

C-FAR NEWSLETTER

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Kill My Dog

Writing in Animal Voice (South Africa) Dr. Ayoub M. Banderker (BVMCh), veterinary surgeon deplores an annual ritual: "With the approach of *Ramadaan* (and also the holiday season), many Muslims bring their dogs (and/or cats) to the animal hospitals or mobile clinics to have them euthanized; that is put to death by lethal injection). The reason given by the majority of these Muslims is, 'It is the month of *Ramadaan*, and my religion forbids me to keep a dog.'" Dr. Khaled Abou El Fadl, professor of Islamic Law at UCLA, explains: "To the literalists, the prohibition against dogs as pets is clearly delineated in one of the *hadiths*, the traditional accounts of the life and sayings of the prophet Mohammed. In their view, the *hadiths* and the *Koran* unambiguously set forth the laws of *sharia*. But as Abou El Fadl points out, determining which of the tens of thousands of *hadiths* are authoritative requires both knowledge and critical analysis. One must evaluate the reliability of the sources and assess how consistent the *hadiths* are with the moral vision of the God who speaks in and through the *Koran*. In the case of the dog *hadith*, Abou El Fadl found it hard to believe that the same God who created such companionable creatures would have his prophet declare them 'unclean.' Investigating the sources, he discovered that the *hadith* in question not only derived from an unreliable chain of sources but reflected views far more consistent with pre-Islamic Arab customs and attitudes." (Newsweek, April 15, 2002) According to *Islamic Concern*, Islam broke away from blood sacrifice, a long-standing desert "tradition of appeasing an 'angry God' and instead demanded personal sacrifice and submission as the only way to die before death and reach *Fana* or 'extinction in Allah.' The notion of 'vicarious atonement of sin' (absolving one's sins through the blood of another) is nowhere to be found in the *Qur'an*. Neither is the idea of gaining favour by offering the life of another to God. In Islam, all that is demanded as a sacrifice is one's personal willingness to submit one's ego and individual will to Allah." Just as the meaning of *Islam* is submission -- not peace -- or at least, peace as a reward for submission to Allah.

It's Beginning to Feel A Lot Like Diwali

Bing Crosbie used to sing a lilting song "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." In these politically correct times and in this age of minority rule, you almost have to whisper the dreaded "C" word. I was in a local branch of *Scotiabank*, one of Canada's five major banks. In the interminable line - we sheoples are used to being treated with studied contempt, our time being valueless to the financial plutocrats - my eye fell on two large posters. The first featured some Arabic writing and the following text: "*Eid Mubarak*. *Scotiabank* wishes you a happy *Eid*. May this joyous festival bless our families with happiness and peace."

The second poster, about a yard high and two feet wide, proclaimed: "*Scotiabank* wishes you a happy *Diwali*. May this *Diwali* shine on our families with happiness and prosperity." Great! That takes care of the Moslems and the Hindus. But what about the vast majority of people in my community from the founding/settler European peoples who are Christians? Well, nothing so far.

I asked one of the bank personnel whether we might be able to expect a "*Scotiabank* wishes a *Merry Christmas* and Happy New Year" poster. "I hope so," she answered sheepishly. "We are allowed to

have a Christmas tree this year," she smiled. Wow, I thought, what a concession to the Majority. "I mean a poster that actually mentions Christmas and doesn't use fudgy evasions like 'Happy Holidays' or 'Seasons' Greetings,'" I insisted.

I got no answer, but I suggest that readers everywhere keep a sharp eye out at *Scotiabank* and elsewhere. Dog businesses that won't recognize the religion and culture of the Majority. I mean with "*Merry Christmas*", not bland evasions like "holidays" or "season." Ask. Insist. These businesses all want us to shop 'til we drop and are impoverished for the Christmas Season. If they want out bucks, the very least they can do is name and acknowledge OUR feast and holiday. -- Paul Fromm

Presenting -- Democracy!

On the plus side, the BC provincial government actually sent out a tabloid-size survey asking citizens where they would like to see their future taxes invested. Less encouraging is the BC government's idea of what a citizen looks like. Of 21 people featured in the grinning vignettes, fifteen were East Indians or Asians with one probable aboriginal. One of the five superfluous Whites is smiling gratefully up at her East Indian doctor while another White woman is confined to a wheelchair. There is a single White male in view. Language is not an entirely reliable indicator, but Chinese account for just 8 per cent of British Columbians who report a single mother tongue; Punjabis less than one-third of that.

You Are What You Believe

Numeracy has been called "the most important element in Chinese custom, belief and culture after food." Witness Beijing's plan to hold Olympic opening ceremonies on 08-08-08 at 8 pm sharp. In both Cantonese and Mandarin the word for "eight" sounds like the word for "fortune" and "prosperity." Thus, eight is a lucky number whereas "four," which sounds like the word for "death" in both Cantonese and Mandarin, is not. Canadian banks cater to this arcane belief system by screening out the number 4 from bank account numbers for their Chinese clients -- odd really, when these same institutions cannot bring themselves to gulp out "Merry Christmas" for the benefit of the other 95% of their customers. While both Koreans and Japanese have no particular affinity for the number 8, they share the Chinese aversion to the number four. And in the context of this concerted effort to degrade and suppress our own traditions, the power of belief is powerful stuff: The British Medical Journal set out to determine whether cardiac mortality is abnormally high among Asians on "unlucky" days: "In The Hound of the Baskervilles, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle [a doctor], Charles Baskerville has a fatal heart attack resulting from extreme psychological stress. ... If the number 4 evokes superstitious stress in some Chinese and Japanese people, and if Conan Doyle's medical intuition was correct, cardiac mortality in Chinese and Japanese people should peak on the fourth of each month. Conan Doyle indicated that Sir Charles Baskerville was susceptible to a heart attack induced by stress because he had chronic heart disease. If so, deaths from chronic heart disease should show a particularly large peak on the fourth day of the month. Sir Charles's superstitious fear of an avenging, spectral hound was shared and reinforced by his neighbours; similarly, Chinese and Japanese superstitious fears are likely to be stronger where they are reinforced by large Chinese and Japanese populations. Hence, the fourth day peak is likely to be stronger in California, which accounts for 42.6%

of the Chinese and Japanese deaths in the United States. [The authors of the study] examined computerised daily national mortality figures for Chinese and Japanese Americans and White Americans from 1973 (when daily mortality was first recorded) to 1998 (the latest available data). [And, sure enough,] on the fourth of the month, cardiac deaths were significantly more frequent than on any other day of the month, and were 7% higher than the average for the rest of the week. This percentage increase is larger for deaths due to chronic heart disease (13%) and still larger (27%); for chronic heart deaths in California. We call this mortality peak 'the Baskerville effect.' This effect is not evident in white Americans, nor is it evident in Chinese and Japanese Americans who die from causes other than chronic heart disease. Thus, Conan Doyle's medical intuition is confirmed: in our dataset the fourth day peak occurs only in [Asian] people with pre-existing heart conditions. ... There is no linguistic link in English between the number 13 and death. This may help to explain why White mortality shows no peak on the thirteenth of the month, despite the Chinese and Japanese peak on the fourth." (**British Medical Association Journal** 2001;323;1443-1446)

Only In Canada

"In the wake of the shooting at **Dawson College** last month, [former **Red Guard** now journalistic fixture, **Jan Wong** suggested] that the province's repeated experience of such incidents in recent years, in each case at the hands of members of racial minorities, might have something to do with the marginalization of these groups in Quebec society. ... The part of Ms. Wong's article that the province's political class found so intolerable was not the suggestion that the marginalization of ethnic minorities in Quebec might have contributed to the murders, but the suggestion that ethnic minorities were marginalized at all." (**National Post**, October 07, 2006)

Camp Of The Saints

"During the first nine months of this year, 16,000 Africans landed in overcrowded boats on Italy's Mediterranean island of Lampedusa. Another 27,000 have so far survived the perilous journey to the Spanish Canary Islands off the coast of Morocco. An even bigger human wave is being smuggled in by land. Some estimates place the number of illegal immigrants entering Europe each year at 800,000. A report by **Caritas**, a Catholic social service agency, estimated the number of illegal immigrants in Europe in 2005 at 5 million. ... The extent of [Italy's] underground economy was partially revealed in March, when the former government set the quota for this year's temporary residency permits at 170,000 and called for applicants. Within three hours, almost 550,000 applications were filed, most from people already living and working in the country illegally. **Silvio Berlusconi's** government lost the election a month later, and the new centre-left coalition raised the quota by 320,000, thereby accepting all who had applied." (**Toronto Star**, October 21, 2006)

The Power Of Babel

H.L. Mencken said "for every problem, there is a solution that is simple, neat, and wrong." Of course that was before immigration. Last February, **Aishah Azmi** was suspended from a Yorkshire junior school because, as a "bilingual support worker," it was felt that she could not adequately relay the intricacies of English pronunciation from behind a wall of black polyester. Why a class of small children so sexually threatened Ms. Azmi that she could not remove her *nikab* -- the device that allows mere millimetres of eye to show -- was never addressed, but her suspension would elicit the usual accusations of knuckle-dragging cultural hostility and, of all things, concupiscence: "Islamic scholars say the hostility rests with Western difficulty in embracing cultural difference. They say it stems from ignorance of historic reasons for the veil in Islamic society as well as ignorance of women's religious head-coverings in Western Christian culture. They argue the hostility is rooted in the West's deep cultural antipathy

toward the East [and] link it to campaigns by Western feminists to 'liberate' Islamic women and to aggressive male reactions to women who, when veiled, are seen as unattainable [and] Western cultural animosities rooted in 'fantasies around the harem' and secluded and inaccessible women." (**Globe and Mail**, October 23, 2006) What rot. Ms. Azmi was born in exotic Cardiff, Wales. She adopted the *nikab* 8 years ago but admits she left the veil at home on the day of her job interview. Here at home, the host of a Hindi & Urdu radio show since 1972, **Darshan Sahota** "is a veteran of this country's ethnic media, a wide-ranging field that now comprises more than 120 radio and television shows, 536 publications, and more than 100 languages. ... 'When I started, there were maybe 20 hours a week on the radio, and one or two papers,' [Sahota] says. 'Now, you find Indian radio programs going neck and neck on three or four stations. There are many papers, in Punjabi and in Hindi. It shows that the demand has only grown.' ... An independent poll conducted by **Solutions Research Group** this year found that ... in Toronto, the top two radio stations on the whole are **CBC Radio One** and **680 News**. Among ethnic groups polled, **680 News** holds its own, but **CBC drops off the map**, replaced by non-mainstream broadcasters like Chinese-language **Fairchild Radio** and **CHIN**, which broadcasts in 32 different languages. Sahota has seen some progress over the years, but not nearly enough. 'The mainstream media, in my view, is what encourages ethnic communities to stay ethnic. They don't seem to view them as Canadian,' he says. 'It's very black and white. If you carry on every day telling me, 'I'm Indian, I'm Indian, I'm Indian,' I'll eventually say all right, if that's what you're happy with, that's what I'll be.'" (**Toronto Star**, June 24, 2006) So, the fact that ethnics have not just failed to assimilate into Canada's mainstream, but created several hundred electronic ghettos is *our* fault. Is it because the ethnic news readers at **CBC** made them feel somehow marginalized? Hint: For a persuasive argument, try to at least sound credible.

The Maritime Mind

Some people take less tenderizing than others to embrace their replacement. Thus, "public attitudes with respect to immigration have been repeatedly surveyed. **Douglas Palmer** has examined surveys conducted during the past two decades from a regional perspective and finds that there are 'marked differences between the various regions of the country in attitudes and perceptions surrounding immigration.' ... On average, non-metropolitan areas [fewer than 100,000 residents] show the lowest support for immigration, as measured by support for the level of immigration and the perception of negative effects of immigration on employment and of positive effects on culture. ... However, there are marked differences among the provinces. For instance, during 1996 to 1998, support for immigration levels was above the national average in metropolitan areas of all provinces *except Ontario and British Columbia*-- that is, the two provinces actually undergoing rapid transformation -- and it was highest in the Atlantic provinces and in Manitoba. Non-metropolitan New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Manitoba also were relatively favourable to the level of immigration. Palmer demonstrates that attitudes towards immigration generally are related more strongly to the perceived effect of immigration on unemployment than to its perceived effect on culture. He also shows that the survey results vary considerably over time, in a way that corresponds closely to the rate of unemployment. The higher the unemployment rate, the more likely people perceive a negative impact of immigration on jobs, and this erodes support for the level of immigration." (**CIC, Towards a More Balanced Geographic Distribution of Immigrants**, 2001) So you *can* have it both ways in Atlantic Canada -- chronic high unemployment *and* unusually high support for immigration among both urban and rural Maritimers.