



By Si Frumkin

don't usually write about statistics because they usually are boring. This column is an exception. It is all about statistics I got from an article in the N.Y. Times and just had to share them with you with some personal commentary. The article was based on police data of murders that took place in New York over the last three years and they are far from boring - in fact, they are probably relevant to anyone who lives in a large American city and some of them are surprising enough to provoke the, "Really? Are you sure? I didn't know that!" reaction.

Here is an example of the latter: women are more than twice as likely to murder a husband or current lover than men, but once the romance has cooled, men are the only ones who murder their exes. And, by the



way, males overwhelmingly use guns while women are divided 50/50 between guns and knives.

The favorite murder day is Saturday. Most homicides take

place outdoors and the favorite time is 1 to 2 a.m. The oldest killer was 88; he murdered his wife. The youngest was 9; she stabbed her friend. The oldest victim was 91; she died during a robbery.

There were 1662 murders in New York during the last 3 years with 520 of them in 2005; the lowest yearly number since the early 1960s. About 70% of the murders are closed out annually - the national rate is about 62%.

Men and boys are responsible for 93% of the murders; they use guns about 2/3 of the times and most of their victims are also male and the killer and the

victim know one another. If you stop and think about it - just measly 7% of the murderers are women! Should the feminists demand equality? Is this yet more proof of inequality and oppression of women? Or are women somehow different from men? Heresy!

Children represent a small but heartbreaking percentage of the victims. Twentyone infants and thirty-two children aged 1 to 10 were murdered, most by their parents.

In 7 out of 10 killings the victim and the murderer were of the same race and 90% of the killers had criminal records, as did about 50% of the victims. I suggest that this is

something to keep in mind when we read about the 150,000 criminals that were recently released by the Los Angeles County sheriff after serving 10% of their sentence for lack of prison space and who have already committed 16,000 serious crimes, including 16 murders.

In a nod to political correctness, the N.Y. Times hides this interesting statistic in one of the last paragraphs, mixed in with material that has no relevance to it: whites and Asians seldom murder and are seldom murdered. They represent 75 or fewer victims each year. The Times arbitrarily creates a novel Asian/white category, does not say how many Asians and whites are murderers (I'd guess not many) or how many murderers are white or Asian. Even if we should assume that there are as many Asian and white murderers as victims and deduct 75 from the 2005 total of 540, we are left with about 465 that just had to be black, Latino or maybe Pacific Islanders, Native Americans or extra-terrestrials. But I suppose that it would be too racist for the Times to admit

While the majority of murders are committed by people who know one another, the "stranger" murders have greatly increased.

Whites and Asians seldom murder and are seldom murderers—just 75 or fewer victims a year! The Times lumps Asians and whites into one selfinvented category and doesn't say how many are murderers!

> Fifty years ago, strangers committed 14% of murders - today this rate is close to 25%!

Most of the "stranger" murders are the result of an unplanned dispute. A man was murdered after offering a ride to a group of stranded people; a serial killer murdered, but didn't rob, four shopkeepers whom he thought to be Middle Easterners; a customer stabbed to death a KFC cashier after

complaining about being given too small a portion of wedged potatoes.

Both the police and criminologists agree that the risk of being murdered is slight for an average city dweller.

"If the average New Yorker is concerned about being murdered in a random crime, the odds of that happening are really remote," said Michael J. Farrell, NYPD Deputy Commissioner. "If you are living apart from a life of crime, your risk is negligible."

Andrew Karmen, professor of sociology at John Jay College agrees. "Victims and offenders are pulled from the same back-

ground. Very often young victims have young killers.



Professor

Karmen's views on causes of murders are somewhat more controversial.

"The problem of crime and violence is rooted in neighborhood conditions - high rates or poverty, family disruption, failing schools, lack of recreational opportunities, active recruitment by street gangs, drug markets. People who are forced to reside under those conditions are at a greater risk of getting caught up in violence, as victims or as perpetrators," Karmen says.

I do not agree with the professor's analysis that blames an evil - or at least indifferent - society, disregards personal responsibility by the "people who are forced to reside under those conditions" and equates victims and perpetrators. The NYPD Deputy Commissioner is somewhat more diplomatic in his disagreement: "Crime is concentrated," Mr. Farrell said. "Who knows why? We're looking at what we can affect." ¥

# Mike Wallace's Middle East Problem

By Kate Nareef, 5/25/06

As Mike Wallace nears retirement, virtually all the retrospectives so far on his 43-year career at CBS News recall his reputation for tough interviews and the ability to get the story. The reputation may be deserved, in general, but at least one subject has tripped up the "60 Minutes" veteran continually over the years — Israel.

The aggressive questioner in Wallace was not in evidence when he interviewed Yasir Arafat in 1989. As *Near East Report* observed, Wallace accepted Arafat's responses largely without question. He asked if Arafat had renounced "military operations" inside Israel. Arafat's response

was, "Any people who are facing occupation or oppression have the right to use all methods." Wallace did not probe with a follow-up question.

He also didn't question Arafat's claim that he was going to punish the terrorist then thought responsible (the leader of the Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command) for the Pan Am 103 bombing in which 270 people were killed. This even though Arafat wasn't known for punishing terrorists. (Later the perpetrators were identified as Libyans.)

The late David Bar-Illan, then editorials editor at *The Jerusalem Post*, suggested that Wallace "acted like a public-relations agent for Arafat" in the 1989 interview

In a 1987 story on Soviet Jews, including refuseniks, invited to immigrate to Israel, Wallace concluded that "one and a half million Soviets identified as Jews apparently live more or less satisfying lives." Wallace acknowledged that Russia had a history of harboring antisemitism, but then said that anti-Jewish activities were against the law, without mentioning that the law was frequently broken — often by the government.

After talking with refusenik mathematician Victor Brailovsky, whose family had been trying to emigrate to Israel for 15 years, Wallace said, "If it is just Jewish culture the Brailovsky family seeks, they could go to the Jewish Autonomous Region." This region in Siberia, Birobidzhan, was Stalin's solution for the Zionist challenge of Jews wanting to move to Palestine and was never popular in the Russian Jewish community. In 1987, the year Wallace filed his story, only 12,000 of the 200,000 residents of Birobidzhan were Jewish.

As Bar-Illan noted, in Birobidzhan "there are no Jewish schools and no study of Hebrew, and ... Jews are incessantly

pressured to disappear as an ethnic group ..."

While Brailovsky was the only refusenik shown in the broadcast, Wallace did interview Samuel Zivs and Mikhal Milschstein, described by Bar-Illan as "the most notorious 'court Jews' in the USSR ... despised

> by all selfrespecting Jews and representing solely the authorities."

In 1992, Wallace did another story that touched on Russian Jews, but this time those who had immigrated to Israel. Wallace interviewed an Israeli street sweeper who had been a doctor in Russia. and an

electrical engineer in an unemployment office who said that some ex-Soviet Jews had expected more from Israel. Wallace didn't mention the challenges Russians who emigrated to the United States at the same time were having finding jobs, or the fact that more than 400,000 Jews from former Soviet states had emigrated to Israel in the previous three years. Apparently

they weren't as satisfied with their lives under Kremlin control as Wallace reported three years before.

Wallace also suggested that American taxpayers were going to pay for a \$10 billion loan guarantee to Israel. Congress was considering the guarantee for loans

Israel sought to help fund immigration absorption. In reality, the U.S. guarantee would have been provided only if Israel defaulted on its loans, which it had never done.

In addition, Wallace indicated that the money was going to be used to help annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This did not happen, but even at the time Israel had pledged to the United States that it wouldn't spend the loans in the territories, and the Israeli government had never called for

annexation.

In a 1988 segment on "60 Minutes" — 18 years before publication of the almost instantly discredited essay "The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy," by John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt — Wallace advanced essentially the same theme. His report seemed to be an attempt to discredit pro-Israel activists in the United States — especially the American Israel Public Affairs Committee — and undermine U.S. support for Israeli aid. Wallace, in Bar-Illan's words, "portrayed the 'Jewish lobby' as an insidious, all-powerful, multiheaded Washington Svengali manipulating the U.S. Congress and administration."

Wallace said a CBS poll found that 72 percent of Americans thought the United States should not give Israel "more aid that it gives any other country." That wording was loaded, but a poll taken by the Los Angeles Times close to the airing of Wallace's report found that 55 percent of Americans favored the present level of U. S. aid to Israel or an increase.

Near East Report noted that after this segment aired, three congressman spoke the next day to contradict it. Sen. Al Gore Jr. (D-Tenn.) and Rep. Jack Kemp (R-NY) both emphasized the importance of a strong U.S.-Israeli alliance. Sen. Arlen

Specter (R-PA) cited a study asserting that it would cost the United States \$45 billion more in defense spending to protect U.S. interests in the Middle East without Israel or absent U.S. aid to Israel.

In late 1990, Wallace reported on Arab riots on the Temple Mount, in which several thousand people stoned Jewish worshipers at the Western Wall before beleaguered Israeli police shot some rioters in re-

gaining control. He based his report almost exclusively on Palestinian sources, choosing Palestine Liberation Organization mouthpiece Daoud Kuttab as main production consultant, ignored key Israeli sources, took then-Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek's comments out of context, and spliced in a pre-riot tape of then-Foreign Ministry spokesman Benjamin Netanyahu rather than tape a post-riot interview. Essentially, Wallace's report re

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### THE PERENNIAL CLIMATE ALARMISM

By Dave Kopel, Rocky Mountain News, June 3, 2006

IF YOU LIKE GLACIERS, YOU'LL ENJOY ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. THAT ANY GLACIERS EXIST there in 2006 might have surprised readers of the Nov. 7, 1937, Rocky Mountain News. According to the 1937 News, scientific measurement of the glaciers in Rocky Mountain National Park showed that "these sheets of 'eternal' ice, within a few short decades, may be 'eternally gone."

The News pointed to climate graphs showing that "winters are not what they used to be in the Never Summer Range." Thus, the glaciers were "inexorably retreating to extinction."



"Can it be possible that the Earth is undergoing a slow, but steady climactic change?" asked another Denver paper. The article pointed out that the "The winters are becoming colder, and the summers drier and hotter." 'The changes were taking place "all over the continent", while "In Europe we hear of climatic changes as strange as they are unaccountable." The newspaper was the *Denver Tribune*, and the year was 1874.

As the *Tribune* noted, climate change is nothing new. As the *News* demonstrated, neither are alarmist, inaccurate media predictions about climate. The Business and Media Institute, a branch of the right-wing Media Research Center, recently published *Fire and Ice*, a study detailing the national media's terrible record of climate hysteria over the last century.

For example, *The New York Times* in 1895 predicted widespread global cooling. In 1924, the paper reported "Signs of New Ice Age." But in 1933, 1952, 1959, and 1969, the *Times* declared global warming. Then in 1974 and 1975, the *Times* decided that the new ice age was coming, with catastrophic consequences: "the facts of the present climate change are such that the most optimistic experts would assign near certainty to major crop failure in a decade" leading to "mass deaths by starvation and probably in anarchy and violence."

The Washington Post announced a "New Ice Age" in 1970, and, in 1974, Fortune agreed, touting a scientist who predicted that a billion people would die from

starvation caused by global cooling. *Time* magazine declared global warming in 1939, global cooling in 1974, and currently believes in global warming. Although it's very difficult to predict the weather very far in advance, the historical record shows that it's hard to go wrong by discounting the alarmism of journalists warning about extreme climate change.

As Paul Campos noted in last Tuesday's News, former Vice President Al Gore claims that scientific skeptics of global warming are merely being paid off by big oil companies. But in fact, Colorado's most prominent skeptic is Colorado State University professor of atmospheric science William Gray, who has directly harmed his own financial interests by speaking out.

As detailed in a major profile in *The Washington Post*, Gray has lost most of his government grants because of his relentless presentation of evidence in support of his view that man-made global warming is a hoax. While the Boulder *Daily Camera* reprinted the story of Colorado's controversial scientist, *The Denver Post* - which has ac-

cess to Washington Post articles - did not.

The News and The Denver Post do recognize Gray as an expert on atmospheric science, and have published dozens and dozens stories citing his

hurricane forecasts and analysis, including stories this Thursday. They have quoted Gray's accurate prediction in the late 1990s that decades-long lull in hurricane activity on the Atlantic Coast was coming to an end, and his spring 2005 predictions for very intense hurricanes in the summer; such stories often quote other scientists affirming Gray's pre-eminence in the study of atmospheric science. Yet in the *News* and *Post* combined, one can find only a few paragraphs even mentioning Gray's analysis of global warming.

The News and Post have published hundreds of stories, many of them locally written, about global warming. Many of these stories exaggerate the degree of scientific certainty regarding global warming issues. Yet by little noting the evidence pre-

sented of eminent experts such as William Gray, the papers are presenting a skewed and misleading perspective on the scientific data

Among the many other global warming skeptics whose ... views are rarely presented by journalists who claim to speak on behalf of "scientists" are Sallie Baliunas (Harvard, astrophysics); Robert C. Balling Jr. (Arizona State, director of the Office of Climatology); Richard Lindzen (MIT, meteorology); Patrick J. Michaels (Cato Institute, past president of the American Association of State Climatologists); Frederick Seitz (Rockefeller University, past president of the National Academy of Sciences).

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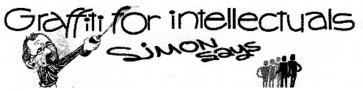
versed the order of events, making it appear that the stone-throwing riot followed the police shooting rather than led to it.

In a number of other segments, Wallace's portrayal of Israel was similarly skewed. In 1982, "60 Minutes" aired a segment that featured an Israeli who had only lived in the country for three years, speaking out against his new land, but cut the interviews Wallace had done with Israel's deputy foreign minister and the former ambassador to the United States. In 1975 and 1984, Wallace filed reports on Syria that minimized the oppression of Syrian Jews and obscured the dictatorial nature of Hafez al-Assad's regime.

Mike Wallace may be missed by some CBS viewers, but not his reporting on Israel and other related subjects.

(Based on material compiled by *Near East Report* and "60 Minutes & the Temple Mount " (including exchanges with Mike Wallace & CBS, by David Bar-Illan, *Commentary*, February, 1991.)





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## THE WHITE HOUSE RESPONDS

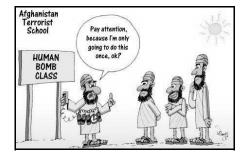
(A JOKE? A PARODY? RIDICULOUS? LET'S HOPE SO...)

A very nice compassionate liberal lady wrote a lot of letters to the White House complaining about the treatment of a captive insurgent being held in Guantanamo Bay. Here is the reply she received:

The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Concerned Citizen,

Thank you for your recent letter roundly



criticizing our treatment of the Taliban and Al Quaida detainees currently being held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Our administration takes these matters seriously and your opinion was heard loud and clear here in Washington.

You'll be pleased to learn that, thanks to the concerns of citizens like yourself, we are creating a new division of the Terrorist Retraining Program, to be called the "Liberals Accept Responsibility for Killers" program, or LARK for short. In accordance with the guidelines of this new program, we have decided to place one terrorist under your personal care. Your personal detainee has been selected and scheduled for transportation under heavily armed guard to your residence next Monday. Ali Mohammed Ahmed bin Mahmud (you mon household products, so you may wish to can just call him Ahmed) is to be cared for pursuant to the standards you personally demanded in your letter of complaint. It will likely be necessary for you to hire some assistant caretakers.

We will conduct weekly inspections to ensure that your standards of care for Ahmed are commensurate with those you so strongly



recommended in your letter. Although Ahmed is a sociopath and extremely violent, we hope that your sensitivity to what you described as his "attitudinal problem" will help him overcome these character flaws.

Perhaps you are correct in describing these problems as mere cultural differ-

ences. We understand that you plan to offer counseling and home schooling. Your adopted terrorist is extremely proficient in hand-to-hand combat and can extinguish human life with such simple items as a pencil or nail clippers. We advise that you do not ask him to demonstrate these skills at your next yoga group. He is also expert at making a wide variety of explosive devices from com-

keep those items locked up, unless (in your opinion) this might offend him.

Ahmed will not wish to interact with you or your daughters (except sexually), since he views females as a subhuman form of property. This is a particularly sensitive subject for him and he has been known to show violent tendencies around women who fail to comply with the new dress code that he will recommend as more appropriate attire. I'm sure you will come to enjoy the anonymity offered by the burka -- over time.

Just remember that it is all part of "respecting his culture and his religious beliefs" -- wasn't that how you put it?

Thanks again for your letter. We truly appreciate it when folks like you keep us informed of the



proper way to do our job. You take good care of Ahmed - and remember. we'll be watching.

Good luck! Cordially, your friend,

Don Rumsfeld