

Graffiti for intellectuals



SIMON SAYS



JULY
3
2006



By Si Frumkin

WANNA BUY A HOMEMADE AUTOMOBILE?

I was stuck in the rush hour behind one of those giant 18-wheelers. An equally giant picture of a box of cookies covered its back door. The box had "Homemade taste" written on it and a smiling image of a friendly gray-haired lady holding a cookie.



When I finally passed the semi I looked at the driver. He was a middle-aged bearded guy who looked like he appreciated chewing tobacco more than savoring cookies.

There might be some among us who still



Mayor of Sderot with a piece of a cute Kassam. Pictures on wall are of residents killed by the rockets

believe that the hundreds or thousands of items listed as homemade are really made in tiny little cottages where grey-haired ladies or portly father figures busily bake cookies, prepare soups, make pizza or sausages according to secret old family recipes and carefully pack, fill and seal cans and jars of vegetables, jellies and fruit. They then pack them into cases, load them on giant trucks and deliver them to stores where smiling managers in white coats and aprons greet their customers by name.

Yeah, right!

For some reason it is the "Homemade" label that annoys me most. I can live with "Best quality", "Guaranteed highest quality", "Best taste", "Delicious quality and taste", and the more mundane "Best", "Unsurpassed", "Prime" and "Naturally good". But "homemade?" Shouldn't it mean that it was made in someone's home? Or does an industrial complex qualify as a "home" if the night watchman has a cot there to snooze on?

"Homemade" hints at a Norman Rockwell sense of coming home to a delicious meal, made by a loving mother or grandma, a feeling of security and nostalgia, a taste of a vaguely remembered childhood.

There used to be an invisible dividing line that dictated that some things just couldn't be homemade. I have never seen an ad for a "homemade" refrigerator, car or mattress. Alcoholic beverages are never advertised as being "homemade", nor is tooth-

paste or shampoo.

Traditionally, "homemade" conveys goodness when applied to something that might conceivably be made in a home rather than impersonally in a factory by machines. Complex machines cannot be and are not homemade.

Unfortunately, a quest for political correctness has changed how we use words. A good example is the offensive transformation of "terrorists" to "militants", "fighters" or "insurgents".

But the most recent and bothersome transformation by the media of a complex, well-designed and deadly instrument of destruction into being cute and inoffensive is the designation that used to be applied only to cookies, sauces and the like: "Homemade"!



Grandma with cookies

Here is an April 2006 Associated Press report on the subject:

"The Israeli air strike came in response to **homemade** Palestinian rocket attacks on southern Israel".

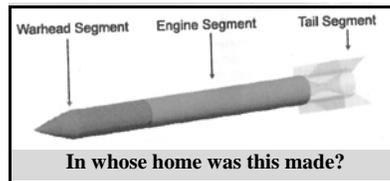
Homemade? Made at home by grandmas? A term that is used by our own beloved Los Angeles Times to describe the 500 rockets that rained down on Israel since the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza last summer?

The L.A. Times (6/25/06) says, "... Israel's battle against Gaza militants... targeting fighters who launch homemade Kassam rockets into southern Israel" and "Israeli military planners have been vexed by the Kassams that fall regularly in and near the town of Sderot." And then, a slap at the silly military planners who shouldn't be vexed at the cute homemade Kassams, "Although the crude projectiles usually drop harmlessly into open fields, often without making it into Israel, five Sderot residents have been killed by rocket fire since 2004. No one has died since the Israeli pullout". (Wrong! See below.

And please notice the use of "militants" and "fighters" instead of "TERRORISTS", in the very first sentence!

But really, what is Israel vexed about? Certainly the U.S. wouldn't be – with a population 50 times that of Israel, the 500 rockets that killed 5 Israelis would be equivalent to 25,000 rockets that killed 250 innocent civilians if they were fired from, say, Mexico. Would the U.S. military planners be vexed? Even if the rockets are homemade? Nah...

Here is a partial score of the homemade Kassams: 6/28/04: a man and 4-year old child killed, 7 others wounded (including the

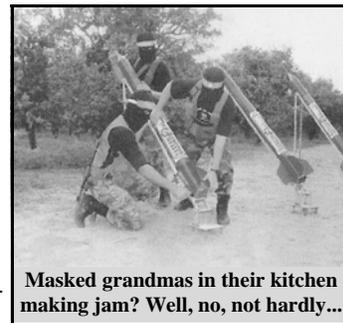


boy's mother); 1/21/05: two babies killed; 7/14/05: 22-year old girl killed; 9/24/05: 5 adults wounded, some with serious brain damage, blindness, paralysis;

2/3/06: a Kassam hits a home, 4 injured, including a 7 month-old baby; 3/28/06: **two Israeli Arabs shepherds killed**; 4/6/06: nine rockets fired, one hits a factory causing a fire.

There is more, much more. There are the wounded - handicapped and maimed for life. There are the children who are afraid to go to school, the rockets and alerts that go on without respite.

Vexed? Homemade? Isn't it time that our media told us that Kassam rockets are made



Masked grandmas in their kitchen making jam? Well, no, not hardly...

in industrial complexes or smuggled in across the porous Egypt-Gaza border? They are not as sophisticated as some other weapons but they are high tech enough to bring death to their tar-

gets and they are being improved all the time.

They are not cookies. They are not cute. And they are not made by lovable grannies. Ω

BABIES: THE SECRET WEAPON THAT ISN'T

By Bennett Zimmerman, Dr. Roberta Seid and Dr. Michael Wise, JTA, 5/4/2006

Arab Demographic Momentum has become part of the Israel lexicon. In this theory, population growth in the Arab sector will overwhelm the Jewish population as 'baby boom' generations give birth to an even greater number of children. Arab births will accelerate even if birth rates remain stable or drop slightly because such a large number of women will enter their childbearing years.

But the evidence is now in: demographic momentum exists -- but the momentum is occurring among Jews, not Arabs.



Jewish births grew rapidly, from 80,000 per year in 1995 to 96,000 in 2000 and to

over 103,000 in 2003. The demographic outlook for Jews has been improving because the Jewish total fertility rate (TFR), or the number of children a woman is likely to bear over her lifetime, has been rising. In 2005, it reached 2.7, the highest rate in any advanced industrial nation. While the ultra-Orthodox contributed to this rise, secular Israelis and the immigrants from the FSU also experienced increasing fertility. When *aliyah* and returning Israelis (averaging over 20,000 per year from 2001 to 2004), are added to the mix, the demographic weight of the Jewish sector grows even further.



In contrast, the absolute number of births in the Israel Arab sector grew from 36,500 births in 1995 to 40,800 in 2000 and has remained there ever since. In fact, after rising slightly to a record 41,400 births in 2003, the number of Israel Arabs births fell for the first time in 2004 to 40,800. The overall Israel Arab fertility figure (which includes Israel Moslem, Christian Arabs, and Druze)



declined from 4.4 in 2000 to 4.0 in 2004. Israel recently enacted policies that are impacting the highest fertility sectors of the Israel Arab population. In 2004, the government stopped granting stipends for every child born to a family, restricting them to only the first two children born. There was an immediate drop in Bedouin pregnancies.

The problem with demographic predic-

tions is that they apply yesterday's or today's fertility rates to tomorrow's forecast. However, earlier childbearing patterns may have little relationship to the number of children the next generation will have. By applying the Muslim TFR rates from the 1960s (between 9-10 births per woman) to forecasts, Israeli demographers had projected that Israeli Arabs would overtake Israeli Jews by 1990. When the TFR dropped to 5.4 in the early 1980s and 4.7 in the second half of the decade, demographers applied this rate to their next series of forecasts. However, by 2005, the Arab TFR had dropped even further, to 4.0, echoing the more dramatic



drops reported throughout the Middle East where most nations display fertility levels near 3 births per woman while countries such as Iran have displayed fertility below 2 births per woman. Furthermore, Israel Arab women currently in

their 20s will not necessarily repeat the same childbearing characteristics of today's 30 year olds. Thus, Israeli Arab women who are having fewer children in their late teens and 20s might have fewer children in their 30s than today's 30 year olds who still display fertility characteristics of earlier generations. In contrast, Israeli Jewish women in their 20s might carry their choice to have more children into their 30s, at numbers above the current set of 30 year olds.

The practice of applying yesterday's activity to tomorrow's fore-



cast is a common mistake. The UN Population Division had confidently predicted in 2000 that the world's population would balloon to 12 billion people by 2050. Remarkably enough, four years later, they dramatically revised the forecast and now

predict that today's 6.3 billion global population will plateau at 9 billion persons by 2050.

With constantly changing birth patterns, what is a forecaster to do? To have any relevance a forecast must constantly be updated with the most current information and any changes in trend. The Gallup organization recently published the results of a survey which showed a convergence in desired family size among Jews and Arabs west of the Jordan. The ideal family size has fallen to 5.1 for Arabs in Gaza and 4.5 in the West Bank. The desired family size among Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs is now identical at 3.7. While Gallup found no difference in the preferred number of children by younger Israelis, younger West Bankers aged 15 - 19 believe an ideal family should have 4.1 children versus their older



relatives over 50 years who believe the ideal family has 5.0 children. The convergence in desired birth activity among Israeli Jews, Israeli Arabs, and particularly among younger West Bankers is likely to further impact the future demographic outlook for Israel and the West Bank, where Jews now form a two-thirds majority. Demographers had concentrated on past patterns in the Arab population while they were blind sighted to evidence of a slowdown in the Arab sector and the demographic revolution already being measured among Jews. By focusing on the past, forecasters anticipated demographic momentum in the wrong sector and produced an outlook that couldn't even get the present correct, let alone the future.

Bennett Zimmerman, Roberta Seid, and Michael L. Wise are authors of Arab Population in the West Bank and Gaza: The Million Person Gap, recently published by the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies in Israel. Forecast for Israel and West Bank 2025 debuted at the Herzliya Policy Conference in Israel and in the USA at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington. The studies can be found at www.pademographics.com

Climate of Fear

Richard Lintzen, Sloan Professor of Atmospheric Science, MIT.

There have been repeated claims that this past year's hurricane activity was another sign of human-induced climate change. Everything from the heat wave in Paris to heavy snows in Buffalo has been blamed on people burning gasoline to fuel their cars, and coal and natural gas to heat, cool and electrify their homes. Yet how can a barely discernible, one-degree increase in the recorded global mean temperature since the late 19th century possibly gain public acceptance as the source of recent weather catastrophes? And how can it translate into unlikely claims about future catastrophes?

The answer has much to do with misunderstanding the science of climate, plus a willingness to debase climate science into a triangle of alarmism. Ambiguous scientific statements about climate are hyped by those with a vested interest in alarm, thus raising the political stakes for policy makers who provide funds for more science research to feed more alarm to increase the political stakes. After all, who puts money into science--whether for AIDS, or space, or climate--where there is nothing really alarming? Indeed, the success of climate alarmism can be counted in the increased federal spending on climate research from a few hundred million dollars pre-1990 to \$1.7 billion today. It can also be seen in heightened spending on solar, wind, hydrogen, ethanol and clean coal technologies, as well as on other energy-investment decisions.

But there is a more sinister side to this feeding frenzy. Scientists who dissent from the alarmism have seen their grant funds disappear, their work derided, and themselves libeled as industry stooges, scientific hacks or worse. Consequently, lies about climate change gain credence even when they fly in the face of the science that supposedly is their basis.

To understand the misconceptions perpetuated about climate science and the climate of intimidation, one needs to grasp some of the complex underlying scientific issues. First, let's start where there is agreement. The public, press and policy makers have been repeatedly told that three claims have widespread scientific support: Global temperature has risen about a degree since the late 19th century; levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere have increased by about 30% over the same period; and CO₂ should contribute to future warming. These claims are true. However, what the public fails to grasp is that the claims neither constitute support for alarm nor establish man's responsibility for the small amount of warming that has occurred. In fact, those who make the most outlandish claims of alarm are actually

demonstrating skepticism of the very science they say supports them. It isn't just that the alarmists are trumpeting model results that we know must be wrong. It is that they are trumpeting catastrophes that couldn't happen even if the models were right as justifying costly policies to try to prevent global warming.



If the models are correct, global warming reduces the temperature differences between the poles and the equator. When you have less difference in temperature, you have less excitation of extratropical storms, not more. And, in fact, model runs support this conclusion. Alarmists

have drawn some support for increased claims of tropical storminess from a casual claim by Sir John Houghton of the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that a warmer world would have more evaporation, with latent heat providing more energy for disturbances. The problem with this is that the ability of evaporation to drive tropical storms relies not only on temperature but humidity as well, and calls for drier, less humid air. Claims for starkly higher temperatures are based upon there being more humidity, not less--hardly a case for more storminess with global warming.

So how is it that we don't have more scientists speaking up about this junk science? It's my belief that many scientists have been cowed not merely by money but by fear. An example: Earlier this year, Texas Rep. Joe Barton issued letters to paleoclimatologist Michael Mann and some of his co-authors seeking the details behind a taxpayer-funded analysis that claimed the 1990s were likely the warmest decade and 1998 the warmest year in the last millennium. Mr. Barton's concern was based on the fact that the IPCC had singled out Mr. Mann's work as a means to encourage policy makers to take action. And they did so before his work could be replicated and tested--a task made difficult because Mr. Mann, a key IPCC author, had refused to release the details for analysis. The scien-

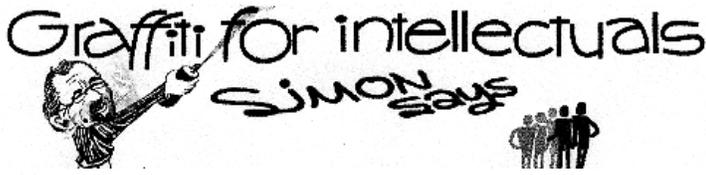
tific community's defense of Mr. Mann was, nonetheless, immediate and harsh. The president of the National Academy of Sciences--as well as the American Meteorological Society and the American Geophysical Union--formally protested, saying that Rep. Barton's singling out of a scientist's work smacked of intimidation.

All of which starkly contrasts to the silence of the scientific community when anti-alarmists were in the crosshairs of then-Sen. Al Gore. In 1992, he ran two congressional hearings during which he tried to bully dissenting scientists, including myself, into changing our views and supporting his climate alarmism. Nor did the scientific community complain when Mr. Gore, as vice president, tried to enlist Ted Koppel in a witch hunt to discredit anti-alarmist scientists--a request that Mr. Koppel deemed publicly inappropriate. And they were mum when subsequent articles and books by Ross Gelbspan libelously labeled scientists who differed with Mr. Gore as stooges of the fossil-fuel industry.

Sadly, this is only the tip of a non-melting iceberg. In Europe, Henk Tennekes was dismissed as research director of the Royal Dutch Meteorological Society after questioning the scientific underpinnings of global warming. Aksel Winn-Nielsen, former director of the U.N.'s World Meteorological Organization, was tarred by Bert Bolin, first head of the IPCC, as a tool of the coal industry for questioning climate alarmism. Respected Italian professors Alfonso Sutera and Antonio Speranza disappeared from the debate in 1991, apparently losing climate-research funding for raising questions.

And then there are the peculiar standards in place in scientific journals for articles submitted by those who raise questions about accepted climate wisdom. At *Science* and *Nature*, such papers are commonly refused without review as being without interest. However, even when such papers are published, standards shift. When I, with some colleagues at NASA, attempted to determine how clouds behave under varying temperatures, we discovered what we called an "Iris Effect," wherein upper-level cirrus clouds contracted with increased temperature, providing a very strong negative climate feedback sufficient

(PLEASE SEE "HURRICANES" P.4)



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Michael Berg and the twisted values of the Greens and pacifism
 Dennis Prager, June 1, 2006

But the attention paid to Michael Berg has been very helpful in enabling many more people to understand the thinking and values of the Green Party -- and those on the left sympathetic to the Greens -- and of pacifism. Thinking and values that are, in a word, twisted.

Michael Berg is a Green Party candidate for Congress from the state of Delaware and a pacifist. According to The Associated Press and many other reports, Berg believes George W. Bush is more evil than Zarqawi. Berg said that the blame for most deaths in Iraq should be placed on President Bush, who he said is "more of a terrorist than Zarqawi."

Here is one example: "Zarqawi felt my son's breath on his hand as held the knife against his throat. Zarqawi had to look in his eyes when he did it. George Bush sits there glassy-eyed in his office with pieces of paper and condemns people to death. That to me is a real terrorist."

When asked on CNN about his reaction to the death of Zarqawi, he responded: "Well, my reaction is I'm sorry whenever any human being dies. Zarqawi is a human being." The incredulous CNN interviewer, Soledad O'Brien, then asked Berg, "At some point, one would think, is there a moment when you say, 'I'm glad he's dead, the man who killed my son?'" Berg responded: "No. How can a human being be glad that another human being is dead?"

Thanks to such views, Berg has been nominated by the Green Party to be its candidate for Congress for the lone congressional seat in Delaware.

If the fact that a man who regards his son's butcher as a better man than the American president is rewarded with a party's nomi-

nation to Congress does not tell you all you need to know about the morally twisted world of the Greens, nothing will. It was, I believe, David Horowitz who first pointed out that with the death of communism, those who held communist views will morph from Reds to Greens -- "watermelons," he called them: green on the outside, red on the inside. Why worshippers of nature lose their moral bearings is a question for another column.

Thanks to Michael Berg, the country also better knows the warped moral universe of pacifists. Pacifists are often personally sweet and endearing people who advocate "peace," and therefore their doctrine is usually spared the moral contempt it merits. Among its many moral and intellectual weaknesses, pacifism ensures that cruelty will prevail on earth. When asked by talk show host Michael Medved if he, Berg, would have killed Zarqawi as the terrorist was about to cut his son's throat, Berg said he would instead throw his body in front of the knife -- thereby ensuring, as Medved noted, that two innocent people would be murdered.

That is the consequence of pacifism -- far more cruelty and death. But the spread of evil apparently means little to pacifists. There must be some joy in feeling oneself so morally superior to those who believe that killing is sometimes morally necessary that even the ritual murder of one's son does not shake the pacifist's fanaticism.

The more Michael Berg speaks -- using

the murder of his son, a Bush supporter and supporter of the war in Iraq, to publicize his views -- the better it is. Because every time Michael Berg speaks, he shines a needed light on the moral darkness of the Greens and of pacifism. ☐

"HURRICANES" FROM P. 3

to greatly reduce the response to increasing CO2. Normally, criticism of papers appears in the form of letters to the journal to which the original authors can respond immediately. However, in this case (and others) a flurry of hastily prepared papers appeared, claiming errors in our study, with our responses delayed months and longer. The delay permitted our paper to be commonly referred to as "discredited." Indeed, there is a strange reluctance to actually find out how climate really behaves. In 2003, when the draft of the U.S. National Climate Plan urged a high priority for improving our knowledge of climate sensitivity, the National Research Council instead urged support to look at the impacts of the warming--not whether it would actually happen.

Alarm rather than genuine scientific curiosity, it appears, is essential to maintaining funding. And only the most senior scientists today can stand up against this alarmist gale, and defy the iron triangle of climate scientists, advocates and policy-makers.

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