**FBI investigates CIA plot to assassinate Iraqi dictator**

**BY ALEX GREENBERG**

On Sunday, February 15th, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that the FBI had conducted an investigation concerning rumors that CIA agents had plotted to kill Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. The Times, quoting anonymous sources, said that although all CIA agents being investigated were cleared, the probe affected the CIA’s ability to conduct operations in Iraq. The alleged plan to kill Saddam Hussein evolved out of a series of operations conducted by the CIA in Northern Iraq. Working in conjunction with the Iraqi National Congress, a front organization that acted as an umbrella for all anti-Iraqi Kurdistan factions operating in the area, the CIA organized a botched military offensive against the Iraqi army in 1995. The alleged assassination attempt was created by Wafiz Samarrai, a former chief of Iraqi intelligence, who told the CIA of a plan to kill the Iraqi dictator. The FBI investigation focused on four former midshipmen who had been involved in the planning of the operation, allegedly against strict orders not to carry out the operation. However, in 1996, the FBI dropped the investigation, with no attempt by the Justice Department to prosecute the officers. Ultimately CIA and FBI officials realized that the investigation had been prompted by misleading information about CIA activities in northern Iraq that was being spread in the region, allegedly by Iraqi dissident leaders unhappy with the Clinton administration’s reluctance to take a more aggressive approach to toppling Saddam, the article stated.

Subsequent actions by Iraqi military and security forces foiled two more attempts to oust Saddam Hussein. In 1996, the Iraqis destroyed the remnants of the CIA’s covert action program. Another attempt by the CIA, designed to sabotage Iraq’s energy infrastructure, was penetrated by Iraqi double agents who betrayed Iraqi officials working with the CIA. The destruction of CIA operations in Iraq highlights a growing concern among experts in the intelligence community that the CIA has become increasingly unable to perform its role competently. In an article in the February issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*, Edward G. Shorey, former CIA official in the CIA, views the service as growing increasingly dysfunctional. Shorey said that the CIA “has for years been running an espionage charade in most countries, deceiving itself and others about the value of its recruited agents and collection.” Shorey points out that the CIA’s method of calculating success in terms of the number of foreign agents recruited, “encourages adept case officers, gradually and naturally, to evolve into liars.”

**Clintons executive privilege challenged**

**By ORELLI LEY**

White House Independent Prosecutor Kenneth Starr continued his investigation of the alleged executive privilege scandal between President Bill Clinton and former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Starr questioned Clinton’s closest aide, Bruce Lindsey last week. The President might seek executive privilege against Starr if negotiations with Starr over Lindsey’s testimony are not resolved.

The controversy arose over Starr wanting to question Lindsey and other top White House aides regarding strategy sessions they held to discuss the Lewinsky situation. The White House regards these conversations as confidential and protected under executive privilege. In 1974, the Supreme Court established executive privilege and also ruled, however, that it did not apply to President Richard Nixon.

Meanwhile, Lewinsky’s attorney, William Ginsburg, claimed that the former White House independent counsel Kenneth Starr’s letter to the Justice Department did not mean that a grand jury would be convened to investigate the Lewinsky situation. The Lewinsky affair, however, might lead to a reconciliation between President Clinton and Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

**Former midshipman convicted of murder**

**BY ILYA ARSLAVSKY**

Diane Zamora, a former Navy midshipman, was convicted of murder in the death of Adrinnne Jones. A Texas jury on Friday found Jones guilty of murder after a one-time sexual encounter. Jones was sentenced to imprisonment for just six hours. She was sentenced to imprisonment with the possibility of parole in 40 years. Jones’s family requested that the penalty be sought. At trial, the prosecution contended that Zamora, now 19, demanded that her high school sweetheart, David Graham, kill Jones. Zamora and Jones met after Zamora grabbed Jones and a struggle ensued. According to Graham’s confession, Jones managed to get out of the car, but Zamora insisted that Graham shoot her. Jones’s body was found the next day.

Graham and Zamora, who met at a search-and-rescue training class conducted at Civil Air Patrol in 1991, both excelled academically at their high schools. They were involved in track and Zamora was a National Honor Society member. When Graham was arrested for murder, he had just begun service at the Air Force Academy. The most damning evidence against Zamora at trial was Graham’s confession, as well as witnesses who claimed that she had confessed to them. However, Zamora claimed that her relationship with Graham was abusive and that she did not take part in the murder conspiracy.

A polygraph test was administered to her before trial, which she failed, but the results were not reported and certainly long after Zamora was sentenced to prison for 40 years in prison with the possibility of parole.

**Nigerian troops topple junta in Sierra Leone**

**BY JOSEPH KOCTZRA**

Nigerian army units this week consolidated their hold over Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, ending the rule of a ten-month-old junta which last year toppled the democratically-elected government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

Nigerian troops form the spearhead of multinational force assembled by the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOMOG) to restore democracy in Sierra Leone. By all accounts, the Nigerian take-over was quick and nearly bloodless. To restore order in the capital, martial law and a dusk-to-dawn curfew have been installed while ECOMOG forces work to find and disarm all troops loyal to the junta.

Many of the leaders of the junta have already been captured; Lt. Col. Johnny Paul Koroma, who led the coup against Kabbah last May, remains at large. The commander of the Nigerian forces, Gen. Timothy Shelpshi, said that ECOMOG’s next step is to be

**UPDATE**

**Use of force in Iraq protested**

As a follow-up to chanted protests that drowned out Madeleine Albright’s speech in Ohio Wednesday, demonstrators cut short Bill Richardson’s speech at the University of Minnesota last Friday. Richardson, the U.S. ambassador to the UN, was outlining the government’s plans to attack Baghdad if U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan cannot come to a diplomatic solution during his visit to Iraq. Protestors voiced their opinions that the war is racist, driven by economic interests concerning Middle Eastern oil, and unfair to Iraqi civilians, who are being starved by sanctions. (Reuters, 2/20)

**Radon linked to lung cancer**

Radon, the radioactive product of the decay of uranium in soil, has been shown to increase the risk of lung cancer, especially for smokers. A study conducted by the National Research Council has shown that radon, which collects in low, enclosed rooms, contributes to approximately 15,000-21,000 lung cancer deaths per year, but only about 2,100-2,900 of those are non-smokers. (Reuters, 2/20)

**Navy helicopter crashes**

A UH-IN “Hairy” helicopter, on a practice search-and-rescue mission from the China Lake Naval Base in California, crashed last Wednesday in Sequoia National Forest, about 60 miles away. At least four crew members were killed and the fifth is still missing. (CNN, 2/18)

**Child Thrown From Speeding Car**

A woman weaving through traffic on Interstate 95 in Florida last Thursday reached speeds upwards of 90 mph before dropping her 18-month-old son out the car window and onto the median, as stunned motorists looked on. The woman, Kris Ann Haddad, 30, was arrested and charged with first-degree attempted murder and second-degree aggravated child abuse. The toddler survived, but is in serious condition. (Boston Globe, Knight-Ridder 2/20)

Compiled by Scott Bleiweis, Julia Deak, and Aaron Mack
Proliferation of nuclear weapons poses the greatest threat of all

By David Nuremberg

The United States is on the brink of attacking Iraq for its refusal to allow inspection of chemical and biological weapons sites. If we cannot even conceive the existence of such technologies, it stands to reason that nuclear weapons must also be eliminated. General Lee Butler, former commander-in-chief of US Strategic Command, once declared that “nuclear weapons have no defensible role,” that “the case for their elimination is a thousand-fold stronger than that for the deadly chemical and biological weapons we have already checked.”

Put at another way, if we are willing to sacrifice thousands of lives to prevent biological weapons from being used, we must be willing to sacrifice millions of lives to prevent nuclear weapons from being used. Nuclear weapons are not merely equivalents to chemical weapons. They are orders of magnitude more destructive.

Four formerly-nuclear nation-states - Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and South Africa - have already given up their nuclear weapons, and Argentina and Brazil dismantled their nuclear programs.

Yet the United States has allocated $25-$30 billion for nuclear weaponry in 1997, versus $27 billion for education and $37 billion for housing. Even if the terms of the START II treaty are adhered to, by 2003 the US and Russia will still have over 7,500 strategic nuclear weapons deployed, with more in the works, even times the initial stockpile of 20,000, according to the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, amounts to the equivalent destruction of one ton of TNT for every human being on the planet.

The idea of a limited nuclear war, if it was ever feasible, is certainly not so now. A single modern warhead yields a force of approximately 300 kilotons, almost 30 times as much as the bombs dropped on Japan in WW2 - enough force to kill 1,000,000 people instantly before even factoring the effects of fallout. Considering fallout from the meltdown of Chernobyl was recorded as far away as New England in the United States, it seems impossible to ignore any sort of nuclear exchange without dealing immense destruction to all the peoples of the Earth.

Still, opponents of nuclear war are not necessarily opposed to the dismantlement of nuclear arsenals. Many maintain that, even five years after the end of the Cold War, nuclear proliferation must continue so the principles of mutually assured destruction (MAD) will stay off nuclear war. MAD holds that two or more hostile states, and the current nuclear nations - the USA, Russia, Britain, France, and China - have no formal declarations of hostility between them.

Furthermore, far too many factors and variables were involved in the Cold War for anyone to conclusively say that it was MAD that prevented nuclear exchange, that if not for the arms race we would have had an all out nuclear war (especially in light of the findings of the Canberra Commission, which suggest that Russia may never have had a plan to invade Europe). MAD certainly didn’t prevent conventional war - in fact, the nuclear weapons states engaged in an average of 5.2 wars from 1945-1997, versus 67 wars between non-nuclear nations. And MAD did not prevent the use of sub-nuclear weapons, like the depleted-uranium tank shells used by the USA in the Gulf War. But these sub-nuclear products in these weapons made them dense enough to penetrating armor, but production that poisoned both Iraq and US soldiers.

Even if no nuclear missiles are ever launched, they still deal grave harm to the populace of the world. The nuclear testing required to maintain weapons stockpiles results in immense environmental damage, which in the United States alone will require a cleanup investment of $230 billion over 75 years, and this estimate is predicted to increase. Thirty-nine groups are already suing the US government; every dollar lost to inefficiency is another dollar that could be cut in taxes and put back into the pockets of the people. The one bright spot in state government is the Treasury, which is headed by Cellucci's Republican Primary opponent Joseph D. Malone. Their experience of running large numbers of projects - the state's $23 million in budget reduction by over 50% since Malone became the first Republican elected Treasurer in over a generation. At the same time, the state lottery has become the most efficient in the nation. Last year the lottery brought in nearly $3 billion in revenue at a cost only $70 million.

If even a fraction of the success in Treasury could be duplicated across the state, Massachusetts could save billions. And far too many politicians on Beacon Hill are too busy getting reelected to be concerned with making the bureaucracy that they help create work effectively and for the people.

U.S. hypocrisy in its condemnation of Iraq

By Seth D. Michaels

Somewhere in the Asian continent, there’s a shaky military regime that could pull up Indonesia and maintain its hold over the people it calls its own. This power through force and has been known to invade small neighbors and brutally persecute ethnic minorities within its borders.

There is no one who has done what his people or his neighbors want - what saddam Hussein has done,” said Madeline Albright at Wednesday’s Ohio State “town hall” meeting, but the above description doesn’t refer to Hussein’s Iraq, but that of Western monopoly largesse, Suharto’s imperious Indonesia.

As the Indonesian rupee becomes more and more scarce, Suharto is looking for options; he has held power since the 1965 military coup and is not anxious to give it up. Running by corruption, nepotism, and police-military repression, Suharto is searching for ways to duc the IMF reform requirements that keep the loans rolling in.

Riots are common, much as they had been in 1965, when Suharto’s coup resulted in a 700,000 civilian death toll. Yet the iron is the U.S., the primary funder to the IMF, is hoping to pull up Indonesia and maintain Suharto’s alliance; they are making plans to conduct bombing raids against Iraq, a chief U.S. ally, until the 1990 invocation of the Gulf War.

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—PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER—

Letter to the Editor

Despite apathy label, Brandeis students are politically aware

By Alex Greenberg

Conventional wisdom would suggest that matters of politics don't matter to Brandeis students. Students are stereotyped at this university as having little concern over who is the US, Republican, and Democrat. However, I would submit that there are many students here who have informed political opinions.

Not only that, but Brandeis students consistently side with the party they feel offers the best hope for improving the lives of Americans, the Democratic party. In a poll conducted by the Brandeis College Democrats club, only six percent of those polled considered themselves Republican.

Additionally, the most well known Republican currently in office, Newt Gingrich, was rated as bad or worse by over eighty percent of those who responded to the poll.

I submit these results to the student body for two reasons. The first is to demonstrate that Brandeis students do take an active interest in politics. It is in the best interest of those who hope for further the elite interests of cor- porations, or who represent extremist and fundamental ideol- ogies to portray college students uninterested in politics as not the norm. Conservative dogma- tists remember well the student vote that handed America's war with Vietnam. Unfortunately, by only convincing the us not to vote, the students only dealt with further elite interests at the expense of the majority can Republicans hold onto.

The second reason for writing about this poll is to offer those among us who feel helpless in combating dogmatic conser- vatism a chance to do something. As evidenced in the poll, the much talked about malaise of our student body is not the norm. Students are concerned with the direction that the country is taking our country. However, many may be unsure as to how best combat such parochial propa- ganda.

There are several forums already on campus that would bring together students and students. Get involved with political par- ties. Express your opinions, even when they are outspoken.

Doing so may be the only way to elimi- nate public opinion with hyper-bole and rhetoric, while the rest of the student body stands mute. It is said that the Devil’s greatest trick was convincing the world that he did not exist.
Nuclear disarmament necessary for world safety

FROM PAGE 2
US Department of Energy over nuclear-induced environmental damage involved in the maintenance of the 19 publicly known sites across the country, totaling 1,000 square miles. In the former Soviet Union, Lake Karachi in the Southern Urals is reportedly so irradiated from nuclear testing that an hour's walk on the shore could result in lethal radiation poisoning. President John F Kennedy stated that nuclear war “makes no sense in an age when the deadly poisons of the globe and to generations yet unborn.” By this same reasoning, maintenance of nuclear armament makes no sense as well. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Nuclear abolition movements are attempting to bring about a formal declaration of the illegality of Nuclear Weapons, as well as a commitment to disarmament, by the year 2000. This would be an important step, but by no means the only one, for it is still incumbent upon the citizens of nuclear nations to organize and demand an end to one of the greatest threats to our planet.

Walk on the Weird Side

Mayors terrorize towns

A month after his defeat in the polls, Mayor Daniel F. Delvin of Upper Darby, PA, was charged with stealing $1,000 while tending the tellers with a bomb. Three days later, in an apparently unrelated incident, Snow Hill, MD, Mayor Craig Johnson was arrested for allowing a town police car to be used in pornography photographs. (Chuck Shepard’s News of the Weird, Valley Advocate)

Professor or local vandal?

Emory University Business School professor Jeffrey Sonnenfeld resigned as university community relations director. Sonnenfeld’s resignation as university community relations director was immediately followed by a bomb threat by a school corridor that was “suspected...to be the one previously who had gouged doors, woodwork, and furniture in the building.” (Chuck Shepard's News of the Weird, Valley Advocate)

Real cemetery for virtual pets founded in England

British entrepreneur Terry Squires has created a cemetery in TamaGothic, the “virtual pets” that have become popular worldwide. Despite the fact that being virtual can be “resurrected” enough people have apparently become sufficiently attached to send them to Squires for burial. His fenced-off plot of a pet cemetery in Southern England has reportedly become a graveyard for TamaGothics from Switzerland, Germany, France, Canada and the United States. (CNN)

One ton pig sacrificed in Taiwanese contest

A 2,114 pound boar claimed the prize for biggest pig in Taiwan, the largest winner ever in the contest’s 200-year tradition. 14 men were required to lift the boar, which was killed in a sacrifice at the temple that sponsored the competition. (AP)
New evidence sheds light on Ramsey case

By René J. Fernandes

The murder of six-year-old JonBenet Ramsey shocked the nation over a year ago. Over a year later, no major developments have been made regarding the case, and just recently, investigators were further set back by a loss of vital information and evidence in the form of interviews and palm prints.

The young girl was found dead on December 26, 1996 in the basement of her Boulder, CO home. The child beauty pageant contestant had been bludgeoned and choked.

The most recent evidence found regarding the investigation was an unidentifiable palm print in the Ramsey’s home, and skin samples found underneath JonBenet’s fingernails. In order to further process this information, police are currently taking DNA samples and palm prints from those closely associated with, or assumed to be suspects in the case. Thus far, police have been unable to find a match of the prints.

Among those asked for palm prints and DNA samples was Stephen Thomas Miles, a 49-year-old photographer and suspect in the murder case. He is in the process of suing John Ramsey, JonBenet’s father, and the National Enquirer for being inaccurately accused as a suspect.

There have been recent setbacks in the ongoing murder investigation. Authorities have lost palm prints and interviews of several friends and neighbors of the Ramsey’s. Several people close to the case claim that they were asked to be tested and give interviews again. A neighbor of the Ramsey’s reported that he was interviewed a second time by Boulder police and not informed that they had lost their notes from the original interview. Detective commander Mark Beekner, the head investigator who took over the case last fall, has refused to discuss the evidence. JonBenet’s parents, John and Pat Ramsey, continue to be “under the umbrella of suspicion,” according to Detective Beekner.

The Boulder police also expressed an interest in re-interviewing JonBenet’s 11 year old brother Burke. However, Jim Jenkins, his attorney, fears that the police will use the interview in a misleading manner and leak information to the press. He will try to prevent the interview. The police are attempting “to use an 11 year old child as a pawn in a sorely misguided publicity war against his parents,” said Jenkins.

In addition to misplaced evidence, the investigation has also resulted in a libel suit against the Ramsey family.

JonBenet Ramsey’s murder has been unsolved for over a year.