

**THE DIOGENES REPORT**  
**The Wit, Wisdom & Wituperation of Emanuel L. Strunin**  
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**HUMOR OF THE TIMES**

A story in The New York Times Business Section of March 18th describes the inhuman techniques used by some dot-coms to fire employees during the current technology fallout. Included was a description of how the employees of New York Times Digital, a subsidiary of the newspaper company found out that they had been axed. Some 70 employees of Times Digital learned about their dismissals from an article in the newspaper and an announcement on the website.

Quite an employee relations coupe for a great liberal paper. Now for the humor: The official Times explanation was "while it was an awkward and unfortunate circumstance that some of our employees learned of the news...before we had a chance to tell them in person, it demonstrates the editorial independence of our news-gathering operation and the objectivity with which it goes about covering itself."

Independence of the news gathering operation? Like in the Middle East where the coverage is still required to reflect the twisted attitudes of Adolf Ochs which have been handed down to the family members who run the paper today. Ask Abe Rosenthal why he never had a good word to write about Israel until the day he ceased to be an employee of the Times and became an independent columnist.

An egregious example of the Ochs-Sulzberger family's manipulating news coverage in the Times to conform with their psychological hangups was the treatment of the Holocaust in their paper. If you read the Times during World War II you would have been barely able to find mention of the fact that millions of Jews were being murdered in Europe. The US government knew it and every Jewish organization knew it, but the capos at the Times refused to acknowledge it. Today, the Times ignores Arab statements about Jews that are designed to lead to another Holocaust. Based on this record can the times be labeled "A Journal of Holocaust Denial"?

"Independence of the news gathering and reporting at the Times"--that should register at least 90 on the laugh meter. And management's claim that they don't have a Jew problem--that would hit 100 and likely shatter the bell.

I heard a former Times reporter, editor and member of the editorial board decry the fact that too many young newspaper people wanted to be investigative reporters. Perhaps his attitude provides insight into why the Times, with its huge staff rarely breaks the big investigative stories. For example, if the Times didn't seek to be "more Catholic than the Pope" (the Kennedy administration), it would have blown the whistle on the Bay of Pigs fiasco and dozens of lives would have been saved and dozens of others would not have rotted in Cuban prisons.

A Times' Washington reporter was not allowed to break the news about Congressman Wilbur Mills being a fall-down-drunk, even though he headed a key House committee. There undoubtedly were, and continue to be, dozens, if not hundreds, of similar stories that the Restons, Rosenthals, Frankels and their successors sat on to preserve the establishment aura of the Times.

Many times, news coverage, or the lack of it, is based on the principle of political correctness. Perhaps that is why the Times did not cover an intriguing network of homosexuals that reached into the CIA, the Pentagon and the Reagan administration and played a key role in the Iran-Contra affair.

"As for the objectivity with which it goes about covering itself", that's another howler. Except for some milquetoast "corrections", when was the last time you saw a hard-hitting criticism of the Times news reporting or ethics? Such criticism is often sent to the Times, but seldom, seldom used. I can attest to this personally. How many book reviewers are selected, not because they are the best choice, but on the basis of a relationship with the editor of the book section?. When this type of behavior is pointed out in another publication, does a mea culpa ever appear in the Times?

My advice is not to read the Times with merely a grain of salt but to use a full shaker.

## **BOOT THE DAMN SPIES OUT**

Our government is rightly outraged at the Russian spies working as diplomats in the US. These Russkys that we gave their walking papers are probably part of the handlers that transmitted the information to Moscow that the Americans dug a tunnel under the Russian embassy in Washington to spy on them. You really can't trust the Russians not to spy.

## **HOW APPROPRIATE**

The Water Commissioner of Israel is named Shimon Tal. I'll add him to my name collection.

## **PA ACTS TO REDUCE TERRORIST THREAT**

In its efforts to comply with Israel's request to reduce terrorism, the Palestine Authority has arrested 150 Arabs suspected of cooperating with Israel. This move should help reduce Israeli terrorism against the Palestinians. Let's be thankful for progress.

## **THEY CAN'T HANDLE THE CANUCKS, BUT THEY HAVE SAGE ADVICE FOR ISRAEL**

The Canadian government is incapable of handling a major, on-going ethnic problem in its own backyard, but it is advising Israel to honor the "law of return" and let some of the Arabs who tried to bite the heels of the Jews slither back into Israel. A booklet to that effect, with an introduction by Hanan Ashrawi, has been published by Canada. Perhaps Hanan was selected for this assignment because of her one-time relationship with Canadian Peter Jennings, a well-known friend of Israel

Naturally, I have some suggestions of this issue. One, I recommend that the Israeli government publish a booklet telling Canada to promote a free and independent Quebec so that the French Canadian people can get out from under the heel of Ottawa. Number two, I suggest that Canada accept all of the Arabs that wish to settle there and afford them the same protection that it provides for the baby seals and the polar bears.