Jerusalem Post journalist discusses issues in the Middle East

Holly Burke

The experience of a journalist working in one of the most conflicted 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.

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.

He is both Israeli and Arab, and writes for the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in Arabic, though he makes it clear he was never a member and was not affiliated with them. Feeling stifled by the authority's control over the media, Toameh went to work for Israeli and foreign news outlets.

In 1998, he became a producer for NBC 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.

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 authority's control over the media, Toameh went to work for Israeli and foreign news outlets.

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As an independent Palestinian journalist, he went on to work for the Jerusalem Post, spoke to over 100 students and members of the surrounding community about his work through his unique position.

Toameh found many of his colleagues being placed behind bars, having their offices torched. The independent 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 Mahmod Abbas' succession of Yasser Arafat and Hamas' violent resistance movement.

"(Abbas) ran on the platform 'Vet me and end anarchy,' vote for me and dismantle Hamas..." Toameh said.

"Though Abbas promised stability and reform for the region, little has changed. " Nothing has changed. It is the presence of dictators 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 Arab and Jews live so closely together. He explained that they live beside each other and on top of one another. Seeing is believing. Analysts work tirelessly to make sense of the region.

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

—Khaled Abu Toameh
editor of Palestinian affairs for the Jerusalem Post

"As a journalist, I don't have a problem writing for any paper," Toameh said in his speech.

Looking up from the mudflats, all I could see were moss-covered boulders. I knew the view from the top was worth the trek. Salty air flushed my lungs. Out of breath, I huffed myself over the last hurdle, I looked out into the water. Out of breath, I watched in awe as a pod of belugas 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 dream — 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.

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Alaska

on, the highway

rugged, Kate) Alaska, the left of the highway. In the day­

cake note of the grassy wetlands to

can point out waterfowl, ivfl^rant

eii)ov .mother local ammal-watching

Mile 15

Although the expansive views of

Cook Inlet are worth noticing on the

right when heading if^it of

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Hippu- graiud.; déoi kecfN wall the

inunelnng tin tlie stuh'ed breneh

Can you make sure to stop and take in the

little sights wherever your journey

takes you. After leaving Girdwood, the high­

way takes a turn away from the cliffs

to Portage Glacier. Careful observers can see a weathered, grey horse stable

in a staging area and are then

allowed 5 minutes to pass through

the tunnel. During the winter months, this

dangerous avalanches. Pouring

water, the glacier extends down

the form of a rough .dirt road. The wise

will stop at the gas station here,

because next doesn’t appear for anoth­

er 90 miles. Before Alaska became a

state years ago, Girciwood was known

as a small gold-panning community.

Nowadays skiers and snowboarders

come to conquer Mint Alyeska at

the town’s ski resort. The small back­

country is dotted with log cabins, and

the traditional view. While most visitors stop to

chasing red salmon from the

avek. Vt'hile most visitors stop to

rvice trees, tew

the many flavors offered.

Mile 55

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Assistant news editor: Erick Smith • esmithiKiTa cM lpoly.edu

Online: www.mustangdaily.net

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

WHO SAID THAT?

A preoccupation with the future not only prevents us from seeing the present as it is but often prompts us to rearrange the past.

If life was fair, Elvis would be alive and all the impersonators would be dead.
— Johnny Carson

Wordly Wise

Spoony: Foolishly or sentimentally in love.

BREAKING NEWS

UPDATED AT THE SPEED OF COLLEGE LIFE

www.mustangdaily.net

SPRING Recruitment

Bowling with Gamma Phi’s
Thursday, February 16th, 6:00pm-8:00pm
@ McPhee’s in the University Union

Summer in Spain

Spanish Language Immersion Program
Summer 2006 - Valladolid

General Information Meeting
Thursday, February 16, 11:00 am - 12 pm
Erhart Agriculture Bldg. (10), Rm. 221

Name: Michelle Shullo • Year: senior
Hometown: San Diego • Major: communications studies

Favorites

Beer: Hefeweizen
Place in San Luis Obispo: Shell Beach
Bar: Downtown Brew
Winter olympic sport: ice skating
Type of dog: Newfoundland

If You Could ...

— wear any shirt with a phrase on it, what would it be?
Explain to me why I need a boyfriend.
— meet any person in history, who would it be?
Bob Marley.
— worst part about living in San Luis Obispo?
Dealing with people who don't know how to drive.

State

SALINAS (AP) — Two kids were allegedly told by their mom to shoplift.
Police said Gloria Arroyo, 36, told her 12-year-old daughter and 14-year-old son to shoplift jewelry at the Macy's department store on Sunday at the Northridge Mall. Dan Perez said the woman told the kids she needed money to pay her rent.

Mall security officers spotted Arroyo pointing out the jewelry she wanted to the children, who had more than $600 worth of stolen jewelry in their backpacks, Perez said.

National

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A federal judge ruled Tuesday that confessed al-Qaida conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui will not be in the courtroom for jury selection at his upcoming death-penalty trial, after Moussaoui again defied the judge at a pretrial hearing.

U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema said her main reason for holding Tuesday's hearing was to determine "how Mr. Moussaoui plans to behave ... whether (he) plans to remain quiet ... or whether (he) plans to make speeches."

International

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Thousands rampaged through two cities Tuesday in Pakistan's worst violence against Prophet Muhammad caricatures, burning buildings housing a hotel, banks and a KFC, vandalizing a Citibank and breaking windows at a Holiday Inn and a Pizza Hut. At least two people were killed in Lahore, where intelligence officials suspected outlawed Islamic militant groups incited the violence to undermine President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's U.S.-allied government.

SUMMER IN SPAIN

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For further information, contact:
Dr. Kevin Rapa, 756-6770
e-mail: krapa@calpoly.edu
Dr. William Martinez, 756-2186
e-mail: mwma@calpoly.edu
Rose Whitcomb, 756-7196
e-mail: rw069207@calpol.edu

For Application 101, visit:
http://www.calpolylang.immersionprogram.com/immersionprogram.html
or call (805) 756-7196.
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Saddam, co-defendants say they are on hunger strike, but trial proceeds

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 Haavisten

HELSETIKI, 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 meeting with her Tuesday at the presidential palace in downtown Helsinki.

O’Brien handed tiles 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 troll dolls 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 opponents.

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

“What’s like me knows he’s lucky to get 15 minutes,” O’Brien said, adding that the meeting was “very, very nice.”

“Television is not the center of the world, and that was pretty evident.”

On his arrival Saturday, O’Brien said he was pleased that he expected to be rewarded for endorsing Halonen with a Cabinet position as minister of culture, “modest women’s affairs,” 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 subzero temperatures to catch a glimpse of the quirky, self-deprecating TV host, whose show is unusually popular in this tac­turn nation of 5 million on the northern fringe of Europe.

Finnns are very aware of their image abroad, and when O’Brien poked fun at the small country, he was overwhelmed by cards and mail.
Talking bollocks with The Prodigy

Hugot devil-horn hair, two pounds of eyeshadow, and the loudest howl 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 (vocalist), pushed technodance music into the mainstream in the early '90s. Their popular single "Firestarter," "Breathe," and "Smack My Bitch Up" established them as the most successful electronic band in their native England, and eventually far beyond. Originally known for their punk politics as much as their incendiary beats — they were living, unashamed representatives of the confrontational London rave scene, and their explicit videos were often banned from MTV. The Prodigy is celebrating their 15th anniversary with the release of "Their Law — The Singles," and while the name has changed, the people are there, real and and 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 were 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: Is that hard to prepare for?

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: Do you have a favorite tour you have been on?

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 buzz again for myself. [Indecipherable] We were 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.

KF: Oh, sometimes. Yeah, in 15 years, you know, there's been proper madness, in its time, you know.

AB: Any tours pretty wild with The Prodigy?

KF: Ha, sometimes. Yeah, in 15 years, you know, there's been proper madness, in its time, you know.

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.

AB: Are you 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 buzz again for myself. [Indecipherable] We were 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 shows again. We were just so proud of it.

AB: Do you have a favorite Prodigy song to perform?

KF: "Spitfire" — that slams. 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: Is that hard to prepare for?

KF: Oh, well, not at all. I don't prepare for anything. I just grab my stuff and if I've forgotten anything, it stays here. I'm just taking me stride, really. The only thing I do is try to stay fit for the gigs, you know, so I can party a bit and still do my shows without anyone down [indecipherable] and shoddy. That's what I do, really.

AB: Are tours pretty wild with The Prodigy?

KF: Oh, sometimes. Yeah, in 15 years, you know, there's been proper madness, in its time, you know.

AB: You've got a hell of a stage presence, too.

KF: Aw, thanks, that's really cool. It's easy when the shows are good and the people are there, real.

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name, phone number, major and
class standing. Letters must come
from a Cal Poly e-mail account. We
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Wednesday, February 15, 2006
Volume LXIX, No. 86 ©2006
MUSTANG DAILY
printed by University Graphic Systems

"I don’t care, I’m gonna cop my injury."
MUSTANG DAILY

PRODIGY
continued from page 4
KF: Oh, we haven't reached that
tangent yet.
AB: Can you really?
KF: Well, I mean, the band started
getting bigger, and we didn't have
money anymore, and we were
making money. I thought we'd made
it when we walked onstage at
Raindance—months before. I'd
won and bought a ticket for it, then
there I was onstage. We're aware of
what we do, what we do well, and
what's happening, but it's not some­
ting we really think about.
AB: Are you excited about the
release of your singles record,
'Their Law?'
KF: Yeah, you know, it's doing
really well for us. We're happy.

PRODIGY

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

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KF: Oh, we haven't reached that
tangent yet.
AB: Can you really?
KF: Well, I mean, the band started
getting bigger, and we didn't have
money anymore, and we were
making money. I thought we'd made
it when we walked onstage at
Raindance—months before. I'd
won and bought a ticket for it, then
there I was onstage. We're aware of
what we do, what we do well, and
what's happening, but it's not some­
ting we really think about.
AB: Are you excited about the
release of your singles record,
'Their Law?'
KF: Yeah, you know, it's doing
really well for us. We're happy.
Cal Poly travels to rival UCSB

Chaz Thomas and the Mustangs travel to UC Santa Barbara for a Big West game tonight at 7 p.m. Cal Poly won the previous game between the two and is currently third in the conference at 5-4. The Gauchos are 1-6 and in sixth place going into tonight’s game and have won three straight.

Frank Stranzl

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 clubs and eventually the Norwegian National team.

Emilie Ravn, a 6-foot-1-inch junior forward for the Mustangs, moved from the sunny surroundings of Pauaena, 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 from medal contention.
 framed points at the middle of the court. When the crowd goes wild.

“Do you believe in miracles? YES!” as a Norwegian stone knocked away from the middle

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Practices were also different, large

No stone can have a greater weight than 44 pounds

No stone can have a greater weight than 44 pounds greater circumference than 36 inches

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, four 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.

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

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