

THE DIOGENES REPORT

“a few steps ahead of the curve”

The Wit, Wisdom & Wituperation of Emanuel L. Strunin

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VAUNTED ARAB HOSPITALITY

You know how the Arabs are always bragging about their hospitality, well here is another example about their proclivity for lying. Not that we need any more examples than the refugee camps to which the Arab countries have confined their brothers for half a century.

But since I like to keep my readers up-to-date on advances in Arab civilization, I am pleased to provide the latest information on the hospitality front. Please note that they are not taking a page out of the hospitality manuals of Bill Marriott, Conrad Hilton or the Hyatt family.

”Jordan is making preparations to prevent the influx of Palestinian and Iraqi refugees into its territory in the case of a U.S. attack against Iraq. Amman is concerned that if the U.S. attacks Iraq, tens of thousands of refugees will flee into its territory.

”Jordanian Information Minister Mohammed al-Adwan has declared that Jordan will not allow waves of refugees to enter the country, "whether from the east or the west." Adwan was referring to the possibility that Palestinians from the West Bank may seek to flee into the Kingdom if Iraq attacks Israel.

"We are determined to protect our borders," the minister stressed but added that his country will not turn its back on humanitarian concerns.

”The Arabic-language daily Al-Hayat reported yesterday that the Jordanian authorities have begun blocking the entry of Iraqi nationals into the kingdom.”

Compare the Arab “humanitarian concerns” with fellow Arabs to Israel’s approach to beleaguered Jewish refugees from any place in the world. Must we continue to look for ways to perpetuate Arab “civilization?”

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH

On September 15, The New York Times carried a full-page letter from Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, the Deputy Prime Minister

of Saudi Arabia to President Bush. The letter is an attempt to commiserate with the American people over 9-11. Since the Crown Prince told only one side of the story, Diogenes will add his comments within the ().

“As long as I live, I shall never forget the horrible scenes of carnage, the raging fires, the smoke that covered the horizon, and the innocent people who jumped out of windows in their attempts to escape.” (The action was so fast that our dancing viewers could barely keep up with the action on the screen.)

“But the brave people of America....Instead of being terrorized by this catastrophe, they became more steadfast and determined.” (Damn.)

”The target of the terrorists who engineered this crime was humanity at large.”
(But I’m glad they used New York as the example instead of Mecca.)

“...all humanity united to fight terrorism , and wise voices from all corners of the world arose to echo your declaration that terrorism has no religion or nationality; that it is pure evil, condemned and abhorred by all religions and cultures.”
(They should have turned up the sound of the Arab voices that were condemning terrorism.)

“...we in Saudi Arabia felt especially great pain in the realization that a number of young Saudi citizens had been enticed and deluded and their reasoning subverted to the degree of denying the tolerance that their religion embrace, and turning their backs on their homeland, which has always stood for understanding and moderation.”
(What did you want him to say, that their education system works, that they slit the throat of anyone who denies that they’re tolerant, that his government and people funded the organization that made the attack?)

“I would like to make it clear that true Muslims all over the world will never allow a minority of deviant extremists to speak in the name of Islam...”
(Deviant extremists: does he mean those who are opposed to terrorism?)

The letterhead notes: “People Of Saudi Arabia—Allies Against Terrorism”
(OK people nod your heads up and down when I ask if you are allies against terrorism.)

NOT JUST BLOWIN’ SMOKE

(I do not know whether the following story, which was sent me by one of my readers, is true but it passed the Diogenes humor test.)

This is the best lawyer story of the year, decade and probably the century.

A Charlotte, NC, lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars, then insured them against fire among other things. Within a month having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars and without yet having made even his first premium payment on the policy, the lawyer filed claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost "in a series of small fires." The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason: that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The lawyer sued....and won!

In delivering the ruling the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The Judge stated nevertheless, that the Lawyer held a policy from the company in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable fire," and was obligated to pay the claim. Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000.00 to the lawyer for his loss of the rare cigars lost in the "fires."

NOW FOR THE BEST PART... After the lawyer cashed the check, the Insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of ARSON!!!! With his OWN Insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000.00 fine.

This is a true story and was the 1st place winner in the recent Criminal Lawyers Award Contest.

ACROSS MY RADAR SCREEN

Comedy Runs In The Family

Bert Lahr was a great comedian who is best remembered for his role as the cowardly lion in the Wizard of Oz. Apparently, his son John Lahr who is the theatre critic for the New Yorker has pretensions of following in his father's footsteps, although he doesn't seem aware of it.

Here is one of his funnier shtick: Did you know that 9-11 was probably the work of George W. Bush trying to distract the attention from Democratic criticism of his missile defense plans. Now that's a real knee slapper!

You don't get it? You don't think it's funny? I don't know why, it went over big at a dinner party at the Saudi embassy.

Islamic Education

The mother of one of the six Arabs arrested in upstate New York for being part of an al Qaeda sleeper cell said that her son went to Afghanistan to further his Islamic education. Curriculum at his al Qaeda religious school: 1st day—how to handle a Kalashnikov; 2nd day—how to prepare a suicide bomb vest; 3rd day; infiltrating a kindergarten to plant explosives; 4th day—how to fly an airliner into a tall building; 5th day—how to spread anthrax in a post office; 6th day—memorizing Koranic passages about killing infidels; 7th day—rest.

Good try, mom.

Greenspan Needs Some Discipline

The same headline is used in a column by Robert Reno criticizing the head of the Fed. But Diogenes thinks that the real criticism belongs to the people who listen to Alan and take him seriously—particularly the empty suits in Congress. Those dummies who believe that Alan—or any economist—can predict the future should not be making laws but should go back to chasing ambulances. Economists cannot even understand the past much less than predict where the market or the dollar or unemployment numbers will be next week or next month or next year.

As Shakespeare put it...the fault is not in our stars—or even in our superstars such as Alan—but in ourselves. So let Alan babble on—that’s what an economist does. But let us not put any credence in his words.

HEADLINES AND COMMENTS

Headlines from the world’s press. Comments by Diogenes.

U. S. Says Suspects Were Waiting For Order To Attack

Gerhard Schroder says: “Don’t be too harsh on them, they were only waiting to follow orders.

Religious And Public Stations Battle For Share Of Radio Dial

Christian radio vs. Islamic radio.

Mormon Leader Is Survived By 33 Sons And A Void

The void is between the ears of his followers

Karachi Raid Provides Hint Of Qaeda’s Rise In Pakistan

I moved to my brother’s other house.

Plan On Abuse Is Said To Face Vatican Pitfalls

Don’t they mean pratfalls?

Top Officials In Connecticut Seek A Ban On New Casinos

I'll bet!

It's Either Me Or The G. O. P., Toricelli Tells Democrats

It's the usual voter position—between a rock and a hard place.

Bus Stop Bomb Kills 11 In Chechnya

The Moslem bombers must have thought the women and children at the bus stop were Israelis

U. S. Tries To Market Itself To Young Arabs

Have they tried free flying lessons or frequent flyer miles for their families?

Jordan Could Suffer From U. S. Assault On Iran

Don't believe Saddam when he says he destroyed the Israeli Air Force because this time you could lose the East Bank too.

Bush: Palestinians Need Statehood

Maybe when they get rid of all their hoods. And maybe not.

GE, Regulators At Odds Over Cleanup Costs

It's only about PCB contamination, not about Jack Welch's contract.

Public Mental Health System In Bad Shape

The mental cases aren't doing so well either.

Iceman's Last Meal Included Venison, Researchers Say

Wow! I didn't know they had fancy French restaurants 5,000 years ago.

NAMES

Names that fit and names that don't.

Juan DeJesus of Norwalk charged with second-degree robbery (Stamford Advocate, 9/14/02). Oh Jesus , not DeJesus again.

QUOTES I LIKE

Favorable outcomes usually happen to other people.

Emanuel L. Strunin

A liberal is a man too broadminded to take his own side in a quarrel.

Robert Frost

If you can't annoy somebody, there is little point in writing.

Kingsley Amis

I have no objection to churches, so long as they do not interfere with God's work.

Brooks Atkinson

I'm always looking for meaningful one-night stands.

Dudley Moore

Start every day off with a smile and get it over with.

W. C. Fields

In a disastrous fire in President Reagan's library both books were destroyed.
And the real tragedy is that he hadn't finished coloring one.

Jonathan Hunt

He who laughs, lasts.

Mary Pettibone Poole

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