Subject: Fallujah
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 09 Nov 2004 21:00:35 GMT
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Can't get this info in U.S. of A. but they(whoever they are) say the Iraqi provisional army is a no-show in this fight. Lawrence of Arabia had the same problem trying to motivate these people. Watch the movie and you know all there is to know about this war.

Subject: Yasser Arafat is dead
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 11 Nov 2004 07:42:23 GMT
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Not necessarily related, but Yasser Arafat is dead.

Subject: Re: Yasser Arafat is dead
Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 11 Nov 2004 12:53:22 GMT
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Sometimes the devil you know is better than the devil you don't. Hopefully the next guy won't come with so much baggage and those people will have a chance for some peace in their lives. This is off the track but I was a sittin' and ponderin'; we all think that the situation in effect at this time is permanent, it will always be this way just altered slightly here and there. Look at the pyramids; they thought that too. I wonder if some day a guy will be digging through a pile of dirt and stumble upon the Washington Monument. Like that scene in Planet of The Apes.Those people in the Mideast were at one time the greatest civilisation on earth.

Subject: Peace
Posted by Mike.e on Thu, 18 Nov 2004 02:44:34 GMT
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Unfortunately peace isnt possible due to a compromise of the palestinians being impossible. I dont expect anything to change in this area.What about africa? I guess theres crisis' happening over there,but our news only shows it when something huge happens,then they soon forget.(kinda hyperbolic representation_

Subject: Re: Peace
Posted by manualbock on Thu, 18 Nov 2004 12:00:12 GMT
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There's no oil in Africa; just lots of killing.

Subject: Re: Fallujah
Posted by elektratig on Sat, 20 Nov 2004 11:08:12 GMT
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Urban warfare is a tremendously difficult and dangerous task. Whether you are, as a political matter, "for" or "against" the US effort in Iraq, there is no doubt that the US forces have a done a tremendous job mastering the military science of urban warfare -- just compare, for example, the performance of the US in Fallujah with the performance of the Russian military in Grozny in January 1995, in which the forces that the Russians initially sent into Grozny were ambushed and largely wiped out. All indications are that the US military closely studied Russia's Grozny operations and drew valuable lessons from it.Particularly in this context, it is understandable that the newly-formed Iraqi Defense Forces (IDF) are not yet up to the standards of the US military -- no other army in the world is. I have not seen a definitive analysis of the performance of the IDF in Fallujah, but the buzz seems to be that they are getting better.For these sorts of subjects, http://www.globalsecurity.org is an excellent resource.Russian Disaster in Grozny 12/31/94 - 01/03/95: http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/2002/MOUTThomas.htmOverview of Operation Dawn: http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/oif-phantom-fury-fallujah.htmUS Assessment of IDF in Fallujah:
http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2004/11/mil-041119-afps01.htm
Global Security Site

Subject: Africa
Posted by elektratig on Sat, 20 Nov 2004 11:33:26 GMT
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Assuming that by "Africa" you mean Sudan/Darfur, I'd point out that the US is, to my knowledge, the only major country in the world that has officially declared the situation "genocide". The UN certainly has not done so.
Colin Powell on Darfur

Subject: Re: Africa
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 20 Nov 2004 14:14:09 GMT

True; and a sorry situation that is for the U.N. The condition of labeling the conflict as"Genocide", does not, contrary to popular belief, require an intervention by the Security Council; it opens the door for sanctions and requires the members to provide the strongest possible response to the accused parties. That call for sanctions was predicated by Congress due to pressure from Conservative Christian Groups;(due to Christians warring with Muslims); Black Caucaus Leaders and the Jewish Lobby, not the Exucutive Branch. I would point out that Colin Powell has a supremely intelligent understanding of the requirements for statesmanship in the region. Too bad the willfull little boy president we have refused to allow Mr. Powell to do his job. There is a potential vote of no confidence directed towards Kofi Annan resulting from the food for oil scandal and the sexual harrasement scandal at the U.N.. I personally do not believe he is very effective and should resign. J.R.

Subject: Re: Africa
Posted by elektratig on Sat, 20 Nov 2004 18:51:29 GMT

MB,I'm not sure what to make of your post.1. The House passed the resolution by 422-0 and the Senate by unanimous voice vote. I'm not sure who "lobbied" for the resolution, but it does not appear that support was limited to specific interest groups. What is "the Jewish lobby" anyway?2. As far as I'm aware, after completing a review of the situation Powell concluded that genocide was occuring and the President promptly endorsed his conclusion as that of the Administration. I have no idea what you mean when you say that the President "refused to allow Mr. Powell to do his job."3. At all events, even assuming the Administration was somehow pressured into declaring genocide when it would have preferred not to (which seems to be what you are suggesting?), the willingness of this administration to make the declaration stands in stark contrast to the shameful performance of the Clinton administration with respect to Rwanda. In that case, the administration (a) went through embarrasing contortions to avoid declaring "genocide", and (b) encouraged the UN (which admittedly needed little or no encouraging)to avoid taking any action, even though there was a peacekeeping force on the ground that, according to its commander, could have saved hundreds of thousands of lives.4. Frankly, I would be perfectly happy if the US warned Sudan tomorrow that, if the acts of genocide did not stop in, say, two weeks or a month, the Sudanese government would be taken out with cruise missles. However, the "international community" and the dailykos crowd would doubtless erupt with angry denunciations that the war-mad US was unilaterally attacking a Muslim country. My heart goes out to the residents of Darfur, but I fear that their only recourse is to the UN and the international community, which will not act.5. At least we agree that Kofi Annan should resign, although I (as you might suspect) believe that the problems in the UN run far deeper.On Rwanda, see Philip Gourevich, We Wish To Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families -- a horrifying and excellent book.e

Subject: Re: Africa
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 20 Nov 2004 22:01:17 GMT
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Hi Electratig; The Jewish Lobby consists of the representatives of the interests of the state of Israel who's function in Washington is to promote and articulate their positions on world events. The concept of another Muslim state breeding and supporting terrorist causes next door motivates their position.Reffering to Colin Powell; he is the only member of the administration who holds the respect of all of the governments involved and had an opportunity to broker some kind of peace initiative; his exact approach and plan will be revealed in his memoirs. The administration had no exposure on this so naturally they trumpeted their support.I am sorry but I can't reply to the Clinton Presidencies position on Rwanda. That was a very different situation and we would ultimately be reduced to quoting facts from self designated authorities and bloggers with agendas.As far as bombing the Sudanese government; our buddies in ,"The Coalition", Pakistan and Russia would not support it in the Security Council, considering they do a lot of business there.Thanks for the book recomendation; I have heard Mr. Gourevich interviewed on several occasions but sad to say I have not read his book.

Subject: Re: Africa
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 21 Nov 2004 08:13:53 GMT
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Can't we just genocide all assholes and stupid people? I mean, really. Who needs someone that is just wasting good oxygen?Oh, shit. That's what Hitler did. Stalin too. Man, I guess my comment that we should knock off the jerks and stupid people makes me a bad guy too. I guess I think mean stuff sometimes. 'Spose if we were going to genocide all the bad guys we'd have to nuke the planet.But can't we just start with the really bad assholes? Just a little bit?

Subject: Re: Africa
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 21 Nov 2004 12:56:08 GMT
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Wayne; how long has that party been going on; bud?

Subject: Re: Africa
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 21 Nov 2004 14:10:47 GMT
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Just having a little fun. I'm glad you didn't take it wrong. One thing I've noticed about myself is that I can really get angry about stuff. I hate that about myself. I mean, how important is it anyway? Well, sometimes it's important but still, do my negative thoughts and sometimes my negative reactions make it better? Not usually. I'm just speaking for myself here.I like to keep things cool. That's sometimes difficult for me. But I definitely like to be optimistic and upbeat. So if I crack a joke to lighten up a tense moment, I'm really doing it to lighten myself up as much as anything else. If I had to take a choice between being a little too flippant or a little too serious, I'd prefer to take it easy. But sometimes I get worked up anyway.So since this is the Dungeon, I think I'll wrap this up with something really important. In an effort to be all things to all people, you have your choice as to which ending you prefer: The serious ending or the fun ending. Please pick one:Fun South Africa NewsSerious South Africa News

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Subject: Re: Africa
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 21 Nov 2004 14:50:26 GMT
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What was the serious moment? I hope you don't think our little discussion was a serious moment. You will know when it is a serious moment when my head explodes.This foruum has responsible people on it that can have a discussion w/o getting stupid. Thats why I like it.

Subject: Re: Africa
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 21 Nov 2004 16:48:10 GMT
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You will know when it is a serious moment when my head explodes. I was really just talking. You know me, I can get kinda worked up when I think something is unjust, wrong or unfair. Seems like politics and matters of law sometimes make my head explode. Sometimes I like to get into it anyway. But this time, I just posted a couple of fun pictures instead.

Subject: Re: Africa
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 21 Nov 2004 20:25:07 GMT
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The politics thing is a sensitive issue for you I see. Reasonable people should be able to discuss their POV w/o problems. No? We do live in a politically open system requiring reasoned participation. Your position on issues tells who you are. So then people know exactly who they are dealing with and can speak accordingly. From that position stems mutual respect for our

differences.Accept it that we can not turn others opinions and most problems disappear and you can engage each other in a framework of mutual understanding. And even have a few laughs at the ridiculous energy expended in debate. You feel me? J.R.

Subject: Re: Africa
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 22 Nov 2004 05:20:04 GMT
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Yep, yep. I agree. And when I'm talking with people I know, respect and like a lot, we can have very different views and it's OK. In fact, it's better that way because we can each learn something instead of just being in agreement. Sometimes those are the best discussions.

Subject: Re: Africa
Posted by elektratig on Mon, 22 Nov 2004 11:21:41 GMT
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MB,Wow, I take a day off and the thread goes crazy!A propos of your observation about Colin Powell, there is an article in the Jerusalem Post asserting that he "was asked to step down after telling President George W. Bush he wanted more power to confront Israel over the peace process, according to London's Sunday Telegraph." Whether it's true or not, I have no idea.I guess the difference between us is that I don't think it's the Israelis who should be or need to be "confronted" at this point.Referring to Wayne's post and magazine cover down the thread, I vote for more nipples in the media. Nonetheless, I think the public was properly upset with CBS for broadcasting Janet Jackson's really, really gross nipple -- it looked like one of those petrified raisins you find in the back of the cupboard. If they're going to air one lousy nipple, couldn't they have found a better one? I can think of plenty of others I'd prefer to see.e
Jerusalem Post Article re Powell

Subject: Re: Africa
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 22 Nov 2004 12:53:29 GMT
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Good article. I am not familiar with that paper; are they accurate. It does make sense that Powell would follow a pro-Israel course he was a big proponent in the original gulf war. You guys are a bunch of sexist misogynists. The world goes to hell in a handbasket and all you can do is stare at nipples; nipples..nipples..nipples.Nipples..nipples....Thats right.

Subject: Re: Africa
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 23 Nov 2004 06:10:29 GMT
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