

PRISON BREAK 'A HIT' IN GAZA

Hundreds of Palestinians have been incorrectly released from Gaza today in a mass break out led by nondescript evil militants, following a breach in the outer wall of the compound. One inmate, commenting on his new freedom, spat a challenge to the Israeli government, "I'm going to buy bread, cheese and petrol".

The Israelis, fearing that these will be used to create suicide devices against their people, have pledged to capture these dangerous criminals, many of whom are guilty of being practicing Muslims in Israel.

Chris Williams

RUSSIAN REVERSAL

Apply a thick Russian accent and say the following, 'In the West you elect President. In Mother Russia, President Elects You!' Ever since Yakov Smirnoff popularised the Russian Reversal in the 1980s, this sentence, and sentences like it, would have caused riotous laughter to erupt from one's audience.

No more. Comedic technicians at De Montfort University, England's joke university, have discovered that this particular Russian Reversal is actually true. Dr Mike Hunt, Department of Chiastic Humour, indicated his views: 'We are quite simply astonished. Jokes shouldn't bear any relation to reality so this is a big problem for us.'



Vlad in action

The development was precipitated by the nomination of Dmitry Medvedev to be the next president of the Russian Federation by the incumbent Vladimir Putin. Putin's popularity is such in

Russia at the moment that most people will vote for whoever he wants them to. However, whilst the implications for the Russian Federation, the Democratic Ideal and World Peace can be overlooked, the consequences for our noble jocular institutions are far-reaching.

'The only way it could be worse is if a chicken crossed the road. I have nightmares about that you know,' Professor I P Freely, of the Department for Irony said, while a colleague from the Institute of Puns croaked: 'I might as well be dead.'

Luke Blackburn

DEEP SOUTH ELECTION BOYCOTT

Several Southern states of the US have announced that they will not hold the planned primaries for the Democrat party's presidential candidate. When asked if this was because of an objection to the flawed and complicated primary/caucus thingy, Texas Governor Rick Perry said:

'No, it's just that with the two main candidates being a black man and a woman, we didn't think anyone round here would vote. I mean, if the Republican nominee had been Condi Rice, we would just have shelved the whole damn thing.'

Thom Addinall-Biddulph

PIGS SHOOT BEAR

In the latest instalment of the children's stories of a Peruvian bear in London, the first in over twenty-five years, Paddington is set to be brought into life in twenty first century Britain.

In addition to the already announced "detention by the immigration services" incident, it has now emerged that the book will culminate with Paddington being brutally murdered by armed police on an underground train, ironically at the station whose name he has taken. Insiders have described how Paddington is to be dramatically pursued through London before being pinned down on a train seat and, without warning, shot at eleven times. Six bullets will hit his head and one cut through his shoulder.

While critics of the new story line have described it as "barbarous," "tasteless" and "totally unsuitable for children," the publishers are keen to

demonstrate an accurate portrayal of life in today's Britain for polite and hardworking South American immigrants.

Anton Lazarus

BROWN TO NEUTER WATCHDOG

Gordon Brown announced yesterday his plan to have the sleaze watchdog neutered. Said he: "Whilst this watchdog was clearly useful sniffing about the legs of the Tories for hidden bits of sleaze, in the light of the Peter Hain affair, the slobbery beast has been let loose in the Cabinet Room. It's been snuffing up the curtains, drooling on Tessa Jowell's crocodile-skin stilettos. It even bit Ed Balls in the, er, leg."

According to government sources, the watchdog will be replaced with an elderly dachshund called Kinnock.

Richard Hadden



Gordo at leisure

APPLE UNVEILS IDCARD

Following on from a successful range of Apple products including the iPhone, iBook and iHouse, the iD Card, designed as a popular replacement for the ID Card, was unveiled at a press conference yesterday by Home Secretary Jacqui Smith and Apple co-founder Steve Jobs.

Despite the relative lack of interest in the Apple Exam introduced in 2006 – the iBeClever, often abbreviated to the iBe – government officials have remained determined to work with the technology and lifestyle gurus. Mr Jobs explained: "For those worried about security, rest assured; only the Government, Apple, and carefully selected third parties will have access to your more personal details."

Simon Castle