

University Libraries
Poor Yorick's Trivia Contest

Question of the week: In ancient times he was most famous for his polished philosophical dialogues, all now lost. His surviving books are essentially textbooks for students at his Lyceum.

Who was this Greek thinker?

Instructions: Entry forms are available at the Circulation Desks in Evans Annex, WCL, and PSEL. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries submitted by 5 p.m. on Wednesday. Winner will receive a Poor Yorick's coffee mug.

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Militants in Zimbabwe attack current president's opposition

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — President Robert Mugabe calls them loyal war veterans, patriotic Zimbabweans who have risen up spontaneously to fight those who would betray the revolution that brought independence.

Most other Zimbabweans see them as violent foot soldiers in a state-sponsored war on their own countrymen part of an effort by Mugabe to crush his political opponents before next weekend's presidential election.

Often escorted by a protective phalanx of police, militants have firebombed opposition party offices and white-owned farms. They have attacked homes and businesses. They allegedly have killed, kidnapped, tortured or simply beaten those seen as Mugabe's opponents.

Few militants have been arrested. Fewer have been prosecuted. And some have been rewarded handsomely by an increasingly unpopular and autocratic president who is facing his severest political test against the opposition Movement for Democratic Change in the March 9-10 election.

"They are doing exactly what [Mugabe] wants. Every day of violence is more votes lost for the MDC," said Shari Eppel, an official with the Amani Trust, a Zimbabwean human rights group.

In fiery speeches, the president has encouraged and defended his shock troops. After parliamentary elections in 2000, he gave a blanket amnesty to those who waged a violent intimidation campaign against opposition groups.

"This is a betrayal of what we fought for," said Wilfred Mhanda, a former officer in the high command of the liberation army that ended white rule in 1980.

"We fought most importantly for free-

dom and social justice and there is no political freedom right now," said Mhanda, director of the Zimbabwe Liberation Platform, a group of war veterans that lobbies for good governance and human rights.

Joseph Chinotimba, who describes himself as a field commander of the pro-Mugabe militants, denied in a telephone interview that the militants have done anything wrong.

"We are totally peaceful," said Chinotimba, who accused the MDC and its presidential candidate, Morgan Tsvangirai, of being behind the political violence sweeping the country.

However, Chinotimba himself has led violent raids on farms, and he has been charged with the attempted murder of a female neighbor he accused of supporting the opposition. He also was convicted of possessing an illegal firearm, but remains free pending appeal.

He once stormed the Supreme Court yelling, "Kill the judges." With no interference from police guards, he entered the chambers of Chief Justice Anthony Gubbay, whose court had begun striking down as unconstitutional new laws aimed at strengthening Mugabe's hold on power, and threatened him.

Gubbay, who had been appointed by Mugabe, resigned after the government said it would not protect him.

Chinotimba calls Gubbay "an agent of Ian Smith," who was the defiant leader of the minority white government in the nation then called Rhodesia.

Mugabe rewarded Chinotimba with a large farm.

The militants say they are helping redistribute white-owned farms to landless blacks. But many farms have gone to ruling

party lawmakers, Mugabe's military loyalists like Chinotimba.

Five years ago, after their pension was drained by corrupt officials, war veterans took to the streets to demand Mugabe's resignation. He gave them a huge financial and planned new taxes. When the rulings and strikes destroyed the economy, the payouts helped sink the economy. Mugabe's popularity with it.

Over the past two years, ruling party militants led by the war veterans have won opposition supporters all over the country. They occupied hundreds of white-owned farms, burned the houses of black workers and then used the land as leverage to intimidate the country's rural human rights activists say.

More than 100 people have been killed. Human rights organizations say nearly 100,000 have been black opposition supporters.

Foreign governments have urged Mugabe to restore the rule of law. He promised he would, but the violence escalated, with dozens killed in February.

Many of the militants are far too young to have had any role in the nation's liberation war. Yet nearly all call themselves veterans.

"Mugabe is taking advantage of the vets and our youth," Mhanda said.

At youth militia training camps, younger recruits are indoctrinated in what they are told is the nation's battle against imperialism and foreign influence, human rights groups say.

The rhetoric "gives young people a feeling that they are taking part in an ideological linkage to our forefathers in the fight against colonial occupation," said Brian Maitland, a human rights lawyer.

Switzerland joins United Nations

GENEVA (AP) — Swiss voters approved joining the United Nations on Sunday, finding the prospect of a greater role in today's interlinked world more compelling than fears that it would threaten the nation's centuries-old tradition of neutrality.

The country, which has been formally neutral for almost 200 years, will become the United Nations' 190th member. Only the Vatican remains outside the world body.

During the Cold War, Switzerland feared U.N. membership would sweep it into the battles between East and West. More recently, opponents have feared having to submit to the political dictates of the Security Council.

The Swiss have practiced forms of neutrality on and off since the 13th century, but the principle was laid down formally in the 1815 Treaty of Paris that ended the Napoleonic Wars. In that pact, European powers guaranteed the "perpetual neutrality" of Switzerland.

The Swiss themselves made it part of their 1848 constitution. Treating both sides in a war evenhandedly has remained a guiding principle since, although recent historical reviews have said Switzerland went too far in helping the Germans in World War II.

The popular vote gave the bid for U.N. membership a comfortable 55-45 percent approval, but the crucial second

Israel bars Muslims from building next basicala in Nazareth

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel announced a permanent ban on construction of a large mosque next to the Annunciation in Nazareth, drawing strong condemnation from Muslims in the biblical town.

The Islamic Movement in Nazareth, the group that built the mosque, accused Christian leaders abroad of meddling in a local affair and said it would not abandon its plans.

"We totally reject this decision, we are going to stay on this holy land until we finish building the mosque," said Salim Ahmed, the group's leader.

The issue has raised tensions in Israel's largest Arab city since 1998, when Muslims received government permission to build a mosque on a lot adjacent to the basilica where they say a prophet was buried.

Christian leaders have said that building a mosque so close to the Basilica — the largest in the Middle East and the site of tradition says the Angel Gabriel foretold Jesus' birth — would be disrespectful.

Pope John Paul II threatened to cancel a visit in 2000 over the issue, and President Bush raised the subject with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon during a meeting last year.

The foundation of the mosque has been set, but the Israeli government has never been issued. Israel has proposed alternative sites, which Muslims in Nazareth have rejected.

Natan Sharansky, the Israeli Cabinet minister in charge of the committee the government set up last month to resolve the dispute, announced Sunday that construction of the mosque would be halted for good.

"Whatever decision we make, there will be somebody who is unhappy," Sharansky said. "But it was very important to make a real decision which takes into account the feelings of the local population and the feelings and sensitivities of the faithful people all over the world."

Abu Ahmed said there had been no work on the site since the government ordered a temporary halt to construction in January but that the group intended to continue building, in accordance with permission granted by previous Israeli governments.

"The Christians in the world are doing everything to prevent us from building this mosque when it is our responsibility to build here in Nazareth," he said. "We will stay here and continue building until we finish the mosque. We will not listen to Sharon."

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