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BC-MCT-INTERNATIONAL-BJT — wire editors (6000 words)

McClatchy-Tribune News Service
MCT International Budget for Thursday, January 14, 2010

Updated at 0530 UTC (12:30 a.m. U.S. EST Thursday).

Additional news stories, including full U.S. coverage, appear on the [MCT-NEWS-BJT](#) and [MCT-NEWSFEATURES-BJT](#).

TOP STORIES

Haiti pleads for aid after 'unimaginable' quake; U.S. mobilizes relief

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-1ST-LEDE:MI](#)—Rescue workers dragged corpses from collapsed buildings, dazed homeless wandered the streets and the death toll climbed Wednesday as dozens of aftershocks from a massive earthquake rattled this capital city.

The Roman Catholic archbishop was dead. The top U.N. envoy remained missing. And politicians and police struggled to keep the nation from descending into chaos, led by President Rene Preval, who described stepping over bodies and hearing the cries of those trapped under the rubble of the national Parliament.

1000 (with trims) by Jacqueline Charles, Lesley Clark and Francis Robles in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. **MOVED**

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

Also moving as:

Haiti capital lays in ruins in wake of earthquake

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-1ST-LEDE:LA](#)—1300 (with trims) by Tina Susman, Joe Mozingo and Ken Ellingwood in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. **MOVED**

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Bodies lining Haiti's roadsides are the grim tally of disaster

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-SCENE-1ST-LEDE:LA](#)—As darkness fell on Haiti's capital tonight, crowds gathered in the streets to spend the evening in the relative safety of the outdoors.

Their lives turned upside down by Tuesday's devastating magnitude 7 earthquake, many survivors broke out into communal song, seeking to soothe themselves and remain calm in a city with no power, little water, a limited number of inhabitable buildings and scores of bodies strewn along the roadways.

But then, about 6:30 p.m., the songs turned to screams, as a strong aftershock hit. Moments later, the crowds in the street grew larger, as many of those who had remained inside ran from their shaky shelters, away from the walls and ceilings that had caused such destruction a day earlier.

Across Port-au-Prince Wednesday, the damage seemed nearly random.

700 by Tina Susman in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. **MOVED**

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

WORLD NEWS

Obama rushes aid to Haiti, vows 'unwavering support'

[HAITI-USAID:WA](#)—Racing to help save lives, U.S. ships and planes are rushing to the Caribbean as President Barack Obama vows that the U.S. will give its "unwavering support" to the people of earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

"I have directed my administration to respond with a swift, coordinated and aggressive effort to save lives," Obama said at the White House after he canceled a trip to nearby Maryland to spend more time on responding to a tragedy he called heart wrenching.

600 (with trims) by Steven Thomma in Washington. **MOVED**

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

U.S. halts deportations of undocumented Haitians due to earthquake

[HAITI-USDEPORTATIONS:MI](#)— The Obama administration is temporarily suspending deportations of undocumented Haitian nationals who are in the United States, Florida Gov. Charlie Crist said Wednesday at a news conference.

But there are no immediate indications from the Obama administration that it would grant Haitian nationals Temporary Protected Status in the aftermath of Tuesday's earthquake.

600 by Toluse Olorunnipa and Alfonso Chardy in Miami. **MOVED**

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Also moving as:

[HAITI-DEPORTATION:TBW](#)—200 by Sebastian Rotella in Washington. **MOVED**

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Pat Robertson: Haiti earthquake result of 'pact with the devil'

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-ROBERTSON:TBW](#)—Conservative televangelist Rev. Pat Robertson on Wednesday blamed the earthquake in Haiti on a "pact with the devil" purportedly entered into by the Haitian people in a bid to defeat French colonizers in the early 19th century.

400 (with trims) by Andrew Zajac in Washington. **MOVED**

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News organizations fight grim conditions to enter Haiti

[HAITI-MEDIA:LA](#)—As the magnitude of destruction in Haiti unfolded Wednesday, U.S. television networks scrambled to get reporters into the devastated country, a task greatly complicated by the shaky security and broken infrastructure.

With the air traffic control tower at the Port-au-Prince airport severely damaged, the biggest challenge was just getting to the epicenter of the earthquake that hit Tuesday. CNN's Anderson Cooper managed to be the first television reporter to make it into the country by hitching a ride Wednesday morning on a government helicopter from the Dominican Republic. The copter was nearly clipped in midair by a nearby plane as it approached the capital. CBS' Kelly Cobiella reached Haiti shortly afterward, after driving through the night on a dangerous road between the two countries.

900 by Matea Gold in New York. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Port-au-Prince port damage complicates shipments to Haiti

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-PORTS:MI](#)—Damage to the port infrastructure at Port-au-Prince is complicating efforts to sail to the city.

The port cranes at Port-au-Prince were knocked into the water by Tuesday's devastating earthquake and "we've been advised by U.S. military's Southern Command that a good portion of the pier has been destroyed," said Jay Brickman, vice president of government services for Crowley Maritime, which operates regular cargo service to Port-au-Prince from Port Everglades, Fla.

400 by Martha Brannigan in Miami. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

South Floridians wait, worry and work to get aid to Haiti

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-FLORIDA:MI](#)—On the morning after a devastating quake struck Haiti's capital, Haitian Americans and their fellow South Floridians prayed and mobilized relief efforts as many anxiously sought news of the fate of friends, relatives and co-workers.

School children and their teachers gathered at a special morning Mass at the Catholic Cathedral of St. Mary's in Little Haiti.

850 by Nadege Charles, Elinor J. Brecher and Andres Viglucci in Miami. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Haiti quake happened along fault line, experts say

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-FAULT:MI](#)—Although earthquakes are typically associated with the West Coast, the Caribbean is actually a seismically active area, where plates and fault lines are still shifting below the surface.

"That's how you got all the islands in the first place," said Dale Grant, a geophysicist at the National Earthquake Information Center near Denver.

400 by Robert Samuels in Miami. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTO](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

A primer on U.S.-Haiti relations

[HAITI-USRELATIONS:LA](#)—Relations between the United States and Haiti have been closely intertwined since they were separately born in blood in revolutions against European colonizers centuries ago. Often, it has been a thorny relationship involving invasion, race and economic questions.

600 (with trims) by Michael Muskal in Los Angeles. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Haiti earthquake mirrors 1989 Northern California quake

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-SCIENCE:LA](#)—In many ways, the catastrophic quake that struck Haiti on Tuesday was the perfect storm: A massive, shallow eruption below a densely populated city with few, if any, building codes.

The magnitude 7.0 quake occurred along the boundary separating two major tectonic plates, the Caribbean and North American plates.

Most of the movement along these plates is what is known as left-lateral strike slip motion, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, with the Caribbean plate moving eastward in relation to the North American plate.

900 (with trims) by Cara Mia DiMassa and Alexandra Zavis in Los Angeles. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Also moving as:

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-SCIENCE:MI](#)—850 (with trims) by Fred Tasker in Miami. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

Florida 'safe' from earthquakes, too far from fault line that caused Haiti quake

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-FLORIDA-SCIENCE:FL](#)—Florida is too far away to have felt any effects from Tuesday's earthquake that rocked Haiti, according to geology experts.

"Florida is one of the most stable places on the planet," said Florida International University professor Grenville Draper, who has studied and mapped the fault that caused the quake. "We have plenty of other things to worry about. Earthquakes are not among them."

350 by Michael Turnbull in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Lynn University awaiting info on students, faculty in Haiti

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-MISSINGSTUDENTS:FL](#)—Lynn University received word Wednesday evening that at least five students on a school mission trip to Haiti are safe.

Lynn spokesman Jason Hughes said he does not know exactly where the students are, although he believes they are with the U.S. Embassy.

Twelve students and two faculty members are on the trip. The messages do not give any indication of the status of the others, although Hughes said he believes the students and faculty are together.

650 (with trims) by Scott Travis in Boca Raton, Fla. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Twitter provides a conduit for news from quake-devastated Haiti

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-TWITTER:SI](#)—Pushing the velocity of bad news to new highs, Twitter continued Wednesday to connect the world with the devastating earthquake in Haiti, translating the tragedy into 140-character cries of desperation, broken sentences of solidarity and links to photographs too heartbreaking for words.

350 by Patrick May in San Jose, Calif. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

More candidates may be banned from Iraqi elections

[USIRAO-ELECTIONS:WA](#)—Iraqi officials met late into the night Wednesday to determine how many candidates should

be barred from running in the March elections after a panel determined that they had ties to Saddam Hussein's former Baath Party.

The decision last week by the Justice and Accountability Commission, which handles Iraq's de-Baathification efforts, outraged Sunni Muslim voters and cast doubts on whether more than 400 contenders would be included in the parliamentary polls.

Sunni politicians called the ban an effort to disenfranchise Iraq's Sunni minority, and warned that sidelining Sunnis could lead to unrest and a return to support for insurgents in the absence of fair representation. A smooth vote in March would help pave the way out of Iraq for U.S. forces.

700 (with trims) by Hannah Allam and Sahar Issa in Baghdad. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Afghan civilian deaths in '09 were the most since invasion, U.N. says

[USAFGHAN-CIVILIAN:LA](#)—War's violence claimed the lives of more than 2,400 Afghan civilians in 2009, the United Nations said Wednesday, the largest annual death toll for noncombatants since the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

But the proportion of civilian deaths attributed to Western and Afghan security forces dropped sharply in the wake of strict new rules of engagement issued over the summer by U.S. Army Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, the commander of Western forces in Afghanistan.

750 (with trims) by Laura King in Kabul. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Yemen cracks down on al-Qaida, killing suspected militant leader

[TERROR-YEMEN:LA](#)—Yemeni special forces killed a suspected al-Qaida leader and captured four fighters as the country increased pressure on the militant network operating in several key tribal provinces, officials said Wednesday.

Yemen's government, juggling a civil war in the north and a secessionist movement in the south, had been slow to react to a widening al-Qaida threat. Its stepped-up raids come amid international concern over the country's ability to defeat a branch of Yemeni and Saudi fighters that has claimed responsibility for the failed Christmas Day attack on a Northwest airliner heading for Detroit.

Yemen's Saba News Agency reported that Abdullah Mihdar, described as a leader of an al-Qaida cell, was killed in a shootout after troops surrounded a house in an eastern stronghold where he and other militants had gathered.

450 by Jeffrey Fleishman in Cairo. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

In Iran, opposition appears to spread into heartland

[IRAN-OPPOSITION:LA](#)—Mohammad knew he had to be careful in approaching his old classmate Hamed, the one from the conservative Iranian family. They come from a small city, after all, and word gets around.

When they ran into each other in their hometown of Birjand last summer, the pair hadn't seen each other for nine years. As they caught up on old times, the conversation turned to Iran's disputed election between President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and challenger Mir-Hossein Mousavi.

A clever and highly ambitious young man whose dream until seven months ago was to go abroad, get rich and have drinks by a pool in Miami, Mohammad found himself drawn into political activism after the election — and trying to recruit friends and acquaintances to join him.

1250 (with trims) by Borzou Daragahi in Beirut. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Egyptian Christians feel vulnerable after deadly shooting spree

[EGYPT-ATTACK:WA](#)—Fear and bitterness linger in this leafy riverside town a week after three Muslim gunmen fired into a crowd of Christians who were leaving church, killing seven people and hurling Egypt into a new chapter of religious strife.

The day after the drive-by shootings Jan. 6 on the eve of the Coptic Christmas, Christians in Nag Hammadi smashed shop windows and torched cars before police stopped the rioting with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Now that the dead are buried and three suspects are in custody, what remains is a shattered Christian community that has little faith that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's U.S.-allied administration will protect them.

900 (with trims) by Miret El Naggar in Nag Hammadi, Egypt. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Japanese hunter facing charges in connection with U.S. bear hunts

[OTD-BEARPARTS:SE](#)—A Japanese psychiatrist who travels the world as a big-game hunter was charged in King County Superior Court Wednesday in connection with the smuggling of black bear gall bladders, popular in traditional Asian medicine.

Prosecutors allege that 71-year-old Tohru Shigemura pretended to be a citizen of the United States to buy guns, which he used to kill six black bears without a license in and around the Quinalt Indian Reservation.

300 by Craig Welch in Seattle. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

UNITED STATES

Senate Democrats leave Kabul optimistic but still wary of U.S. troop surge

[USAFGHAN-SENATORS:WA](#)—On the first visit to Afghanistan by Senate Democrats since President Barack Obama's decision to send more than 30,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan, Carl Levin of Michigan and Al Franken of Minnesota Wednesday reported signs of progress and expressed optimism that a Taliban takeover of the U.S.-backed government can be averted.

Unlike two much larger Republican delegations that visited last week, however, neither Levin nor Franken endorsed Obama's troop surge, and Levin, who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he'd have done things differently.

850 (with trims) by Roy Gutman in Kabul. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Michelle Obama looks back on first year in White House

[OBAMA-FIRSTLADY:TBW](#)—First lady Michelle Obama said Wednesday she is pleased with her inaugural year in the White House, thinks she's been effective and regards the much-publicized state dinner gate-crashers as nothing more than a "footnote."

Meeting with a small group of reporters, Obama said she's proudest that her daughters are "sane" and still the girls they always were. She said she hoped she could say the same thing about Malia, 11, and Sasha, 8, three years hence.

550 (with trims) by Katherine Skiba in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [ARCHIVE PHOTOS](#)

National groups put funds into Massachusetts race

[SENATE-RACE:USA](#)—Outside groups are pouring millions of dollars into Massachusetts' Senate race to replace the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, highlighting a contest that could determine the fate of national health care legislation.

With days to go before Tuesday's election, groups are blanketing television airwaves, organizing fundraising drives and reminding voters of the national implications of a campaign that will decide whether Democrats keep the 60 votes they need to

stop Senate Republicans from blocking legislation.

650 by John Fritze in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Detroit chosen at random for terror try, officials told

[TERROR-FLIGHT:DE](#)—The man accused of trying to blow up Flight 253 on Dec. 25 apparently selected the Detroit-bound flight at random, members of Congress briefed by Obama administration intelligence officials said Wednesday.

“There’s no Detroit connection that we’re aware of,” Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson of Mississippi said after a closed-door meeting with administration officials.

550 (with trims) by Todd Spangler in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

TSA plan skips many checkpoints

[TERROR-BODYSCAN:USA](#)— The Transportation Security Administration’s plan to install body scanners at hundreds of security checkpoints still could leave many U.S. airports inadequately protected against terrorists carrying explosives, aviation experts say.

The TSA plans to install 300 machines that look under passengers’ clothing for hidden weapons. That will leave about 500 checkpoints at U.S. airports without the technology, raising concerns that terrorists would choose a checkpoint with a metal detector to sneak plastic or powder explosives past security.

400 by Thomas Frank in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Poll: Most Americans support ethnic profiling in airline security

[TERROR-POLL:USA](#)—Americans are divided over whether President Barack Obama’s response to the foiled bombing of a Detroit-bound jetliner on Christmas Day went far enough, a USA Today-Gallup Poll finds, amid broad support for the controversial practice of ethnic profiling in airline security.

Despite criticism by Obama and others of the failure of intelligence agencies to prevent the incident, however, those surveyed by an overwhelming 3-1 say that the United States has made considerable progress against terrorism since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

400 by Susan Page in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Letter suggests Getty’s purchase of Italian statue was illicit

[GETTYBRONZE-EXCLUSIVE:LA](#)—Was the J. Paul Getty Museum acting in good faith when it purchased one of the finest ancient bronze statues in existence?

That will be the central question before an Italian judge after Friday’s closing arguments in a long-running legal battle in Pesaro, Italy.

At stake is a much-coveted work believed by some to have been created by Alexander the Great’s personal sculptor and plundered by Roman soldiers around the time of Christ before being lost at sea.

The Getty’s general counsel Stephen Clark recently told judge Lorena Mussoni that an exhaustive review of Getty files found no evidence that museum officials knew the statue had been smuggled or was otherwise illicit.

But the Getty’s review missed at least one key document: a 1976 letter in which one of J. Paul Getty’s closest advisors refers to the museum’s “exploits over the bronze statue” as a “crime.”

1350 (with trims) by Jason Felch in Los Angeles. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

3 charged in alleged plot to ship possible nuclear-weapons items to Iran

[IRAN-WEAPONS:LA](#)—Three men, including an Iranian-born chemical engineer living in nearby Glendale, have been charged in a scheme to smuggle sophisticated industrial components into Iran that could be used in the development of a nuclear weapon, authorities said Wednesday.

The case has drawn interest at the highest levels of government, an official with Immigration and Customs Enforcement told the Los Angeles Times. The charges come as the U.S. is rallying allies to block Iran’s nuclear ambitions.

300 by Scott Glover in Los Angeles. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

High court hears NFL antitrust case over logo merchandise

[SCOTUS-NFL:USA](#)—In wide-ranging oral arguments Wednesday, the Supreme Court appeared unlikely to completely shield the National Football League from antitrust liability in contracts for logo merchandise or in other joint team deals.

The NFL is defending a lower court’s ruling that said the league’s 32 teams were a “single entity” exempt from claims that they illegally thwarted competition in logo merchandise.

450 by Joan Biskupic in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Morphine treatment linked to prevention of PTSD

[SCI-POSTRAUMATICSTRESS:LA](#)—Early administration of morphine to military personnel wounded on the front lines during Operation Iraqi Freedom appears to have done more than relieve excruciating pain. Scientists believe it also prevented hundreds of cases of post-traumatic stress disorder, the debilitating condition that plagues 15 percent of those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

That conclusion is based on findings published Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine. They suggest that a simple treatment can stop a single horrifying event from escalating into a chronic, incapacitating illness.

1050 (with trims) by Karen Kaplan in Los Angeles. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Deployments affect mental health in military wives, study says

[HEALTH-MENTAL-MILITARYWIVES:USA](#)—Wives of soldiers sent to war suffered significantly higher rates of mental health issues than those whose husbands stayed home, according to the largest study ever done on the emotional impact of war on Army wives.

Those rates were higher among wives whose husbands deployed longer than 11 months, according to findings that will be published Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

500 by Gregg Zoroya in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

BUSINESS

After threat of China exit, Google shares slip as competitor Baidu soars

[CPT-CHINA-GOOGLE-BAIDU:MK](#)—Shares of Google Inc. faltered Wednesday, as Wall Street analysts expressed concern about whether the company will follow through on its threat to cease operations in China.

Late Tuesday, Google announced it has been the target of “highly sophisticated” cyber-attacks on its infrastructure. Chief

Legal Officer David Drummond said the attacks originated in China and seemed to be aimed at identifying advocates for human rights in that country.

Shares of Google's biggest Chinese competitor, Internet-search giant Baidu Inc., rose more than 13 percent Wednesday to close at \$439.48.

1150 (with trims) by John Letzing and Dan Gallagher in San Francisco. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

HP, Microsoft team up on \$250 million cloud computing project

[CPT-HP-MICROSOFT:SJ](#)—Hewlett-Packard and Microsoft said Wednesday they will jointly spend \$250 million to develop hardware and software products that are designed to work together smoothly in their customers' data centers and in cloud computing facilities.

450 by Brandon Bailey in San Jose, Calif. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

SEC puts out call for inside information about fraud

[SEC-PROBES:USA](#)—Burned by its failure to uncover Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme, the Securities and Exchange Commission Wednesday issued an invitation to informants who have inside information about financial frauds: Come on in.

SEC Enforcement Division Director Robert Khuzami outlined the agency's first-ever incentives for informants who provide evidence that could help the markets regulator stop wrongdoing like the multibillion-dollar investment scam Madoff used to victimize thousands of investors worldwide.

350 by Kevin McCoy. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Cruise line to carry relief supplies to Haiti

[HAITI-ROYALCARIBBEAN:MI](#)—Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., which escaped damage to its Haitian resort, is planning to carry relief supplies to the island as part of its regular stops there. Miami-based Royal, which operates a private resort at Labadee, Haiti, said it is awaiting word from the Haitian government on when it can return to the facility, which is on Haiti's northern coast, far from the bulk of the damage.

300 by Martha Brannigan in Miami. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

How do we dig out from under \$12 trillion in debt?

[DEBT-RATIO:USA](#)—The last time the nation's debt was this big compared with gross domestic product—70.4 percent of GDP — was immediately following World War II.

How did the Greatest Generation pare it down? It didn't.

1600 by John Waggoner. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Chrysler keeps its head down at auto show

[AUTO-CHRYSLER:DA](#)—Only one all-new car graced Chrysler's display at the Detroit auto show on Tuesday — and it wasn't even a Chrysler.

That vehicle — a Lancia sedan with Chrysler badges — was at the North American International Auto Show mainly to gauge Americans' reactions to hatchbacks, said Sergio Marchionne, the new chief executive of the Chrysler Group.

650 by Terry Box in Detroit. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

FEATURES

Johnny Cash's final studio album to be released Feb. 26

[MUS-JOHNNYCASH:LA](#)—"American VI: Ain't No Grave," the final studio album by Johnny Cash, will be released Feb. 26, timed to what would have been the Man in Black's 78th birthday.

The Rick Rubin-produced collection consists of recordings they made together after finishing "American IV: The Man Comes Around" in 2002 and before Cash died on Sept. 12, 2003, and features a characteristically genre- and era-hopping batch of songs by Kris Kristofferson, Sons of the Pioneers' Bob Nolan, Tom Paxton, Sheryl Crow and others.

400 by Randy Lewis in Los Angeles. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

A few 'Minutes' becomes 91 years for Andy Rooney

[TV-ROONEY:USA](#)—Ask Andy Rooney, who turns 91 Thursday, about retiring, and he responds with his own question: "Retire? From what? Life?"

No, just his job as TV's longest-running essayist/curmudgeon.

"I suppose the time may come," Rooney says.

It has been 31 years since he first appeared on CBS' "60 Minutes" — as a summer replacement. "I think I'll know when I can't do this anymore. I think I'd quit before anyone tells me to."

1250 by Bob Minzesheimer in New York. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Young actresses form a 'Lovely' friendship

[MOVIE-LOVELYBONES-GIRLS:KC](#)—Saoirse Ronan says a movie company is like a family doomed to break up.

"I've never been able to fully accept after a movie or TV show that it will be a year before you see these people again at the premiere," the Oscar-nominated 15-year-old actress said. "And you're never actually going to be with this whole group of people again, ever. After spending long hours together for weeks or months, it's a hard thing to deal with."

But something wonderful happened when Ronan was making "The Lovely Bones."

The Irish Ronan and New Zealand actress Rose McIver, who plays her big sister in the film, hit it off so well on the set that they've been able to forge an enduring friendship

"It's funny," Ronan said in a joint interview with McIver. "Rose and I don't have all that many scenes together. But even on days when she wasn't working she showed up on the set, and we got to know each other very well."

"Neither of us has a sister," the 22-year-old McIver said. "So that's how I think of us. Saoirse is like my sister — my big sister. I'm six years older, but she's an old soul."

750 by Robert W. Butler in Kansas City, Mo. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Add author to music producer Emilio Estefan's list of accomplishments

[MUS-ESTEFAN:MI](#)—Cuban-born Latin pop legend Emilio Estefan has been on the red carpet plenty.

But on this night at the Eden Roc Renaissance hotel in Miami Beach, the spotlight wasn't focused on Estefan's more famous Grammy-winning wife, Gloria, nor his Miami Sound Machine band, which helped push the Latin music beat into mainstream USA.

The 56-year-old music producer, mentor, restaurateur, Miami Dolphins minority owner, overall entrepreneur and advisor to famous and influential friends, was on the red carpet as author of an autobiographical how-to book for other immigrants.

“Against all odds, I was able to become a success in this country and I want to help others who follow me do the same,” Estefan said of his latest project, “The Rhythm of Success: How an Immigrant Produced his own American Dream” (\$24.95, Celebra).

900 (with trims) by Luisa Yanez in Miami. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

COMMENTARY

Christian-Islam violence spreading in Europe, Mideast

[BRINKLEY-COLUMN:MCT](#)—Europe and the Islamic world are at war. It’s a proxy conflict, fought in European capitals and on the Arab streets. But people are being killed.

Just last week, Islamic gunmen slaughtered six Christians as they left church in southern Egypt on Coptic Christmas Eve, setting off a week of retributive violence. This was just the latest incident in a cascading series of repressive and violent acts against Christians living in numerous Arab states, including the Palestinian territories, Iraq and Morocco, among other places.

Meantime, across Europe, government leaders are contemplating or enacting ever more repressive rules on Muslim residents and citizens who are carrying their lifestyles and grievances into unforgiving societies.

The most famous example, last month: the Swiss electorate voted to ban the construction of new Minarets. Then early this month a fiery Islamic cleric in England announced that he would organize a large protest march through the streets of a town near London that regularly honors passing hearses carrying British soldiers killed in Afghanistan. Prime Minister Tony Blair said he was “personally appalled,” and then on Tuesday Britain banned the group.

In both worlds, the conflicts result from misunderstanding and outright intolerance.

800 by Joel Brinkley. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Let’s not become our own worst enemy

[TERROR-INTELLIGENCE-COMMENTARY:WA](#)—Everyone should take a deep breath and stop flapping about the “failure” to identify Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab as a likely terrorist. What went wrong—and what’s gone right?

Yes, there were disparate pieces of information that — if they were put together correctly and on time — might have sounded an alarm about Abdulmutallab before he got on Northwest Flight 253 in Amsterdam. Were they, however, of sufficient magnitude to force agencies to focus on him? One of the many misconceptions swirling around this incident is the nature of intelligence analysis, and especially analysis about potential terrorists.

In isolation, the Abdulmutallab “dots” seem alarming. However, intelligence analysis is more than putting the pieces together in one puzzle. It’s more like working on many puzzles — perhaps hundreds of puzzles — simultaneously, and then deciding which puzzle and which piece of that puzzle should take precedence.

850 by Mark M. Lowenthal, the president of the Intelligence & Security Academy. From 2002-2005, he was the Assistant Director of Central Intelligence for Analysis and Production. He wrote this for McClatchy Newspapers. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Latin America’s water needs could foster collaboration to curb global warming

[LATIN-WATER-COMMENTARY:LA](#)—Ask the mayor of a city in the Andes Mountains about the outcome of December’s climate negotiations in Copenhagen, and you will probably receive a perfunctory reply. Ask about the plummeting levels of local freshwater reservoirs, and you will get an earful.

The reason goes to the heart of the disagreements that split the industrialized and developing countries and prevented a long-term, binding agreement to curb global warming. But it also offers a path toward a more productive approach to north-south collaboration on climate change.

In Latin America, water is more tightly linked to human potential and economic competitiveness than in any other part of the world. The region has roughly 31 percent of the planet’s freshwater resources, while being home to only 8 percent of its population. This huge water advantage has enabled Latin America to get 68 percent of its electricity from hydroelectric sources, compared with a global average of less than 16 percent.

The region’s key commodity exports—in agriculture and mining — depend on extraordinary quantities of water. About half the world’s beef exports and nearly two-thirds of all soya come from Latin America, where they are produced cheaply, thanks to typically abundant rainfall.

But after the severe droughts of recent years, this water advantage has become a stark vulnerability.

800 by Luis Alberto Moreno, president of the Inter-American Development Bank, the main source of multilateral development funding for Latin America and the Caribbean. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Security slipping away in Iraq

[IRAQ-IWPR:MCT](#)—Residents of Iraq’s Anbar province are alarmed at the upsurge in violence in the region in recent months.

In the most serious incident, two suicide bombers struck inside the provincial government compound on Dec. 30, killing 30 people and injuring more than 100, including Gov. Qassem Mohammad al-Fahdawi. A provincial council member and three senior security officials were among those killed.

A group known as the Islamic State of Iraq, linked to al-Qaeda, claimed responsibility for the bombings. Local officials said the government was also investigating to see if members of the security forces were involved.

The blasts were seen as a serious setback in a province that has been hailed as a security success story.

750 by Uthman al-Mukhtar, a reporter in Iraq who writes for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Immigrant unrest in Italy

[ITALY-EDITORIAL:LA](#)—The United States has struggled with immigration and race since its founding, so it is easy to forget that these are relatively new issues for European states that were largely homogenous for centuries. We were reminded of this fact, however, when hundreds of African laborers rioted in southern Italy’s Calabria region for three days last week after Italian youths fired an air rifle at a group of foreign farmworkers.

Italy exported its own citizens for years and only began to admit large numbers of guest workers in the 1980s and ’90s. Since then, the foreign-born population has grown to at least 6.5 percent, and, like many of its neighbors in Europe, the Catholic country has been struggling to cope with xenophobia, cultural and religious pluralism, and the contentious politics of immigration.

450. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

SPORTS

76ers’ Dalembert feels helpless in trying to reach family members in Haiti

[BKN-DALEMBERT-HAITI:PH](#)—It was a routine Tuesday for Samuel Dalembert: He participated in a clinic for a group of youngsters and ran some errands. Then he heard the news.

The 76ers’ center learned via a message left on his cell phone that an earthquake earlier in the day had devastated his home

country of Haiti.

Before the Sixers hosted the New York Knicks on Wednesday night, Dalembert said he had made an attempt to schedule a flight to Haiti, but he soon found out that no planes were going in or out of the country.

"I feel so helpless that I have not been able to do anything," said Dalembert, a 28-year-old native of Port-au-Prince who has been active in raising funds to help poverty-stricken Haiti. "My father was able to e-mail me, but I haven't had any other contact yet to know how everybody is."

500 by Kevin Tatum in Philadelphia. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [ARCHIVE PHOTO](#)

Colts receiver Garcon waiting for news from Haiti

[FBN-GARCON-HAITI:BZ](#)—The magnitude-7.0 earthquake that devastated the capital of Haiti on Tuesday has hit home with Indianapolis wide receiver Pierre Garcon, who is of Haitian descent. Although his immediate family lives in Florida, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives are still in Haiti, Garcon said.

"Haven't heard much from them," said a reserved Garcon, who is usually a cheerful voice in the Colts' locker room. "Still waiting to see. My mom is trying to call. Hopefully, I'll get some good news."

200 by Edward Lee. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

76ers' Dalembert trying to cope with Haiti tragedy

[BKN-ADAMEK-COLUMN-HAITI:HK](#)— When he was young, growing up in Haiti and walking barefoot most of the time because he couldn't find shoes to fit him, Samuel Dalembert told his friends he wanted to "fit myself in a suitcase, go out on one of those planes and get out of this country and have a better life."

They laughed, he said, because as he grew to nearly 7 feet, they told him, "You're not going to get in no suitcase."

Yet, via Montreal (where his family moved when he was 14), then St. Patrick High in Elizabeth, N.J., (where he arrived without knowing a word of English) and Seton Hall University, he eventually found a better life in the NBA with the 76ers.

But now if he only had enough suitcases to save his family, friends and others dealing with Tuesday's devastating earthquake in a place he still calls home, but where the death toll could reach 100,000 or more.

600 by Steve Adamek in Philadelphia. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

USA's Lindsey Vonn has chance to win five skiing medals

[OLY-SMALLWOOD-COLUMN:PD](#)—It's that time again.

That time once every two years when the greatest athletes rarely in the spotlight get their moments to shine.

During the summer of 2008, it was swimmer Michael Phelps, whose run of eight gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Beijing captured the imagination of the American public.

In a month, the attention of the sports world will focus on Vancouver for the XXI Winter Olympics, beginning on Feb. 12.

So don't be surprised if during the next 30 days you're inundated with the name Lindsey Vonn. Every Olympics needs a dynamic force to latch onto, and Vonn is the perfect candidate to put out in front of the American public.

850 by John Smallwood in Philadelphia. [MOVED](#)

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