peru, about 145 kilometers southeast of Lima, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The earthquake killed more than 500 people, injuring 1,600 and left tens of thousands homeless.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii issued and later cancelled a tsunami warning and watch for the Pacific coast of South and Central America, which experienced small tsunami waves less than a meter high.

Among the seismic stations that helped pinpoint and characterize the major earthquake were five new stations that USGS has installed in the Caribbean over the past two years. The agency plans to install four more seismic stations there by the end of 2007.

"These newer instruments are making available the kind of data that makes a difference when trying to estimate the kind of earthquake and the magnitude," seismologist Walter Mooney, lead coordinator for the USGS Indian Ocean tsunami warning system program, said during an August 16 USINFO interview.

"The correct magnitude probably came significantly faster and more accurately than it would have in 2004," he added.

Another difference since 2004 is the expanded use of deep ocean assessment and reporting of tsunami (DART) buoys, designed by NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) in Seattle to detect tsunamis as they move across the ocean.

The Peruvian tsunami was detected by a Chilean-owned DART buoy that sent tsunami data to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center within one hour of tsunami generation. The data were used to provide experimental tsunami forecasts for 13 U.S. ports within two hours of tsunami generation.

"The DART data and forecast were instrumental in the quick cancellation of the warning," said PMEL Director Eddie Bernard, in an August 17 e-mail. "This is the big difference from 2004 to now. With DART data, tsunami forecasts are now possible. Good forecasts lead to good decisions."

TOWARD GLOBAL EARLY WARNING

In Paris in 2005, the IOC, already tasked with helping U.N. member states on the Indian Ocean rim establish a tsunami warning system, created a framework for developing regional early warning systems in the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean and the Mediterranean.

Along with the Pacific Tsunami Warning System that IOC established in 1965, these regional systems would conform to the same standards, ultimately to share data and form a global system for monitoring and detecting a range of natural and other hazards, including tsunamis. (See related article (http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-

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Tsunami, Earthquake Detection Improved Since 2004 . . .

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enlish&y=2006&m=April&x=20060418123141lcnirellep9.325808e-02).

With funding approved by Congress in 2005, the U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), NOAA, USGS, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency are lending expertise and technology to these efforts.

For the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas, the United States is acting mainly as an observer and technical provider to the lead group, the Instituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, one of Europe's largest geophysical research institutions.

"We're working very closely with them," NOAA Tsunami Program Manager David Green, said in an August 15 USINFO interview, "to develop strategies and work with the different observing systems."

LAND USE AND HAZARDS

Progress has been made in the Mediterranean region to bolster and integrate different national seismic and ocean observing networks, and in transitioning from using the instruments for research to using them as part of an operational early warning system.

For the sea-level stations, Green said, "the first steps are to identify the stations that need to be part of the network, then upgrade them to real time [sea-level reporting], then combine them with the seismic effort to make a system."

Until a full-fledged system is in place for the Mediterranean, Italy will provide 24-hour-a-day watch coverage of seismic data from the seas around Europe. Portugal and Spain are providing access to real-time seismic data.

In the meantime, contemplating Europe's heavily developed and populated coastlines, the Mediterranean group brought to IOC's attention the need to bring hazards and coastal zone practices for mitigation and land adaptation and use into every aspect of coastal life. (See related article (http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=May&x=20060515120845lcnirellep6.008327e-03).)

As a result, IOC brought together experts from its member states, including the United States, and from the World Meteorological Organization and the U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. The group will develop a set of guidelines for including ocean hazards in integrated coastal zone management.

The concept of integrated coastal area management has been in place since the 1990s for sustainable management of coastal zones but until now has not been applied to tsunami planning.

More information (http://www.ioc-tsunami.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=138&Itemid=104) about the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas is available at the IOC Web site.

An animation (http://nctr.pmel.noaa.gov/peru20070815.html) of the Peru event is available at NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory Web site.

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Olympic Program Helps Refugees, Displaced People . . .

(Continued from page 15)

gees António Guterres, in a June statement, said "many young refugees spend years languishing in bleak camps." The gift of sportswear associated with famous athletes from across the Olympic spectrum is a "tremendous morale-booster -- a sign that the outside world does still care" about the refugees, said Guterres.

Tommy Sithole, IOC director of international cooperation and development, added that the Giving is Winning campaign is "like a moon rock. You cannot put a price tag on it."

Sithole said that "somewhere in this world some unfortunate person living in a refugee camp has not only been provided with something to wear, but more fundamentally with hope."

More information about Giving is Winning is available on the Web sites of the IOC (http://www.olympic.org/uk/news/events/119_session/full_story_uk.asp?id=2205), the U.S. Olympic Committee (http://www.usoc.org/117_52909.htm) and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/4692299e4.html).

For more information, see Sports (http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture/sports.html).

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VOA's Studio 7 for Zimbabwe Expands Programming . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Development and has been developed, managed and operated by the Voice of America. Studio 7 reports are prepared by a largely Zimbabwean staff in Washington and stringers in Zimbabwe.

Studio 7's web page, http://www.voanews.com/english/africa/zimbabwe/, also offers news in English, Shona and Ndebele, and recently launched e-mail newsletters in all three languages.

Opposition leaders and civil society activists cite Studio 7 broadcasts as a major factor in the democratic reform process given the virtual exclusion of dissenting voices in the state media. Studio 7 provided extensive and balanced coverage of the 2005 general election - interviews with ruling ZANU-PF and opposition candidates in many constituencies were aired back-to-back - and delivered intense, high-impact reporting on the government's May-July 2005 campaign of forced evictions and home demolitions. Reporter Carole Gombakomba's telephone interviews with victims of the exercise received a 2006 commendation from the Association of International Broadcasting.

The Voice of America, which first went on the air in 1942, is a multimedia international broadcasting service funded by the U.S. government through the Broadcasting Board of Governors. VOA broadcasts more than 1,000 hours of news, information, educational, and cultural programming every week to an estimated worldwide audience of more than 115 million people. Programs are produced in 45 languages.

For more information, please contact VOA's Office of Public Affairs at (202) 303-4959.♦