



YEMEN TIMES

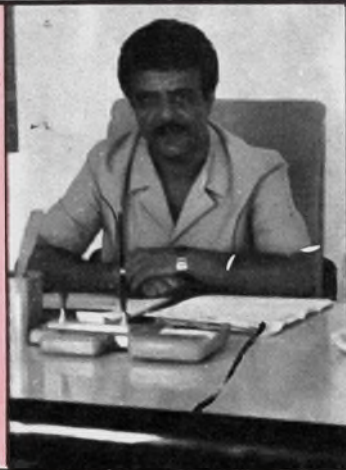


YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE WEEKLY

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OUR VIEWPOINT

YEMEN'S INTELLECTUALS

In this edition, we have the soul-searching analysis and in-depth thoughts of two prominent Yemeni intellectuals - Dr. Abubakar Abdul-Rahman Al-Saqqaf and Dr. Amatalrauf H. Al-Mashriki. By any standard, neither is a mainstream thinker; yet, by all standards, each one reflects, in his/her own way, the true Yemeni spirit. The two are outsiders to the system in the sense that neither has occupied any senior executive position with the government. The irony is that each of them has an impact on society more than any minister you can name. The two are profound readers, and frequent writers. Each feels there is a message that needs to be delivered, and that he/she is the messenger. Dr. Al-Saqqaf is a populist, a man who has deep feelings of sympathy for the down-trodden in society. Dr. Al-Mashriki is an activist, a woman with strong positions on female rights.

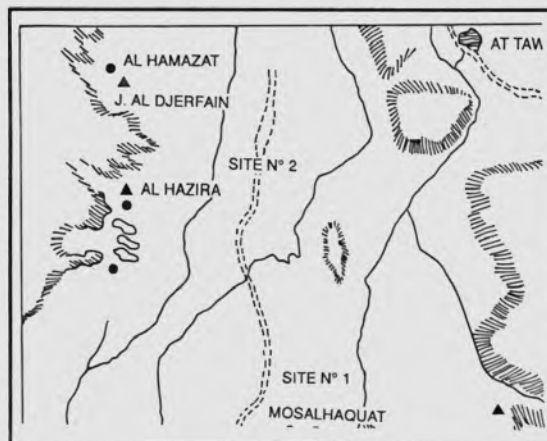
It is persons like these that enrich the intellectual life of Yemen and expand its philosophical and moral underpinnings. Whether we agree or disagree with them is not the point; the point is that these are among the few Yemenis who have thoughtfully worked out their roles in life, they know what they want and they know where they are headed.

I hope you read the two pieces and enjoy yourselves while doing so.

The Publisher

WAS THE FIRST MAN YEMENI?

New discoveries of ancient relics in remote cave dwellings have added a new theory to the old theories regarding the origins of human beings. According to a new school of prehistorians taking refuge in Paris I (the Sorbonne), there is a possibility that the "first man" was Yemeni. Professor Michel Garcia, of the Anthropology Department in the Museum of Man in Paris, the new revelations cast a new dimension to the possibilities. Quoting him and other scholars, Ms. Madiha Mohammed Rachad, a PhD candidate researching the rock art (Rupestrine) and fossil remains in the northern province of Saadah, "There is no reason why the first man is not Yemeni!"



Striking discoveries have been made at Jabal Al-Makhroug, 6 kms. east of Saadah, in addition to other discoveries at other sites, notably Al-Musalhaquat, 2 kms. north of Saadah, and Wadi Robia, 7 kms. north of Saadah. The discoveries show the engravings and drawings of ancient man, his hunting tools (spears, rock grates, etc.), and the dwelling caves. These together constitute evidence to the existence of prehistoric life in Yemen. According to the charcoal (C14) testing results in France, the history goes back to seven thousand years ago.

Read details on p. 10.

GORBY IS GONE!

Early in the morning of Monday August 19, 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev lost his job. In a major twist in the modern of history of the Soviet Union, an Emergency Committee was set up to run the country because, as stated by the Committee's first declaration, Gorbachev's reforms have reached a dead end. The Committee also warned against any foreign interference in the Soviet internal affairs. The Committee applied emergency laws in certain parts of the Soviet Union. The whereabouts of Gorbachev, who was out of Moscow at the time, are still unknown. The military was summoned to take charge of the streets of Moscow and other major cities in the USSR.

The members of the Committee, which is led by Genadi Yenaief, Gorbachev's Deputy, include the Ministers of Defense, Interior, and Security (KGB), in addition to other officials.

Most world capitals were taken by surprise. The West, specially, expressed worry and dismay regarding the turn of events in the USSR. US President George Bush expressed anxiety regarding the overthrow of President Gorbachev. This action will probably put an end to the honeymoon between the West and USSR. It also threatens the New World Order being currently engineered by the USA and its allies.



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PERSONAL VIEW

MID-EAST PEACE:
AT WHAT PRICE?Abdullah Sallam Al-Hakimi
Thinker and Politician

If we accept that the ability to push forward any party's view points at negotiation tables is a reflection of their strength and power, then we have to wonder how much convincing the Arabs can do in the upcoming International Conference of the Middle East? The ability of the Arabs to push forward their view points in the face of Israeli counter positions is very humble, for the following reasons:

1) The whole of the Palestinian homeland, and territories of two Arab countries (Syria and Lebanon) have been under Israeli occupation for nearly a quarter of a century. During this time, Israel has been changing the demographic realities in an attempt to create a new identity. This was done through the construction of Jewish colonies (settlements), destroying Palestinian homes and farms, replacing Palestinians with 'imported' Jews, etc.

2) Inter-Arab relations at their lowest point. In fact, the Gulf Crisis has created two axis which are confronting each other. The crisis has depleted quite a bit of Arab resources, and has left behind a frustrated Arab people.

3) The dramatic changes in the world power division which has witnessed the fall of the Eastern bloc and the near-total hegemony of the West led by the USA. I hope the new developments in the USSR will balance out the situation. The new international order is definitely more sympathetic to Israel than to the Arabs.

4) The military balance is decidedly in favor of Israel. In fact, arms sales to the Arabs will come under strict scrutiny, thus sustaining the military imbalance.

Those are the basic inferences from the current situation which is the base for the upcoming negotiations. We are going to the negotiations empty-handed, and the other party will dictate its terms. What are we to do? Where are we headed? Peace is a noble quest, but with the absence of a minimum of fairness, justice and dignity, it becomes a major catastrophe.

YEMEN SUPPORTS
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
THE MIDDLE EAST

The Presidential Council held its periodic meeting on Sunday, August 18th, 1991 to discuss Yemen's position on the upcoming International Conference of the Middle East. The members of the Presidential Council held lengthy talks regarding the appropriate position to be taken on this matter. The final verdict was that Yemen supports the conference, but requests that it attend to the demands of all parties, particularly the Palestinian people. "It is imperative that the world community attend adequately to the aspirations and grievances of the Palestinian people, if a lasting peace is to be achieved" the Yemeni position dictated. It is worth mentioning that the Council's meeting comes with the background of the just-concluded visit to Sanaa by Palestinian President Mr. Yasser Arafat.

US Foreign Secretary James Baker had shuttled to the Middle East five times over the last few months to obtain the approval of the relevant parties to attend the conference. The main snag at this stage is the representation of the Palestinian people, as well as the status of Al-Qudse (eastern Jerusalem), which was annexed by Israel in 1967. The recent developments in the USSR may also add to the complications of the conference which is scheduled for October 1991.

Israel, in any case, had continued to object to the participation of the PLO or Palestinians who are sympathetic to the PLO, it objected to discussing the question of Al-Qudse's status, and even the question of the Israeli colonies (settlements). Furthermore, it objects to the return of any Palestinian it had deported for whatever reason. With all those taboos, the conference would have definitely hit a snag early in the meetings.

Today, the likelihood of a conference has become a bit more remote due to the changes in the USSR. If the USSR reverts to take an independent position in world affairs, this will definitely make a change in the Arab position on this matter.

YEMEN AND HUNT OIL/EXXON
SIGN GAS STUDY AGREEMENT

On behalf of Yemen, Mr. Saleh A. Bin Hussainoon, Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, signed in Dallas, Texas, on Friday August 16th, a protocol according to which Hunt Oil and Exxon will provide the Yemeni government with a study on the possibilities for exploitation of the gas out of the Marib-Aljawf fields. A preliminary study presented to the Yemeni side by YHOC envisages the construction of a pipeline from the Safer to three alternative destinations around Sanaa. The study is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

MINISTER OF DEFENSE SIGNS
ORDER CALLING NEW DRAFTEES

Colonel Haitham Qassim Taher, Minister of Defense, on 20/7/1991 issued ministerial decree No. 183 ordering all draftees to report to recruitment centers through-out the country during the period from 3/8 until 20/8/1991. It is worth mentioning all high school graduates for the year 1990/91, as well as earlier graduates with postponement, have to report for military service for two years.

MINERAL PRESENTATION DURING
21-16/10/1991 IN SANAA

The Yemen Times corrects the dates of the Mineral Open House Presentation that will take place at Sheraton Sanaa to be during 21-26/10/1991. The paper stands corrected in its last week report, and reconfirms the dates of the said presentation to be 21-26/10/1991.

THE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES
ELECT THEIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Upon the completion of the First National Congress of the agricultural cooperatives of Yemen, the participants elected the board of directors of the Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives, a new body established to coordinate the cooperation of the nearly two hundred agricultural cooperative of Yemen. The winners were:

- 1) Ali Mohammed Assuraimi, Chairman
- 2) Ahmed Obaid Bin Dagher, Vice Chairman
- 3) Ahmed Othman Mohammed, Second Vice Chairman (For External Relations),
- 4) Abdul-Rahman M. Al-Ulufi, Secretary General.

LUFTHANSA TO ADD ANOTHER
FRANKFURT-SANAA FLIGHT

YEMEN TIMES learnt that Lufthansa German Airlines will resume its second Frankfurt-Sanaa flight as from October 27th, 1991. The current schedule of Frankfurt-Sanaa (Wednesdays) and Sanaa-Frankfurt (Thursdays) will be supplemented by the second flight scheduled Frankfurt-Sanaa (Sundays) and Sanaa-Frankfurt (Mondays). According to Harald Bagehorn, Lufthansa Sales Manager in Yemen, the additional flight will coincide with the beginning of the German tourism season to Yemen. He expects a brisk business.

Dr. Abubakar Al-Saqqaf:

'We Need a Rational Critique of Our Heritage.'

Dr. Abubakar Abdul-Rahman Al-Saqqaf is probably Yemen's foremost philosopher and thinker. He is one of the first professors at Sanaa University. He did his studies in philosophy in Cairo and Moscow.



Q. Yemen, in particular, and the Arab World, in general, is today in a soul searching process for a philosophic base and underpinnings for its very existence. Some people would like us to go back to Islamic Fundamentals. Others want us to follow the modern western civilization. Still others vacillate between the various currents. How would you evaluate current Arab philosophy and where do we go from here?

A. You are asking a question on our very identity. I think this is a wrong way to go about the issue at hand. Many thinkers and planners have treated this issue in terms of a basic component of our heritage to which an adequate dose of modernity is added. In their approach, this amalgam yields what an Arab is today. I think it is better to put the whole issue in a cultural frame. The issue we face is one of genuinity which is my translation of 'asalah. When we use this word in Arabic, etymologically, it never means to go back to the origin. It simply means to be original. Many people confuse originality with going back to the origin. This has led many orators to call on Muslims to go back to the old days. What we need is to be creative and original in today's environment. We don't need to go back to anything. Whatever we need from our past is already in us. We are, after all, an accumulation of the past. But our lives have to be oriented towards the future, not the past. In that sense, the philosophic underpinnings of our present culture should, be necessity, be oriented to the current civilization rather than to a nostalgic hang-over of the past.

Q. You can't deny Arabs have a strong attachment with the past, and a longing for it. In some ways we live in a dream or rather hope, maybe because our present is so

frustrating. Do we need cultural renaissance?

A. Yes, most definitely and we need it urgently. We have tried to do this many times in the past hundred years, but each time the clergy pull us back. From the days of Mohammed Abdo and Rifa'at Attahtawi all the way through major writers such as Taha Husain and Al-Aqqad. The job was always left unfinished. The process at that time was put through the frame of "al-islam wa at-tajdeed" (reform and renewal). The process was always stopped by the traditional (religious) forces. I think this is the cause of all problems. We need a renaissance very badly. By this I mean a rational process of critique that will once and for all put an end to religious hegemony on our political life.

Q. We as Arabs have been often blamed for being too emotional. Are you addressing this aspect when you speak of a rational critique?

A. I think in spite of our rational heritage, we have yet to learn to approach issues with an objective methodology and an open mind. Let me give you examples. Most of us are self-righteous. Refer if you please, to the titles many of the platform in politics give themselves - "The Party of God", "The Party of the Truth", etc. It is as if some of us are an embodiment of the Truth while others are not. You cannot enter into a "give and take" with these people. The pretensions we put forth are amazing, and the worst part is that we end up believing in those pretensions. Under real scrutiny, these pretensions quickly give way to a visible vacuum. It is as if you let the air out of a balloon. This is true in political positions,

social relations, and cultural values. That is why our politicians start out with untenable demands, and end up accepting very humiliating positions. That is why the gap between what we preach and what we practise is so wide. That is why there two persons in every Arab individual - and often these two persons are contradictory to each other. We need to have a critical rational approach to these problems. We need to solve these problems in our culture. Evolution is good, but it is always defeated in our culture. We go one step forward, and then two steps backward. This is what the Islamic fundamentalists want us to do right now. Muslim thinking at some stage developed the concept of logical argument and proof - known to the burhan. The guides of our society (theologians and politicians) need to address our minds, not our hearts. We need of them to prove to us, not to ask us to simply believe them. When we adopt this approach, we can solve these problems. Otherwise we will be trapped in a deadly vicious circle.

Q. What exactly is your suggestion to get out of this situation?

A. We have to agree on the approach, which basically means an objective critique of our heritage. This has to be coupled with democracy, the essence of which is a dialogue of the minds. We have to fight the tendency that some of us represent Allah (God) and the others represent Sheitan (Sattan). We have to accept that there are many shades to truth. No one person can be an embodiment of the the whole Truth. The question is can we have a dialogue with one another? All of us as human beings have ideas which represent partial truths, because there is no

way we can grasp all aspects of everything. In our monotonous daily issues, there is no such thing as an absolute truth or value.

Q. What are the implications of this philosophy on politics?

A. As I have mentioned earlier, Islamic fundamentalism represents a real threat to our very survival. I mean some of the leaders of the Muslim fundamentalist groups really believe they are acting on behalf of God, and therefore those who stand in their way must represent the devil. This is a dangerous concept, specially if transformed into the political arena. Not only that, but some of the religious leaders believe they have been "chosen" to re-enact the experience of Prophet Muhammad. Therefore, they treat their society as if it erred and that it is the duty of these leaders to bring it back to the right path. I think this is the mentality of sick individuals who are able to attract a lot of followers from among the simple minded people. It is in this light that they talk of the "Al-Jahiliyyah Athaniyah" (the Second Darkness) and they refer to their role in the "Hakimiyyah" (God's deputies) sense. That is why Sayyid Qutb talks of himself as the first Muslim of this age (Prophet Muhammed was the first Muslim of his days). This phenomenon is repeated in Nigeria, Pakistan, Iran, Egypt, and more recently in Algeria and potentially with us here in Yemen. We need democratic values that will stop these self-righteous people.

Q. You talk about the need for democracy in Yemen. In your own mind, what kind of democracy is appropriate for us?

A. You can never invent the wheel twice. There is only one concept of democracy. I believe in democracy with liberalism. This should be applied in everything - culture, education, politics, and everyday life. We have to struggle for these values. The basic element in a democracy is pluralism based on the concept of "tolerance". Starting from Voltaire, we have learnt that tolerance

elevates human beings to a higher form of life.

Q. What is your own political inclinations?

A. I am a free lance marxist in the general sense. I am a dedicated nationalist and pan-Arabist. Starting from my school-days in Cairo. But when I say I am a Marxist, it is not in the Russian tradition. I believe in Marxism as a methodology and concept, which is badly mis-applied in the USSR experience. I believe in historical materialism not dialectic materialism. It is a historical approach. The models to what I am referring can be found in the days of Lenin in the USSR and today in Scandinavian socialism.

Q. Many questions come to my mind as you speak. First, does it not feel lonely to be a Marxist these days? Is your Marxism compatible with the free market system? Is it compatible with a multiparty political system?

A. Yes, yes, and yes. Yes, it is sort of lonely to call oneself a Marxist these days. Yes, the Marxism I have in mind is compatible with the free market system, at least in its early stages. Yes, the Marxism I have in mind is definitely compatible with a pluralist political system.

Q. What are your final thoughts on the political life of Yemen today?

A. I think there is something we are missing in Yemen today. Philosophy is such an important thing, so intangible, so out of reach unless you are able to read a lot and absorb a lot. We need a moral underpinning for our intellectual and political thoughts. We are growing out of an old system. We are moving into a new philosophy of which pan-Arab-Muslim heritage is a part thereof. But we need to understand Islam in an enlightened way. We need a democratic system and a secular state. When I say secular, I don't mean religionless. I mean a system in which the theologians and clergy don't dictate our political decisions. There must be a split between their role as religious leaders and their worldly desire to become political leaders.

Dr. Amatalrauf Al-Sharki:

"I had to change my name to be able to work!"

Dr. Amatalrauf H. Al-Sharki comes from a very conservative family. For the last seven hundred years, her family represented one of the major judicial and theological strongholds of Sanaa. How could a woman from such a traditional background turn out to be one of the most vocal proponents of women's rights? How could a little girl from such a conservative family rebel against traditions and join the labor force at an early stage of society's evolution? We went to find out. Here is the story.

Q: You joined the labor force in 1970 as a member of the radio broadcasting crew. How did you do it?

A: The Radio Station ran a competition for announcers at the Bilqis Girls' School. They were looking for someone to read poetry and children's stories. I was chosen to join in the children's programs. My family accepted this grudgingly. Then by accident, one of the regular announcers was absent one day, and they asked me to fill in. I did a good job, and they asked me to shift to this new line of duty. There was an uproar at home. I told my folks I turned the offer down. In the meanwhile, I took on the job under a pseudonym. My name was changed from Amatalrauf H. Al-Sharki to Raufah Hassan. Until today, most of my colleagues do not know my real name. Thus I was able to continue doing what I enjoyed to do. By the time my family discovered the trick, it was too late to do anything about it. My grandfather, through my mother, played a strong supportive role which I will never forget.

Q: And how did you get interested in the women's rights movement?

A: As a member of the radio crew, I began interacting with the needs and issues facing society. Soon I was assisting Ms. Huriyah Al-Muayyad, who is the founder of the Yemeni women's rights movement. We did many programs that related to the family and to women.

Q: Could you describe the development of the women's rights movement?

A: As I mentioned, Huriyah Al-Muayyad founded the first female rights movement in Yemen in 1969. Her vision and programs were very ambitious and progressive. It benefited from the revolutionary fervor that prevailed during that period. I remember in 1970 we marched, along with the men, in the only female military parade in the modern history of Sanaa. But, as conservatism returned to dominate the country, the movement came increasingly under fire. Although it agreed to be less vocal, by 1972 it was closed down. A year later, I was one of a group who re-established the movement under the name the "Society of Yemeni Women". Again, this was closed down by the authorities in 1975. We tried again. We were meeting mostly in the house of the late Mrs. Nadia Al-Ashwal and planned the re-opening of the Society. By 1976, we succeed-

ed. Until 1979, the society continued with its mission to seek a better environment for the women of Yemen, whether at home, at work, or at other sites. Since then, the religious groups suc-



ceeded in its mission achieving remarkable success. Since then, however, the conservative elements in society engineered and financed its take over, and more or less have taken charge of it since.

Q: What was the position of the government, intellectuals, clergy, and other circles vis-a-vis the evolution and struggle of the movement?

A: The first real government support came when President Ibrahim Al-Hamdi decided to grant us a monthly budgetary support of Y.R.5000 per month. That was a big help since the financial difficulties were the most pressing problems for us at the time. President Ahmed M. Al-Ghashmi doubled the allocation, and finally President Ali Abdullah Saleh donated to us the building in which the society is housed today. The intellectuals often gave us verbal support, nothing tangible. After all, they had their own battles to fight. The clergy were always, and continue to be against the full participation of women in public life.

Q: Did women make significant in-roads into political life?

A: We did make some in-roads, but I wonder whether they are significant. When the National Charter (Al-Mithaq Al-Watani) was being drafted some ten years ago, we approached many sectors and groups and told

them; "We will blindly support your position if you will support the insertion of one sentence in the charter." We asked them to add a sentence which reads: "Women are partners to me. They are entitled to whatever the men are entitled to, and they are subject to whatever the men are subjected to". We achieved this, which gave us an umbrella legal and intellectual platform on which to stand and demand further equality. Thus we achieved membership in the People's General Congress and in its Permanent Committee. But there have many setbacks. For example, three women decided to run for membership in the Majlis Ashura (Consultative Council, the forerunner of the current parliament). The clergy issued a fatwa (religious clarification) that women were forbidden from membership in the council. Two of the women withdrew their candidacy under socio-cultural pressure. The third refused, and the results of the elections for the district in which she ran were never declared. If they had allowed those women to run, today, they would have participated side by side with the female parliamentarians from the former PDRY.

Q: How do you assess the situation today?

A: I think there is a lot of work to be done. Let me give an example. It is known that over 75% of the labor force working on the farms is female. Yet, in this week's conference of agricultural cooperatives, how many women do you see? Men continue to patronize women and treat them as minors. The country is now trying to enact a law governing family (women) affairs. A draft was proposed for this purpose. You should read it. It sounds as if it came from the middle ages. We objected, we went to see the president. President Ali Abdullah Saleh graciously asked me to chair a team to re-draft the bill. We are almost finished with it. This will be turned over to the Ministry of Legal Affairs which is responsible for giving it final shape before it is presented to the government, and then to the parliament for enactment. I think we are gaining support. We find a splendid support in the Yemen Times, and you (Dr.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf) have personally been a great help all along. We will make it!

Q: You have just completed your PhD. Could you tell us about the thesis?

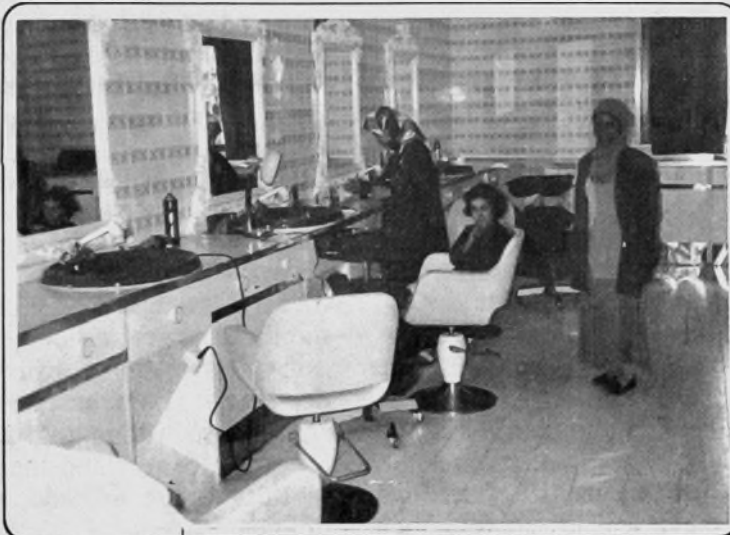
A: Gladly. I have chosen to document the impact of the media on the citizens. I chose three villages in Jabal Asharq (in Aanis) which has been receiving TV transmissions regularly, and three villages in Khabb (Al-Jawf) which receives no TV transmission due to geographic factors. In addition, I wanted to follow-up the evolution of the status of women. Let me say the results were bleak. TV has made the people of Jabal Asharq very apologetic in their dealings with the outsiders. They see on TV the amenities and facilities available to people, and they feel inferior for not having them. The more important discovery in this survey is that only one out of four children get to go to school. In 99% of the cases, it is a boy. Thus the prevailing ignorance and illiteracy among women is extended, at least, one more generation.

Q: You are one of a few modern female entrepreneurs. Could you tell us about it?

A: This, again, has to do with the development of the female sector. We women do not have any forum to bring us together. If we wanted to get together, it would always have to be in the home of one of us, and that places limitations. So, I decided to embark on this major female center - AL-SHARKIA FOR FASHION & COSMETICS Ltd. It has a library, modern and traditional sitting areas, a cafeteria, a boutique, a coiffeuse, a beauty and bridal preparation parlor. It is located in the Hadda Cinema building on Hadda Road. We have, at the moment, financial difficulties because it still does not have a sufficient market. But, the goal of creating an anchor point for aspiring women makes me continue with the project.

Q: What is the next step?

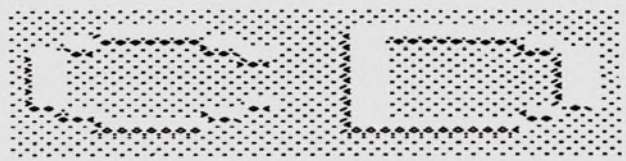
A: We are fortunate that our sisters from the former PDRY have experience and are more aggressive about women's rights. Together, we will push forward. We will need the sympathy and support of enlightened men.



May we
present our
latest
invention.



DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY



EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

SANA'A		Palestine	217306/348
Afghanistan	217691	Qatar	217488
Algeria	247755/56	Romania	215579
Bulgaria	217244	Saudia Arabia	240429/30
China	275337/40/41	Somalia	208864
Cuba	217304	Sudan	265231/2
Czechoslovakia	247946	Syria	247750
Djibouti	265469	Tunisia	240458/9
Egypt	275948/9	Turkey	241395
Ethiopia	208833	U.A.E	248777/78
France	275995	U.K.	215630/33
Germany	216756/757	U.S.A.	238842/52
Hungary	216679	U.S.S.R	78272/203142
India	241980	Vietnam	216998
Iran	206945/948		
Iraq	216681/790	ADEN	
Italy	73409/78849	Czechoslovakia	32101
Japan	207356/208753	China	32604/30
Jordan	216701	France	32129/090
Korea (Dem)	232340	Germany	32162/011
Korea(Rep)	245959/60	India	53000
Kuwait	216317/319	Iran	31893/361
Lebanon	203959	Italy	31848
Libya	208815/6	Japan	32081/33282
Mauritania	216770	Palestine	32717/340
Morocco	247964	Saudi Arabia	32760/32526
Netherlands	215626/7/8	Somalia	41421/101
Oman	208933/4	U.K.	32711/12/13
Pakistan	248813/14	U.S. S.R.	32729/32625



AIRLINES

Aeroflot	74930
Air France	272895/6
Alitalia	273655
Alyemda	240896
British Airways	272247
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272435
Gulf Air	272551/49/677
Iraqi Airways	240091/240909
KLM78093/76968/270879	
Kuwait Airways	272503/4
Lufthansa	272583/667/678
Pakistan Int'l	240909/091
Royal Jordanian	275314/275028
Sabena	205865
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Sudan Airways	272503/4/5
Syrian Arab	272543
Yemenia	
Hadda Office	204538/550
Zubeiry Office	260834/5
Abdul Moghni	274803/4
Shoab Office	250833
Head Office	232381-9
Airport	250868/831
Reservations	250800/1



HOTELS

Sana'a (02)	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372
Hadda	215214/5
Aden (0911)	
Movenpick	32947/32070
Gold Mohur	324171
Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239197
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Al Burj	75852
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Marib (063)	
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Aramex	208887
DHL	275355
Life Express	207885
Skypack	77310



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MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

In response to two articles published by the Yemen Times (One on the Land Transportation Corporation, issue No. 23; and the second an interview with Abdo Khalil Suleiman, issue No. 24), YEMEN TIMES was invited to two responses. The first from H.E. the Minister of Transportation, which is the piece below, and the second from Colonel Ali Ahmed Al-Wase'i, Chairman of the Land Transportation Board, which is the piece on the next page.

Mr. Saleh A. Muthana is the Transportation Minister of the Republic of Yemen. His CV shows a versatile career. Starting as a teacher, a teachers' union representative in Lahj, a party cadre, the director of the prime minister's office, first secretary in the former PDRY embassy in Czechoslovakia, and the Charge d'Affairs in Berlin, Vice Minister, then Ambassador in Britain and the Scandinavian countries, and finally Minister of Transportation and Communication. He holds an M.A. in Economics.

Q: On the Land Transportation Corporation. Why are the buses not on the road?

A: The main problem is the shortage of the tyres. The corporation had entered into a contract with a private importer called Ghanami. He has not fulfilled his end of the contract. This has created many complications and losses for the corporation. In my opinion, the importer is to be blamed and the case is with the courts.

Q: When you saw that the importer was failing you on his end of the deal, why did you not pursue other alternatives?

A: Of course, we did, although a little bit late. We now have purchased tyres from other sources and the buses will resume their services this week. The problem of foreign exchange placed limitations on us as to other alternatives.

Q: How about maintenance and renewal of the bus fleet itself? Any steps in this regard?

A: We are in the process of finalizing a loan agreement which will allow us to purchase forty new buses. With these we will expand our inter-city network and we will have a better service. In addition, we will purchase thirty new buses to provide public transportation in the large cities.

Q: Let us talk about another aspect of your responsibilities. What is the last word on the merger between YEMENIA and ALYEMDA, the two national airlines?

A: The merger will be completed early in September, and at any rate prior to the anniversary of the 26th September Revolution. We are now completing an evaluation of the assets of the two companies. Both companies are profitable. ALYEMDA's profits for 1990 were YR.130 million whereas YEMENIA's profits were YR.110 million.

Q: But the Saudis are partners in YEMENIA. What is their position?

A: I would like to tell you what our position is. We stretch out our hands seek-



ing their cooperation. The door is open for them to continue their partnership with us, of course with due consideration to the new circumstances. We will go ahead with the merger in any case, but even after the merger, our door remains open to their participation.

Q: What is in the pipeline regarding the Civil Aviation Authority?

A: Our main objective is to provide maintenance services to our existing investments in this field. Of course, we have some expansions necessitated by the overall development of the country. For example as per instructions from President Ali Abdullah Saleh and given the tourist potential, we are going to build airports at Socotra and Seiyoon. Also given the role of Aden as a free zone, major investments in its airport is being planned. In fact, a private company has proposed to construct a new international port at Aden. In return, it will collect fees for an agreed number of years. We welcome this and any other investments in transportation infrastructure by the private sector - local or foreign.

Q: Another sector under your responsibilities is the seaports. What is your evaluation of the needs of this sector?

A: There are many projects envisaged over the next few years. The Government of Britain has sponsored a study of the needs of Aden harbor. The Aden harbor, with its 24 hectares of docking/storage area and the three huge hangers, has the ability to receive vessels of upto 50,000 tons. In

any case, in a few weeks, we expect to receive the study, and accordingly start contact to seek financing of the needed investments.

We also envisage major expansions in the Mukalla harbor, specially in light of the oil developments in its hinterland and the potential needs of the oil companies. Although some US\$60 million have been invested in the Mukalla harbor, it is still unable to receive vessels with more than 10,000 tons capacity.

Q: In our interview with a major shipping agent, he complained that they are still unable to operate at Aden harbor?

A: Of course, due to the absence of the legal framework, it was difficult to embark on any major activities. But now, we have completed the by-laws and standing orders to cover this sector. Last week, we presented to the Cabinet three sets of regulations. The first set deals with the establishment of the national corporation for harbors and naval affairs; the second set deals with unification of the systems of shipping, stevedoring, etc. The last set deals with the fees and charges at Yemeni harbors. Now, even before these laws are formally approved, the shipping agents can apply to the Aden Harbor and they will receive all the cooperation they need.

Q: Aden harbor is still far from complete. It lacks most of the equipments necessary for it.

A: Yes, that is right. We have already invited bids, and in a week's time, the relevant committee will an-

nounce the winner of the contract to provide those equipments. We have allocated US\$10 million for this purpose.

Q: Is there any thought, however remote, to introduce railroad services in Yemen?

A: Of course you know the costs involved in such means of transportation, specially with our kind of terrain. However, it is in the back of our minds. We think that railroads can provide cheap transportation for goods and passengers, and they can provide the economy with a major boost. However, I have to say that whether we get into railroads or not will depend on the growth and pattern of the economy.

Q: As an economist, what is your assessment of our current conditions?

A: We have serious problems with ad hoc decisions which aim to meet urgent needs. I think we need a more comprehensive approach that is based on medium and long-term planning. One of the things we could immediately tackle is the issue of productivity and maximization of output per unit of input. For example, it is not healthy to have a large pool of our resources (e.g., manpower) tied in bureaucratic duties. In the rest of the world, bureaucratic overheads represent 18% of total output value, in Yemen, this it is totally reversed.

In general, I have to say that the lean years will be over in two-to-three years. In my opinion, we are out of the pits. From here on, it is an upward path.



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Col. Al-Wase'i Responds to the YEMEN TIMES Article

This is the second piece from a senior official responding to our article on the bus corporation (issue No. 23). Below, we reproduce the response we received from Colonel Ali Al-Wase'i, Chairman of the Land Transportation Authority, as well as his verbal comments.

by: Ali Al-Wase'i

The YEMEN TIMES mentioned that the basic in-fighting among officials of the Corporation for Land Transportation, Sanaa, was responsible for the failure of the corporation in carrying out its duties. We don't believe the in-fighting is a fundamental reason for our difficulties. Whatever difficulties we have, they are work-related. I think that differences exist among officials in all government and private companies and ministries. These are due to the efforts to arrive at the decisions which best serve the interest of the or-

ganization for which we are responsible. I think too much was made out of this issue. In my opinion, our corporation was the victim of a greedy importer who failed to live up to the contract he signed, and a bureaucratic maze in which the Supreme Purchase (Bidding) Committee determines which bidder will be awarded the purchase contracts of the corporation. We had advised against giving the contract to Al-Ghannami, but the committee did not follow our advice. We had to live with their decision, and this is the result of it. Over and above all of that, the scarcity in foreign exchange did not allow us to seek alternative sources for the tyres we needed so badly. Your newspaper mentioned that over-centralization of decisions is responsible for the low productivity level of the corporation. Your paper quoted inside sources in the corporation that the chairman directly decides

all matters in the corporation. I think you realize that there is a hierarchy of responsibilities. As chair-



man of the Board based on Republican Decree No. (17) of 1990, I am responsible to the Minister regarding the performance of all the seven land transportation corporations in Yemen. Therefore, I have to be on top of what is going on and perform supervisory duties on all the ac-

tivities of the corporations. The laws and regulations determine the jurisdiction of each post and position.

We know certain people circulate rumors in the corporation regarding this or that issue. It is sad that these employees do very little service to the corporation. You can also refer to the minutes of the Employees Committee, the Planning Committee, the Disciplinary

Council, etc., all of which are reported to the relevant ministries. These minutes indicate the decision making process in the corporation. We are used in our management to study the issues in depth and collectively, and avoid ad hoc decisions. The above represents our response to the points raised in your article. I personally regard what was published as an attempt to help the corporation get on with its duties and as part of the media's watch-dog responsibility in safeguarding the general interest. Yet, I hope the paper will scrutinize the facts more closely in the future before publishing them. You should also take into consideration the services the corporation had provided and continues to provide in linking and transporting citizens and goods between the various cities of the country.

Continues on p. 9

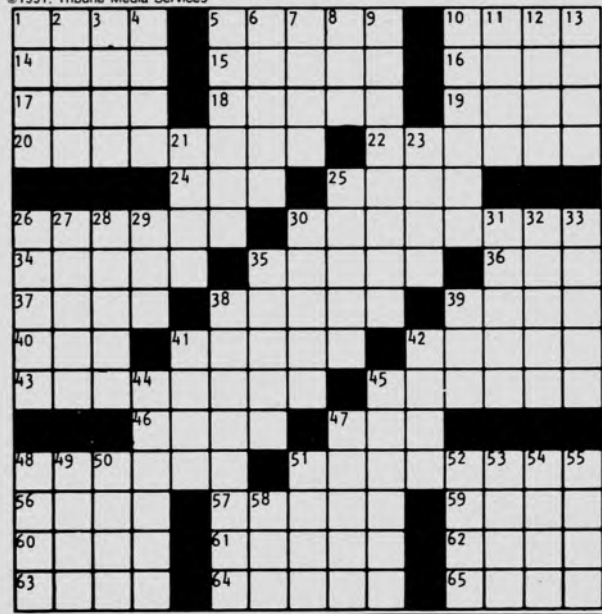
★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 38 Daughter or son | 6 Repent | 35 Gloss |
| 1 Card player | 39 "— Show" | 7 Cobra's weapon | 38 Attacking |
| 5 Athlete Johnson | 40 One: Fr. | 8 Spire ornament | 39 Fuel |
| 10 Baby deer | 41 Has a gab-fest | 9 Repaired a tire | 41 Charlie the sleuth |
| 14 "I cannot tell —" | 42 Huge | 10 Nurture | 42 Spinks |
| 15 Day's march | 43 Trader | 11 — in one's bonnet | 44 Cool |
| 16 Wind instrument | 45 Vanquished | 12 Ills | 45 Wearing certain footwear |
| 17 Lopez's theme | 46 Rabbit | 13 Tree home | 47 Its capital is Canea |
| 18 Of sound | 47 Bill and — | 21 Native tales | 48 Luminary |
| 19 Observes | 51 Breathing aid | 23 Rip | 49 Raced |
| 20 Part of an English lesson | 56 Work hard | 25 Blinds, as a falcon | 50 Money of Iran |
| 22 Swear | 57 Map section | 26 Truth — | 51 Small piece of land |
| 24 Pindar's work | 59 In mid-Atlantic | 27 Dress shape | 52 Final item on a list |
| 25 Graf — | 60 Russian sea | 28 Striped animal | 53 Military initials |
| 26 Ridiculing literary work | 61 Actor Nick | 29 Cantor or Lupino | 54 Trim |
| 30 Apart | 62 Obstacle | 30 Assigned task | 55 Foolish |
| 34 Slur, in speech | 63 Depend | 31 Stop the development of | 58 Correlative |
| 35 Guide | 64 Avarice | 32 Slight color | |
| 36 — Apple | 65 So long | 33 Urged (with "on") | |
| 37 Latvian city | | | |

DOWN

- 1 — Brinker
2 Slanting
3 Cleo's river
4 Give out cards
5 Live

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MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle, then strike it off the list. Circling it will show a letter has been used but will leave it visible should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

STRANGE AND UNUSUAL (Sol.: 13 letters)

A-Alien; B-Baffle, Bermuda Triangle, Bizarre, Black cat; C-Cantrip; D-Dejavu, Devil, Dreams; E-Elusive; F-Fable, Faun; G-Ghost; H-Haunted; L-Legend; M-Magic, Monster, Mystery, Mystique, Myth; N-Nostradamus; O-Ominous; P-Psychic; R-Rare, Ritual; S-Secret, Sorcery, Spooky, Stonehenge; T-Telepathic, Thirteen, Time travel, Trick; U-Uncanny; V-Voodoo.

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EGNEHENOTSECRET
LDNEGELFFABAEAI
GTETFRI TUALNRLM
NOSTRADAMUSTAIE
AMOONIUBI ZARRET
I I RSHUCNDEVI LNR
RNCPUGAKERSPTUA
TOETHI THIRTEENV
AURTELEPATHICCE
DSYKOOOPSCI GAMAL
UMYSTIQUELBAFNI
MONSTERSMAERDNO
RUUVAJEDYRETSYM
EVOODOOCI HCYSPS
BLACKCATEVISULE

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ENAKO

RAYPH

TELKAN

CRAFTO



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ○○○○○○○○○○○

ANSWERS ON PAGE TWELVE
GOOD LUCK!

WOULD YOU BELIEVE

Why do they call it the small intestine? In humans, it's about 20 feet long or slightly more.

Manhattan Island is only about 13 miles long and two miles at its widest.

Many of the folks who play Mickey Mouse and other characters at Walt Disney World belong to the Teamsters Union.

Big scorers don't necessarily make winning teams in the National Basketball Association. The Chicago Bulls this past season became only the second team in the past 20 years of the NBA to become league champions with the league's leading scorer (Michael Jordan) on the team.

Scientists have recently managed to create genetically altered pigs that make human hemoglobin. The process could eventually lead to a viable blood substitute.

WORDS OF WISDOM

The government says that although the U.S. interstate highway system makes up just 1.2 percent of all the roads in the nation, it carries 21.8 percent of the traffic.

The English word "salary" rose out of the fact that Roman soldiers used to receive their wages in salt blocks.

Folks who study such things say it takes 17 muscles to smile and 43 to frown. You figure out which one is better for you.

English astronomer Edmund Halley was dead for 16 years when the great comet observed in 1682 made its way back to the Earth's view. He predicted it would show up then, so they named it after him — Halley's Comet.

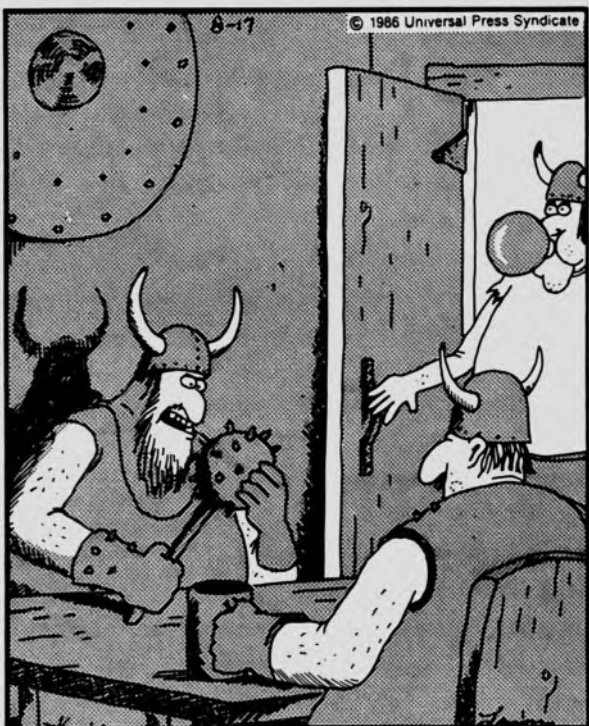
SLAPSTIX

A COMEDIAN IS SOMEONE WITH A FUN-TRACK MIND

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THE FAR SIDE

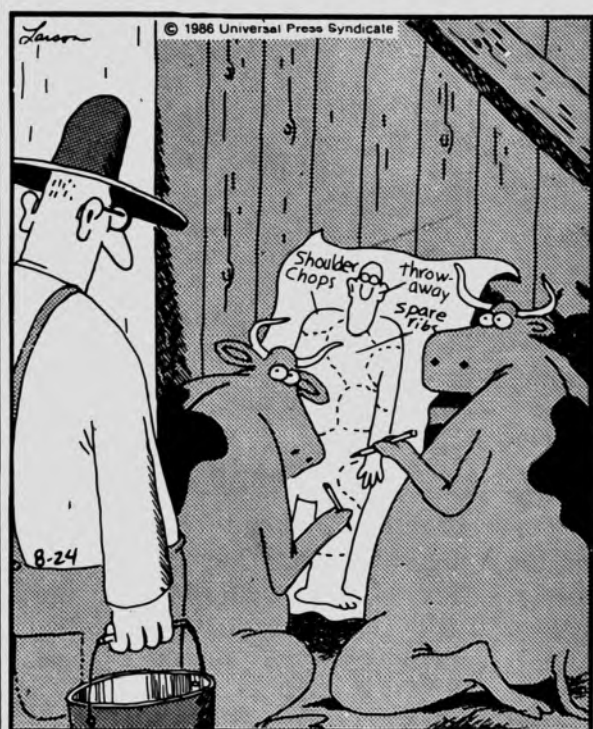
By GARY LARSON



"You know, Bjorg, there's something about holding a good, solid mace in your hand — you just look for an excuse to smash something."

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Farmer Brown froze in his tracks; the cows stared wide-eyed back at him. Somewhere, off in the distance, a dog barked.

THIS WEEK'S

★ ★ HOROSCOPE ★ ★

By Joyce Jillson

Weekly Tip: Go easy on yourself and attend to the unfinished business of business.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Business affairs and joint financial matters may get a new look this week.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Marriage and loves may go through a rebirth; better for both of you.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) More visibility in your career. You have extra fire. Independent projects go well.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Contact people you haven't heard from for awhile early in the week.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Work and financial matters take on added importance. You might have to wait for the results.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Words you've damned up for awhile can rush out this week... probably bringing relief.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You get more done on your own. Give others a sympathetic response. Do favors willingly.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) You make surprising gains when you trust your sixth sense — the psychic one.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Family may make more demands on your time ... well, they need you. Business triumphs.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Friendships shift around — one may end and another starts, early in the week. Favors from superiors.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Find a way out of any possible financial confusion by talking to advisers.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Moon in Pisces gets you off to an excellent start this week. Avoid impulsive expenditures.

If You Were Born This Week

Greater optimism about the future this month. Continue to grow personally, improve health and stay open to financial opportunities. Log your ideas in September. Lucky circumstances, but focus on making short-term commitments.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, LETTERS TO THE

IF YOU ARE A PARENT?

Children are the fruits of life especially when they grow up the way their parents wanted. Bringing up a child is a joint responsibility of both father and mother who must cooperate in the performance of this duty. But some husbands believe that it is a task outside their responsibility and they leave all the burden of raising the children to their wives. The mother, who has to do all the household chores cannot but neglect some of her duties towards the children's in order to take enough care of the house. The husband then accuses her of failing to do her duties properly without realising that he is the main reason behind her failure. If he had extended a helping hand to his wife, the negligence would not have happened. If the husband had designated certain hours every day to participate in teaching his children and direct them, he would have solved a problem which, if left unattended could grow to bigger problems - for him, for the mother, and for society. Some people may say that fathers are always busy as they are the bread winners of the family. But this doesn't prevent him from giving a helping hand in fulfilling the duties towards his children by caring for them, and attending to their needs.

No matter how much time and care the children spend with their mother they also need the father's care and affection. The father should take care of his children so that psychologically they feel much better when he is around. So if the mother and father cooperate in bringing up their children jointly, the kids enjoy the security, safety and love that comes from that partnership called family.

We should not forget that today's children are the future leaders of our nation. We should also not forget that we were once children. We should bring up our children the right way by living up to our obligations as parents. After all, parenting is a joint responsibility.

by: **Ismail Ali Al-Ghabri,**
Department of English,
Faculty of Arts,
Sana'a University.

ITT Sheraton Hotel Gets Top Ratings:

In the Executive Travel (ET) ratings of hotels worldwide for the "Hotel of the Year 1991", the ITT Sheraton group scored high marks. ITT Sheraton swept the board with five runner-up places and three outright 'Best Hotel' places - including Best Hotel Group of the Year in the overseas category. According to J.S. Parmar, Sheraton-Sanaa will continue to provide exceptional services to its clients in Sanaa. He says he is very happy with the special standing of Sheraton-Sanaa in Yemen.

Qat: Is It Inextricable?

I spent my childhood in Britain, a modern and industrial country. However, I was always eager and homesick to my native country - Happy Yemen. Yemen meant a lot to me, so I learnt as much as I could and thus I knew everything about it, everything except for one. I always used to hear about that thing from my father and his friends when they usually would sit together. They were talking about it as if it were "The Tempter" (The Evil One). That thing which was vague to me forced me ask them about it, but no one gave me a convincing answer. The only answer I got from them was "It is a catastrophe!"

After that we all travelled to Yemen. My happiness was beyond imagination and I could not sit without looking down through the airplane's window to my green land.

When we arrived at Sana'a International Airport at 4.00 p.m., I started noticing such a strange and remarkable thing. I saw many people whose cheeks were swelled out. I really got confused and asked my father if there was an epidemic among the people. He burst out with laughter and continued driving.

At night, I noticed something else. This was the psychological and mental condition of people: some were preoccupied (with nothing), others were absent minded and still others were full of anxiety. I asked my father whether there was a tribulation, but he burst out in laughter again. In the morning, my father and I went shopping. He took me to a particular market which I found crowded with more people than any other market. I was filled with wonder when I saw such a large number of people. My curiosity made me enter deep into the market. While we were standing at one of the shops, my father reached out for a bunch of plants and with a sad face gave it to me as he said "This is the catastrophe!"

Then, I realised the whole thing. I realised the catastrophe was Qat!

After my father explained to me the risks of Qat and how one wastes a lot of money on it, spends several hours chewing it, and how Qat is harmful to one's health, I decided not to ever chew Qat. With immeasurable determination, I decided to fight that plant by advising people even if I had to stop them physically from chewing it by all means.

But then I decided to taste this evil plant. Day after day and month after the other, I started to chew it convincing myself I was simply tasting it and sort of verifying it until I became addicted to Qat more than my father!

Now, I ask myself whether Qat is an inextricable problem? Who are the losers - We who chew it or those who do not? If we are the losers, how can we give up this malignant plant? What are the alternatives to Qat? Many questions that need answers. Who can provide them?

by: **Khalid Nassir Al-Muziji,**
Third Year Student,
Faculty of Education,
Sana'a University..

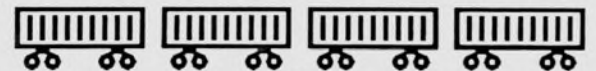
Cont'd from p. 7: Al-Wase'i Responds...

This, in spite of the current difficulties specially due to the scarcity of spare parts and tyres, which has become a real constraint on the corporation. The inability of the corporation to replace old buses and its obligation to continue servicing certain uneconomical routes, force it to use old buses that require more and more expenditures on spare parts and other needs.

The scarcity of foreign exchange, and the very long time it takes to obtain an import license are additional difficulties. The Ministry of Finance collects all the government's share in our profits, which are millions every year, immediately as the balance sheet is approved, whereas the Ministry is lethargic in paying the millions upon millions which are due to the corporation for services rendered to the government. We also want the Central Bank of Yemen to provide some of our budgetary allocations in foreign exchange. We cannot depend on the importers for our needs due to the rising costs on the one hand, and due to their failure to honor their commitments on the other. The availability of foreign exchange now allows us to keep a steady inventory of spare parts and tyres. The Minister of Transportation has thankfully arranged for us foreign exchange, at the official rate, from other sources. This will allow us to meet our import needs of spare parts and tyres and other operating items for some time to come. We look forward to a better time. The buses are already on the road.

The Yemen Times is happy to add the following points:

- 1) We are delighted with the interaction of senior officials of this sector with our articles.
- 2) We are happy that the buses are once again on the road.
- 3) It was not our intention to discredit any one person. We realize that success or failure are the result of many factors, not just one person's doing.
- 4) There is a lawsuit filed by the General Corporation for Land Transportation against Mr. Ghannami for failing to honor his contractual commitments.
- 5) We are happy that the General Manager and the Chairman of the Board are back on more than working terms. We think we had something to do with this rapprochement.
- 6) Happy Riding to all passengers (and cargo as well) with the Land Transportation General Corporation.



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Discovery of Cave Drawings Dating to 7000 B.P. in Yemen

It is considered as a major discovery. A Yemeni PhD candidate, Madiha Rachad, under the supervision of Professor Michel A. Garcia is documenting the prehistoric discoveries in four sites in Yemen. The first three sites are located in Saadah- in caves in Jabal Al-Makhroug (Al-Hazira, Al-Hamazat), Al-Musalhaqat, and Wadi Robia. The fourth site is in Wadi Dhahr, at the outskirts of Sanaa. The Franco-Yemeni study of rupestrine art and fossils over the last three years has yielded striking results. It has led to the proof of a prehistoric civilization in Yemen that depended on hunting and gathering. The visible engravings and fossil remains were substantiated by C14 (charcoal) testing which proved the drawings and engravings on the walls of the caves indicated a life system which dates back to between 6340 to 6160 B.P. (Before Present time).

that he believes, from the evidence, that settled life form developed some two thousand years later. He thinks that the people who lived some seven thousand years ago depended on buffalo, ibex and auroch hunting as the drawings depict. The size of the drawings of the animals, the tools and hunting process cover three to six square meters on the cave walls and ceilings.



Buffalo engravings on one of the cave walls.

Madiha Rachad



"The charcoal testing method applied at the Laboratory of Gif-sur-Yvette in France indicate the drawings of the later civilization of Wadi Robia dates back to between 3830 and 3740 B.P. The earlier ones in Jabal Makhroug

In a presentation given at the French Cultural Center on Sunday night, August 18th, Michel Garcia stated

date back to between 6340 and 6160 BP," he said. "We think that these Neolithic remains indicate that

the whole of today's Saadah area must have been a lake," he said.

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Madiha M. Rachad mentioned that many animals are visible in the drawings. The main discovery is the bubalus (ancient auroch or buffalo) which was part of the prehistoric man of Africa and Asia. Then there is the ibex, which commanded a special place in the history of Southern Arabia. Of course, there was the dog, which was one of the first domesticated animals. Later drawings show the horse, hunting horsemen, and camel caravans.

"Some of the drawings are colored. They used black and brick red as the main colors in the drawings," Madiha said. "I would like

the government to provide a certain level of protection to these sites. People extract stones (quarries) and use the mountain sides as shooting targets. Both ac-

Further research in being undertaken to shed more light on this part of our history. We encourage researcher to look into this field. We believe, all the parties,



One of the cave sites.

tions destroy this part and proof of our prehistoric civilizations," she concluded.

local and foreign, are interested in more information on these revelations.

Hunting Tools



Engravings on the Cave Walls



TURKEY ESCALATES KILLING OF KURDS

The Turkish Republic has intensified its hunt of the Kurdish rebels who seek a certain degree of autonomy to preserve their language and culture, both of which are different from Turkish. The Turkish Chief of Staff, first disclosed the Turkish anti-Kurd efforts on the 8th of August. In the first detailed statement since Turkey's cross-border military action began on Monday August 5th, the Chief of Staff said that "a pincer operation was still going on in the northeast of Iraq to prevent Kurdish separatists from escaping over the Iranian border." Turkish troops have penetrated ten kilometers into Iraqi sovereign territory, and its aircrafts continue to violate Iranian and Iraqi airspace in their seek and destroy missions of the Kurds. In a separate statement, on August 7th, the Turkish Foreign Ministry "backpedalled" over earlier suggestions by the Turkish Prime Minister that Turkey intended to set up a buffer zone within Iraqi territory. It is worth mentioning that some ten million Kurds live in the eastern provinces of Turkey. The Government of Turkey continue to ignore them and refuses to even accept their presence as Kurds. It calls them "mountain Turks", and the very word 'Kurd' is taboo in the Turkish language. Such a position is, of course, untenable, in a new world order which places considerable emphasis on human rights and personal liberties. In addition to this internal problem, Turkey is today at odds with all its neighbors. It has an uneasy and volatile relationship with Iran. It is on an undeclared war condition with Iraq and Greece, its relations with Syria are tenuous, its relations with the USSR are cautious, and its relations with Bulgaria and other Balkan states are plagued with disputes over Turkish minorities. The Turkish efforts at full membership in the European community have systematically failed. The EEC has continuously shunned association with Turkey in view of its past record in human rights and its brutal and heavy-handed policies vis-a-vis the Kurds.

Hughes Sworn-in as American Ambassador to YEMEN

At the State Department on August 12th, Mr. Arthur Hayden Hughes took his oath as USA ambassador to Yemen. On the occasion, Hughes said he will "create and pursue opportunities to strengthen US-Yemeni relations" which, he said, are based on "frankness and clarity". Hughes pointed out that the Yemen is now pursuing democratization, national unity, political pluralism and economic liberalism. He added, "Yemen deserves our support" in working towards these goals.

US Ambassador to the United Nations, Thomas Pickering, who had worked with Hughes in the past, described him as a "superb diplomat, distinguished manager, and knows American policy inside and out".

Hughes is an old hand in politics. He entered the Foreign Service in 1965 and has served as Vice Consul in Frankfurt, Consul in Maracaibo, Watch Officer in the Operations Center, State Department Representative at the National Military Command Center and Staff Assistant to the Under Secretary for Management.

He has been political officer in Bonn, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, Officer in Charge of Spanish Affairs, and Director of the Executive Secretariat. Hughes has also served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Copenhagen, Denmark; The Hague, the Netherlands, and Tel Aviv, Israel. He comes to Yemen from his last job as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

Arthur H. Hughes, wife Patricia, and son and daughter, are expected here in the mid-September, 1991.

Yemeni-US relations have been on a downhill turn after their high point about a year and a half ago following Yemeni President Saleh's visit to Washington. The main reason for the deterioration of relations has been differences over handling the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Yemen favored a peaceful solution mediated by countries in the region. The USA decided to take matters in its own hands and forcefully dislodged Iraq. Although relations are slowly getting back to normal, it will take a few years before the two countries can get back to the pre-Gulf crisis understanding and trust between them. Thus, Hughes has a lot of work cut out for him.

One of the first things he could work on is the resumption of US AID programs which were abruptly and unilaterally cut off by the American administration as punishment for Yemen for not toeing the line. The US administration was specially upset when Yemen continuously opposed US leads in the UN Security Council on issues pertaining to the Gulf Crisis. US AID to Yemen was actually very small as it was less than the foreign assistance provided to Yemen by much smaller countries such Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, France, and the United Kingdom.

Gazem A. Al-Aghbari, Chief of Protocol at the Yemeni Foreign Ministry, told the Yemen Times, "We are looking forward to working closely with the new American ambassador for the mutual benefit of our two countries. He will find with us all the support he needs."

NEW POLISH, JAPANESE & DUTCH AMBASSADORS

H.E. Mr. Mieczyslaw Jacek Stepinski has arrived in Sanaa as the first Polish ambassador in Yemen. Mr. Stepinski, who has turned in copies of his letters of credentials to Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani, is busy with the mono-tonous details of setting up the embassy and making people's acquaintances.

According to Gazem A. Al-Aghbari, Chief of Protocol, Yemen has been maintained an embassy in Warsaw since a long time. "We are glad that Poland has decided to reciprocate," he said. He also mentioned that the establishment of new embassies is an indicator of the growing relations and contacts of Yemen with the rest of the world.

Yemen Times had earlier reported the arrival of H.E. Mr. Kazuo Wanibuchi as the new ambassador of Japan in Sanaa. Mr. Wanibuchi has turned in copies of his letters of credentials to the Foreign Minister.

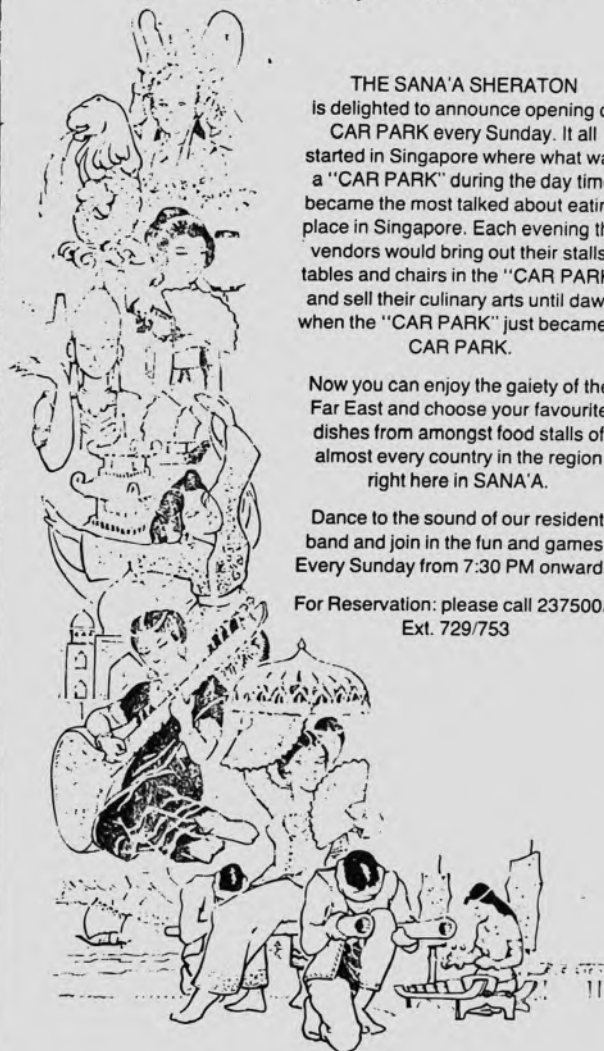
In a similar development, the Kingdom of the Netherlands named Mr. Gijsbert Joseph Annamaria Bos (G.J.A. Bos) as the new Dutch ambassador in Sanaa who is expected to arrive here in September.

THEY DON'T WAKE UP EARLY

by: Ameen Nouisser

Many mornings, I drive by the ring road. I like the food in the restaurants over there. As I close-in on my favorite restaurant with my little old car, I am invaded by a flock of workers who gather in that location from dawn till late morning seeking employment. They are eagerly waiting for people who will give them jobs. You can see the large crowds of workers who carry with them their tools- shovels, hammers, brushes, etc. Of course, the government has been very busy trying to find employment for these people. The senior government officials, for example, build a villa after another. The officials should build multiple housing projects simultaneously because the people need work. The officials may not be aware of this, because they do not wake up early.

CAR PARK



THE SANA'A SHERATON is delighted to announce opening of CAR PARK every Sunday. It all started in Singapore where what was a "CAR PARK" during the day time became the most talked about eating place in Singapore. Each evening the vendors would bring out their stalls, tables and chairs in the "CAR PARK" and sell their culinary arts until dawn when the "CAR PARK" just became a CAR PARK.

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ITT SHERATON. THE NATURAL CHOICE.

Minister Chattha:

"We Look Forward to a Mutually Beneficial Relationship."

Mr. Chaudhry Hamid Nasir Chattha, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Planning and Development has been in politics for the last twenty years. Politics is something in the family. In 1985 he was elected in the National Assembly and appointed as Minister for Information. Then he became the speaker of the National Assembly for three years. In the 1990 election, he was elected and appointed as Minister for Planning and Development. Upon the conclusion of his official visit to Yemen, the Yemen Times asked him a few questions.

Q. As your first visit to Yemen. What are your impressions?

A. I feel very much at home. I am very impressed by the people of the Republic of Yemen and its leadership. I am certain about your future. It is much better than I expected.

Representatives, the Minister of Finance, who was the head of the Yemeni delegation to Joint Economic Committee meetings. I also met the ministers of Trade and Supply, and Housing and Urban Planning.

Q. Could you highlight the main agreements you reached?

A. The highlights are cooperation in the fields of trade, culture and education. We are willing to help wherever we can be of assistance to each other. The emphasis right now is on trade and education. The Yemeni Authorities wish to send students to study in Pakistan, which we welcome. We have increased the seating quota of Yemen in Pakistani universities by some 50%, notably in agriculture, and the hard sciences (engineering, medicine, etc.). In the field of trade, we have added another US\$5 million to the former US\$5 million available to the Yemeni side as credit line to import Pakistani products. We have submitted a long list. It is all in the M.O.U. (Memorandum of understanding) signed between us.

Q. Overall how do you assess your visit?

A. I think it is successful. The public as well as the private sectors in Pakistan and Yemen are now more aware of the potential of their partner. For example the rice we ate for lunch was imported from Thailand at a cost \$400. This can be obtained from Paki-



stan at a cheaper price and a better quality. We invite the Yemenis - officials and private entrepreneurs to visit Pakistan and find out what is available. Many things can come out of such visits. I carry a lot of information on Yemen to Pakistan and leave behind a lot in Yemen.

Q. Your Excellency. Yemen is experimenting with a multi-party democratic system. What are your impressions of our political system?

A. I would like to congratulate you for the distance you have covered in this short period of time. It is one of the fruits of your unity. The Yemeni system is similar to the one we have in Pakistan. We had over seventy political parties in Pakistan in the years 1985-7. Because of the elections in 1988 and 1990, the number has been reduced greatly. The voters will bring down the number of parties in Yemen too. You will see, in ten years' time, the system which will flourish here will be based on five or six parties. The people are good judges of their interests. They will select the

best among these parties, in time.

Q. If we move from Yemeni-Pakistani issues to more decidedly Pakistan issues. There is a problem in Kashmir. What is new on that?

A. Yes there is a problem between Pakistan and India over Kashmir. The new thing is that for the first time, there is a real struggle for freedom. This emanated from the main valley in Kashmir and is spreading outwards. We hope India will see light and will agree to implement UN resolutions and according to the UN charter, give the people of Kashmir their right to self-determination.

Q. How about Pakistan's nuclear program?

A. Yes, we have a nuclear program, but this is simply to generate power, of which Pakistan needs plenty. At the same time, we can't allow international inspection of our programs, unless India agrees to do so.

Q. What is new on Afghanistan?

A. I think we are very close to settlement of this issue. I hope the recent developments in the USSR don't complicate things any further. But I think that if the Mujahideen demand for the removal of Mr. Najibullah is achieved, a settlement based on a broad coalition can be reached.

Q. Any final comments?

A. I would like to extend my gratitude for the kindness shown to me in my visit. I urge the officials and businessmen to exchange visits and put to practice our intentions for stronger ties and cooperation. We are looking forward for a more mutually beneficial relationship.

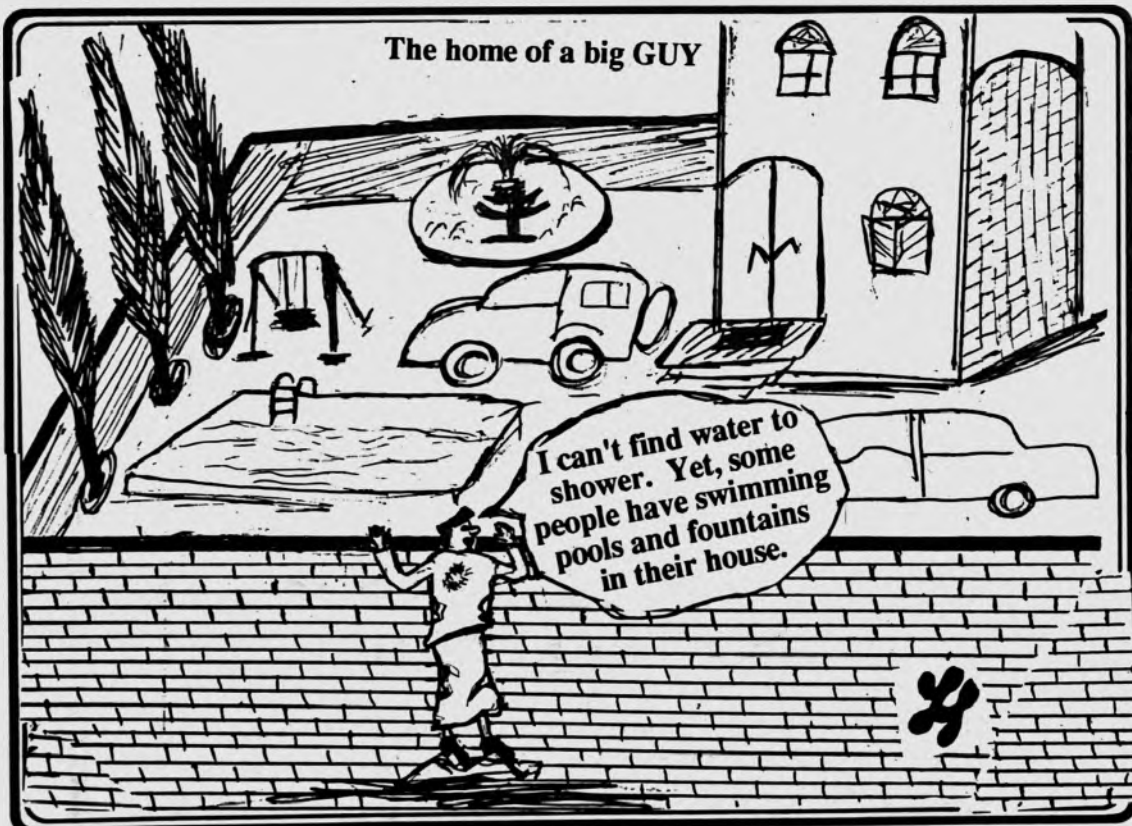
WHOM IS THE CENTRAL BANK PROTECTING?

The Central Bank of Yemen remains unable to take a decision regarding BCCI-Yemen. On Saturday August 17th, it finally decided to invite an international auditor, Touche Ross, to come and evaluate the operations of the bank. The CBY has no right to keep depositors from their money this long, given the bank has not been liquidated. The CBY, by taking charge of the BCCI-Yemen, projects that it is looking after the interests of the depositors and the country. The fact of the matter is that it is neither able to do so, nor willing to take action. A month and a half is over (CBY took over BCCI-Yemen on 5/7/1991), and the CBY continues to stand in the way of people's access to their money. Does the CBY realize the hardships and difficulties through which it is putting the very depositors it claims to be protecting? Twenty four embassies, several hundred companies, and thousands of individuals are stuck. Some ambassadors have told the Yemen Times that they are unable to meet simple needs such as paying bills. They said they will raise the matter with the Foreign Minister and Prime Minister. The money is in Yemen, so why the complications? The CBY should work to retrieve the US\$13 million that BCCI-Yemen placed outside the country. In the meanwhile, the CBY should cough out the BCCI money it is keeping in its vaults, and should enable people to have access to the money - both Riyals and dollars. If the dollars in Yemen are not sufficient to meet the depositors' claims, then the BCCI has to purchase them from the market by using even its equity, if necessary. If then the bank's capital falls below the legal limit, the CBY should invite Yemeni investors to come in as partners. The Hayel Saeed group and Rowaishan have already expressed definite interest, in addition to many others. This may be a fantastic opportunity to partially Yemenize the bank. Let us hope the CBY can see light and will act on it thus safeguarding the interests of Yemen, the depositors and the BCCI-Yemen.



Q. How did your meetings go?

A. I have met many officials - the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the House of



ANSWERS TO THE LEISURE PAGE QUIZES

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SUPERSTITIOUS

JUMBLES

OAKEN HAPRY ANKLET FACTOR
Interest taken by Dad when he lends you money - PATERNAL

CROSSWORDS

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ALITE	ETAPE	OBOE
NOLA	SONIC	SRES
SPELLING	ATTEST	
ODE	SPEE	
SATTIRE	SEPARATE	
ELUDE	STEER	BIG
RTGA	CHILD	GONG
UNE	CHINS	LARGE
MERCHANT	BESTED	
HARE	COO	
STRING	TRONING	
TOUT	INSET	ALSA
ARAL	NOLTE	SNAG
RELY	GRIFED	TATA