Jerusalem Post journalist discusses issues in the Middle East

Holly Burke  
MUSTANG DAILY

The experience of a journalist working in one of the most conflict­

ed regions of the world is unusual. It is even more rare when that journalist is both Israeli and Arab, and writes for a Hebrew paper.

On Monday night, Khaled Abu Toameh, editor of Palestinian affairs for the Jerusalem Post, spoke to over 100 students and members of the surrounding community about his work through his unique position.

Toameh, the son of a Palestinian father and an Israeli mother, was born in Tulkarem, Palestine. Though he is Muslim, he was educated in a Hebrew school.

As a journalist, I don’t have a problem writing for any paper.  

—Khaled Abu Toameh  

editor of Palestinian affairs for the Jerusalem Post

Toameh went on to write for the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), though he makes it clear he was never a member and was not affiliated with them. Feeling stifled by the authoritarian’s control over the media, Toameh went to work for Israeli and foreign news outlets.

In 1998, he became a producer for NBC News. News’ coverage of Palestine, and soon after, he began writing for a Hebrew paper, where he became the only Palestinian writing about Palestinian issues in Hebrew. His friends wondered what was wrong with him.

Palestinian journalists had offended the region’s powerful PLO.

“We still don’t have a free media,” he said. “We didn’t have one in the ’70s, not in the ’80s, and we still don’t have one in 2006.”

Toameh went on to discuss current issues of the region, such as Multan’s Abbas’ succession of Yasser Arafat and Hamas, a violent Islamic resistance movement.

(Abbas) ran on the platform ‘Vote for me and end anarchy, vote for me and dismantle Hamas’ … Toameh said.

Through Abbas promised stability and reform for the region, little has changed.

“Nothing has changed. It is the presence of dictatorships that drive people into the arms of Hamas,” he said.

Those attending had many questions for Toameh. Most pressing were questions regarding the future of the region. (Palestinians) need to build a proper institution where Arafat failed. We are all suffering the results of the peace process,” he said.

Toameh also explained the problem with physically dividing a nation where Arabs and Jews live so closely together. He explained that they live beside each other and on top of one another.

Travel

From Anchorage to Whittier: An Insider’s Guide

Kristen Oato  
MUSTANG DAILY

Looking up from the mudflats, all I could see were moss-covered boulders. I knew the view from the top was worth the trek. Talkeetna Airbrushes my 10-year-old cheeks as I began to climb up the black mountain-like structure. Hoisting myself over the last hurdle, I looked out into the water. Out of breath, I watched in awe as a pod of beluga whales flung themselves out of the sea, breaching high into the air.

Beluga Point remains one of my favorite spots to experience the beauty of Alaska during trips down the Seward Highway. Growing up in Anchorage, I quickly learned to appreciate the unique characteristics of the state. Maybe it’s witnessing the brilliant midnight dance of the Northern Lights on a crisp night, or enduring the endless winters that are often too cold to snow — whatever the reason, most Alaskans develop a fierce sense of pride for their beloved 49th state.

Thrill seekers, sightseers and outdoor enthusiasts travel from all over the world to experience the beauty and wonder of the country’s largest state. However, the key to taking in the “real” Alaska is to travel like a native, and take time to enjoy the trip.

A favorite activity for my family is taking day-trips South to our cabin in Girdwood. While some prefer to keep their eyes on the road, we usually take the time to pull off to the side and experience nature.

The key to taking in the “real” Alaska is to travel like a native, and to take time to enjoy the trip.

Travel

View of the Kenai Peninsula can be seen from Alaska's Seward Highway. The road stretches 120 miles from Anchorage to Seward.

Mile 0

Most visitors begin their journey by flying to the largest city, Anchorage. With roughly 300,000 residents, Anchorage makes up 42 percent of the population. From airplane windows, views of green peaks and valleys from the six surrounding mountain ranges can be seen from the sky on clear summer days. Upon landing, one of the first sights to take in is the tip of Mount McKinley jutting up in the horizon. Measuring a massive 20,320 feet, the summit of the mountain is the tallest in all of North America. Sightseers quickly learn the first place to visit is Anchorage’s historic downtown.

Many of the older buildings withstand the 1964 earthquake, which registered a 9.2 on the Richter scale and was the strongest quake ever measured in North America.

If hunger strikes while meandering downtown, residents bypass the Starbucks and head to Snow City Cafe. The restaurant is an insider’s gem and a hometown favorite.
Alaska

On the highway, the Highway to Heaven is well-named, but not always for its beauty. Alaska’s rugged, northern landscape to the north and east of Anchorage, birdwatchers should be aware of the many species of birds that inhabit the area. During the winter months, this stretch of road is actually known for its dangerous avalanches. Pouring sheets of snow and ice slide down the cliffs, often bringing down trees and rocks. In the summer, the only avalanches likely to be seen are those caused by rockfall or small falls of ice.

At mile 43, the turnout for Girdwood appears on the right in the form of a rough dirt road. The view is spectacular, and the view from the 3000-foot cliffs above the highway frequently reveals the presence of wildlife from the Alaska Railroad or the informal bus service.

Mile 49

Continuing on, the highway winds through smooth curves, following the cliffs of the Turnagain Arm. Entering the forest, the view is a bit obscured by spruce trees, but you can see a few Dall sheep that graze carelessly on the cliff above. The white specks of sheep blend in easily with the trees that remain on the cliffs.

During the winter months, this stretch of road is actually known for its dangerous avalanches. Pouring sheets of snow and ice slide down the cliffs, often bringing down trees and rocks. In the summer, the only avalanches likely to be seen are those caused by rockfall or small falls of ice.

At mile 55, after leaving Girdwood, the highway takes a turn away from the cliffs to Portage Glacier. Careful observers can see a weathered, grey horse stable in the ground that remains from the 1964 earthquake. Surrounding hidden campers are located throughout the area. The grounds are usually not crowded and the sites are bordered by mountains.

Driving inland, Portage Glacier is in danger of receding into the lake it created. Although only a fraction of the ice can be seen above the water, the glacier extends down into the water 100 feet. The Bear Creek, Bugia Visitor Center offers a boat tour of the glaciers and allows guests to actually climb onto some of the ice formations.

Wildlife, day cruises, sea kayaking, and fishing hot spots all draw visitors to the small town of Whittier. In order to reach the community, travelers must pass through a 2.5 mile tunnel, the longest vehicle-railroad tunnel in North America. In a unique operation, the tunnel operates in 15 min. intervals. Cars and trains must wait in a staging area and are then allowed 5 minutes to pass through to the other side.

From here, you can choose to turn around or the adventurous may desire to continue down along the highway to Seward and Kenai Fjords National Park. In the summer the sun rarely sets before midnight, creating endless summer days to enjoy the outdoors even longer. Just make sure to stop and take in the little sights wherever your journey takes you.

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Ooh so spicy!

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Under FOUR... or on AP? 

THE AVERAGE CAL POLY STUDENT DRINKS UNDER FOUR DRINKS IN ONE SITTING

Journalist

continued from page 5 another, that the result of a fence leaves everyone feeling tramped.

"(Toanhe) was actually one of the best speakers Hilfis has brought to Cal Poly," said Omid Hajighaht, a philosophy senior. "He was completely unbiased and was not trying to push an agenda. Though, the audience seemed to have lost the point of his speech.

"Students at Cal Poly are fortunate to hear a journalist of this quality," said Samuel Vrangovich, a public policy graduate student. "(Toanhe) gave a deep and through analysis we must people don't get from just reading newspapers."
**The Face of Cal Poly**

Name: Michelle Shullo • Year: senior

Hometown: San Diego • Major: communications studies

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Saddam, co-defendants say they are on hunger strike, but trial presses ahead

Hamza Hendawi
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — After shouts, insults, arguments and walkthroughs, Saddam Hussein and three of his co-defendants unveiled a new show-stopping tactic: They announced in court that they had gone on a hunger strike.

Saddam said the strike was called to protest the tough way Chief Judge Rasid Abdul-Rahman has conducted the court since he took over last month.

"For three days we have been holding a hunger strike protesting against your way of treating us — against you and your masters," the former Iraqi leader said. Their claims could not be independently confirmed.

Abdul-Rahman has tried to impose order in a court where outbursts and abuse, mostly by Saddam and his former intelligence chief and half-brother Barzan Ibrahim, have often overshadowed the proceedings. The disruptions have led to criticism of Abdul-Rahman’s predecessor, fellow Kurd Hamza Hendawi, conducted in Baghdad.

A key document presented to the court allegedly showed that Saddam approved rewards for intelligence agents involved in the crackdown against residents of Dujail, a mainly Shiite town north of Baghdad, followed a 1982 assassination attempt against him there.

If convicted in the killing of nearly 150 Shiites from Dujail, Saddam and his seven co-defendants could face the death penalty. Ibrahim spoke at length, denying he had any part in the crackdown and insisting he personally released detainees.

He spoke from the defendants’ pen, again wearing only his pyjamas in protest at being forced to attend the trial that his elderly arguments represented the first time any of the defendants have dealt at length with the charges they face, and his participation could boost the legitimacy of a tribunal whose fairness some have questioned.

Judge Raid Jafari, a court spokesman who investigated the Dujail case, told reporters of Ibrahim’s attire: "You must have noticed that all the defendants wore appropriate attire. Defendant Barzan (Ibrahim) wore what he thought was appropriate."

After nearly three hours of testimony, Abdul-Rahman adjourned the trial until Feb. 28.

Tuesday’s session began with Saddam entering and shouting his support for Iraqi insurgents. "Long live the defendants," he yelled. Later, during the testimony, he shouted, "I say to all Iraqis, fight and liberate your country!"

Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein addresses the court of the Iraqi High Tribunal during proceedings inside the heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conan O’Brien met with Finnish president

Matti Haavisto
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELSPANI, Finland — Conan O’Brien finally met his match.

The “Late Night” jokester, who ran a mock ad campaign endorsing the re-election of Finnish President Tarja Halonen — because of her strong resemblance to him, red hair and all — had a face-to-face encounter after their 15-minute meeting here Tuesday at the presidential palace in downtown Helsinki.

O’Brien handed tile Nordic country’s first female president a box of chocolates in the shape of a red heart as they posed for photographers before their 15-minute meeting. Halonen gave him Finnish tulip bulbs to take home.

Last year, O’Brien caused a political stir when, based on their resemblance, he endorsed the 62-year-old Halonen for a second six-year term — which she won last month. His mock ads not only backed Halonen but also attacked her opponent.

O’Brien, who had earlier jokingly demanded a six-hour audience, said he wasn’t disappointed.

"Someone like me knows he’s lucky to get 15 minutes," O’Brien said, adding that the meeting was "very, very nice." "It’s not every day I get to meet the president of a country," O’Brien said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

On his arrival Saturday, O’Brien quipped that he expected to be rewarded for endorsing Halonen with a Cabinet position as inspector of saunas, "mostly women’s saunas," but the issue was not discussed in the meeting.

"I was hoping very much to get a Cabinet position because I very much need the rewards, but she has invited me to come and visit her with my family," O’Brien said.

On Saturday, some 2,000 fans waited hours in subfreezing temperatures to catch a glimpse of the quirky, self-deprecating TV host, whose show is unusually popular in this tax-hating nation of 5 million on the northern fringe of Europe.

Fins are very aware of their image abroad, and when O’Brien poked fun at the small country, he was overwhelmed by cards and mail.

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Talking bollocks with The Prodigy

H a's got devil-horn hair, two pounds of eyeshadow, and the hardest livin' in electronics — but it turns out the scariest thing about The Prodigy's frontman is his accent.

Keith Flint, along with Liam Howlett (keyboardist) and Maxim Reality (vocals), pushed technoelectronic dance music into the mainstream band in their native England, and eventually far beyond. Originally known for their punk politics as much as their incendiary live shows and fights with Madonna, the group is still every bit as cool.

AB: So you're touring Japan soon, right?
KF: Oh yeah. Well, we started at Labyrinth (another London rave) to tell you the truth. Raindance was one of the first — a big outdoor event. We loved it. We were from that scene, and there every week. Times like that are priceless, but times like that are gone — too much police.

AB: Are tours still big in London?
KF: No, not at all. If I wanted to go this weekend, I wouldn't know where or when or how. For me, that was the ultimate defining scene, so I find it hard to find that bubble again for myself. It was so lawless when we were going out, so really we were doing something out there. But now it's like a big nightclub in a field.

AB: That's interesting. So how do you guys create songs? For the last album, Liam presented it to you and Maxim pretty complete, is that right?
KF: Yeah, we were on the inny and completely bloody indecipherable. We knew what it was sounding like, what direction it was going in. We had our parts to play when the stage came along, and we were so waiting to get out there and start doing the songs again. We were just so proud of it.

AB: Do you have a favorite Prodigy song to perform?
KF: 'Spitfire' — that slab. That just lights up the place anyway. It's like nothing else. I love it. Mega.

AB: You guys have been together for 15 years. When was the moment when you thought, "We've made it"?

AB: So The Prodigy started at a rave called Raindance, right?
KF: Oh yeah. Well, we started at Labyrinth (another London rave) to tell you the truth. Raindance was one of the first — a big outdoor event. We loved it. We were from that scene, and there every week. Times like that are priceless, but times like that are gone — too much police.

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AB: You guys have been together for 15 years. When was the moment when you thought, "We've made it"?
ASI draws students backstage

It's tough being a student these days. We've got midterms and homework to finish; fees, parking permits and textbooks to pay for; and then we've got to search for a parking space or haphazardly scat on the bus. With all these things to worry about, it's a good thing that ASI student government is working full time on your behalf. We've got over 60 dedicated students in and out of the office every week working to improve life on campus for all of you.

If you're curious what we've been up to or would like to know what is in store for Cal Poly's future, then don't miss our 5th annual State of the Student Address. On Thursday Feb 23 at 7 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium we will provide students with a first-hand look at how we're improving our campus on day by day. We are also honored to include Cal Poly President Dr. Warren J. Baker as a featured guest for the evening to speak about how Cal Poly is preparing the leaders of tomorrow and building a university capable of meeting the demands of the 21st century.

Students attending the event will come away knowing more about how ASI is working on improving transportation issues, club services, ASI facilities and how we're planning to include a broader mix of students in the future of ASI leadership. If you've ever wondered how that goes on in the university outside of the classroom, this is your chance to find out. The event also presents an incredible opportunity for students to meet university administrators, city officials and student leaders. It's one of a kind opportunity brought to you by ASI.

We hope to see you there!

Tyler Middleton is the Associated Students Inc. president and a Mustang Daily alum. He can be reached at admin@calpolyspd.org 756-9284 AIM: CAPISI President

COMMENTARY

Hanna Bash

BRANDING IRON (L WASHINGTON)

Lafayette, WY — On May 4, 1970, students at the Kent State University campus gathered to protest the bombing of Cambodia, an action undertaken by President Nixon that expanded the Vietnam War. None of the protesters were armed or considered dangerous. Yet despite this, by the end of the day, National Guardsmen had bayoneted a disabled veteran and fired upon the crowd, killing thirteen students and killing four.

These were not the only protest casualties during the years of the Vietnam debate. But for every one who was harmed, a thousand others stood waving, their voices rising over the craziness and the insanity. These protests played a huge role in finally opening American's eyes and eventually ending the bloodshed.

While I would never want to romanticize or exaggerate on campus conflicts today, I do see the lack of any demonstration at all. It is difficult to understand where the social indignation of that time has gone. For now, instead of righteous anger, we have ridiculous apathy.

With six letters and three syllables, apathy is a small word. However, for such a small word it is difficult to understand where the social indignation of that time has gone. For now, instead of righteous anger, we have ridiculous apathy.

Pass off religion as science comes to speak? Where is the unity of opinion when the vice president visits and we have a chance to tell him how angry we are for the injustices and lies for which the present administration is responsible? From the perspective of a Vietnam protester who spent his youth fighting against the war in the world, our generation must be seen as lazy and shallow. In fact, it has been said that we are America's greatest disappointment. We have the opportunity to make waves, but instead we sit quietly and pretend not to see or hear anything. We are obsessed with celebrities, and sex. We're viewed as superficial, taut and idle, thinking only what we are told to or not thinking at all.

One of the things about our generation of which I am most proud is our willingness to volunteer. We volunteer in greater numbers than any previous generation in the United States. We volunteer to help out at soup kitchens, to raise money for victims of natural disasters, to collect winter coats for those in need, etc. In fact, more than 60 percent of college freshmen polled believe that helping others less fortunate is vital.

The atrocities of places like Darfur could be a distant nightmare of the past instead of a lurid reality of today. It's time to escape the apathy we've inherited. Don't tolerate the revolutions whose sacrifices changed the world; remember their voices while you raise your own.

Got something to say?

Send a letter to the editors!

submit your thoughts, opinions, letters and news to 400 words or less

mustangdaily@gmail.com

You are cordially invited...

to attend the Associated Students, Inc.
State of the Student Address

Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006
Chumash Auditorium
University Union
7 - 9 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres provided

This event is an opportunity for Cal Poly students and the community of San Luis Obispo to hear the ASI President and University President address issues facing the student population.

Please RSVP before Feb. 16 to Tracy Watson, ASI Student Government at 756-1291 or twatson@calpoly.edu. Professional attire suggested.
Cal Poly travels to rival UCSB

Frank Stranzl
Sports editor

Norway is known for its cold and snowy climate, winter sports and scenic splendor—not basketball. But one Cal Poly women's basketball player spent four years in Norway's capital honing her skills with various club teams and eventually the Norwegian National team.

Emilie Ravn, a 6-foot-1-inch forward for the Mustangs, moved from the sunny surroundings of Pauzeda, Calif. to the glacial atmosphere of Oslo, Norway. Although basketball was hardly on her mind when she made the decision to move to Norway with her mom at the age of 14, Ravn appreciated the social benefits attached to playing the sport.

"Volleyball's not very big over there and so I got onto a club basketball team," Ravn said. "That's how I made most of my friends (in Norway)."

Ravn played basketball in middle school prior to the move, but volleyball had been her favorite sport. With a lack of athletic options in Norway, basketball quickly became a huge part of Ravn's life.

With a shy attitude, making friends on the court was important to Ravn. Language barrier did provide another obstacle, however.

"For the first year I basically didn't say anything to anyone," Ravn said. "There was my family who spoke English, but I didn't really pick up on the language for about six-to-eight months."

In order to play basketball, Ravn had to join a club team. Whereas high school sports are incredibly popular in the United States, in Norway they don't exist.

Practices were also different, large-ly in the number of hours Ravn spent on the court. Each morning practice would begin at 8 a.m. and end two hours later.

For the rest of this article, please visit www.mustangdaily.net.

CURLING AT A GLANCE

- No stone can have a 'greater weight than 44 pounds, 'greater circumference than 36 inches, 'less height than 4.5 inches
- At the start of competition, teams are composed of four players playing two stones alternately with their opponent per round.
- After a stone is set in motion, it may be swept by any one or more of the team to which it belongs.
- Points from each round carry over and the team with the most points at the end of the match wins.

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