Early applications increase by 20 percent

By Tommy Polonsky

The Daily Pennsylvanian

Early decision applications to the University increased by 20 percent this year, according to the admissions office.

Admissions Dean Lee Stylianou said the rise reflects a trend in recent years of growing interest in the University. He added that although he had expected the number of applicants to increase, he had not expected such a dramatic rise.

Stylianou based his original estimate on the assumption that campus would see an upturn of almost 30 percent. An additional factor in the preliminary estimates was the assumption that the quality of the applicants might have also improved.

So far, the Class of 1999's average SAT score was up approximately 20 percent, without accounting for the score changes of students who recently took the exam.

When students take the SAT a second time, their scores often improve.

The Class of 1999's average SAT score in math was up from 560 to 570 and was up from 450 to 470 in reading. More students also took the SAT, increasing from 106 to 127.

Stylianou attributed the rise to the University's more approachable image. The admissions office's joint travel program has helped expose Penn to the media and the presence and efforts of students and faculty members.

Stylianou said the admissions office has made the process more personalized. "When they are accepted, they want to request more information, we try to have a contact officer with a hometown connection in the state," said Stylianou. "It's not a stranger, it's a real person, the students, saying 'It's good to see you. I hope to follow up with you. I hope you'll take advantage of the financial aid we just offered.'" Stylianou said "Students say 'I love the campus, I love the school,'" he added. "That gives the University a more approachable image."
U.S. gov’t likely to shut down

By Mike Madden

The federal government’s potential shutdown this morning will not immediately affect the entire university, according to Vice President for Student Affairs and Public Affairs Fred M. Katz.

"It will take a few days for the essential federal services and agencies to be restored," Katz said. "The government and President Clinton reach a temporary agreement for emergency spending prior to an established budget for fiscal year 2000.

Scheiman said the shutdown will last for 2 business days in addition to the government employees.

She added that a solution to the budget problem will probably be found before the University as a whole into specific problems due to lack of federal funds — and that if there is no solution, the University would extend for beyond campus lim-

"I find it hard to believe the shut-

down would last more than a week," she said. "It would affect the University, the de-

partment on the University would be in the catastrophic effect on the U.S. Horrible effects on the University would not be considered important at the moment.

Political Science Professor Maria-

na Aristocrate said the potentially dangerous side effects of the

shUTDOWN would worsen the longer

the government remains closed. "As of today, the government has been closed for only slightly more than a week, and already many people are beginning to feel the effects," Aristocrate said.

"And if the government remains closed for an extended period, the consequences will be much more serious," she added.

Today’s potential shutdown would

cause more severe damage to the University than any other government shutdown in the past. "This is a much bigger deal than previous shutdowns," Aristocrate said.

News Briefs

Former folklore professor passes away

Former Folklore Department Chairperson Kenneth Goldsmith passed away Saturday after a four month bout with cancer. "I knew the last few weeks were going to be tough for him," said a close friend.

In addition to his expertise in folklore, Goldsmith was also a prolific writer. "He produced at least 100 books and hundreds of articles and helped build the Folklore Society to its current size," said a colleague. He also served as the President of the American Folklore Society.

The University of Pennsylvania has not been able to confirm Goldsmith’s passing yet for his lifetime contributions. "We are deeply saddened by the loss of Professor Goldsmith," said a university spokesperson.

Crime Report

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

November 13 — A window was broken on the north side of the Pan-

theaters, Willow and Walnut streets, at about 7:30 a.m.

November 13 — A security duty window was broken at 15th and Loc-

suits.

TREIF

November 12 — A WBBM studio in room 213 of the Chemistry Building at 3400 S. Ellis Avenue at about 11 p.m.

November 13 — A Gateway 2000 computer was taken from corner of 20th and Lotus streets and Walken and Lawstic streets, at about 7:30 a.m.

November 13 — Credit cards and $200 in cash were stolen from between 7 p.m. and 10 a.m. from a room 902 in St. Mary’s Restaurant at 35th and Locust streets at about 7:30 a.m.

PennFact

The first experiments in burning hard coal as fuel for the University by Professor James Woodruff, Class of 1872

Source: The Daily Pennsylvanian

Profile of the Day

Spend Time in Israel. Protect the Future.

"It came out of nowhere," said one student. "I was completely surprised. It seems like the University is taking this very seriously.

We’re all in this together, and we’re going to do our best to protect the future of this place."

"But I’m still a little unsure about what this means for the future of the University. I mean, what if the government shuts down again?"

"I think it’s important that we all support the University and its efforts to protect the future," said another student.

"I’m just glad that the University is taking this seriously and that we have a strong administration to lead us through this difficult time."

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Night Assistants

Hour: 01

Sally Smith

Scott Cameron

Catlin Byrd

Sarah Johnson

Madison Brown

Samantha Gomez

Alison Martinez

Alex Bowers

Correction and Clarifications

If you have a comment or question about the fairness or accuracy of a story, contact Daniel Levinson at 352-8672. For additional information, see The Daily Pennsylvanian’s website at http://www.daily.pennlive.com.

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John Morgan Cafe opens at Med School

By Karen Pasztorack

Medical School post-doctoral student Meng Chen has said goodbye to The Daily Pennsylvanian basement of the John Morgan Building to enjoy a quick lunch or er Medical School students and on Hamilton Walk, Chen and ottl opening yesterday was celebrated faculty do not even have to leave the environment, she added. "It's such a hassle to have to go place to spend your time "

By Susan Hansen

Apple this weekend to participate in East Coast universities hit the Big University of Pittsburgh. College, New York University and the New York Binghamton, Queens Col published program, it was beneficial for other campuses to learn ways to im establish program, it was beneficial for other campuses to learn ways to improve their programs," said Stephen Wiesenthal said. "The group spent the rest of the weekend at Lincoln Square Synagogue in the Upper West Side of Man-" "It was good for the students to see how these men successfully in-" stitute Judaism into their busi-" ness," Zelkowicz said. "Then we speak on campus and Irvine Auditorium was packed," Zelkowicz said. "Our goal is to promote corporate Judaism into" "I love the fact that the cafe is small, and personal," she said. "It gives me a chance to think without noise. It's such a hassle to have to go somewhere to spend your time."

Newspaper reports that there was a real collaborative ef-" fort, directed by Kabbi Ephraim Levin, the group for those who are not nor-" mally traveling, but he still manages to find a synagogue wherever he is."

John Morgan Cafe celebrated its grand opening yesterday in the Medical School on Hamilton Walk. "We began to realize a while ago that we really needed to improve our environment," Wiesenthal said. "The cafe is prepared daily, Daino ex-" "It was a real celebration of," said Skip Davis, director of the Canteen Corporation, which provides services to the new establishment. Davis also said that one of the spe-" cial qualities of the cafe is that most small vendors rather than large, generic ones. "People, a Mellon Bank employee and a man, a Mellen Bank employee and a PAUL'S

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The GRE: Forum on Graduate Education offers an ideal opportunity for those considering graduate work at or beyond the baccalaureate level to become acquainted with the GRE. The test is designed to assess the ability of applicants to handle the kind of work that is characteristic of graduate study. This seminar is designed for those who have already completed their undergraduate course work, and is suitable for those planning to enter graduate school in the near future. Seminar participants include representatives of over 100 graduate programs in the U.S. and Canada. You can also obtain catalogues and application forms of these programs. The seminar includes workshops on various graduate disciplines, obtaining financial aid and preparing for the GRE Test plus work shops for minority and returning students. 

To get $2 off the $8 admission fee to the GRE Forum, use the Check-out Code "GRE." It'll make your date economical, as well as personal. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

For more information call (609) 951-1562

Tuesday, November 14, 1995 The Daily Pennsylvanian Page 3

Wednesday, November 14, 1995

Sophomore Night at the Movies
Featuring: Ace Ventura 2

Thursday November 16th
10pm at Cinemark, 39th and Walnut
Tickets $3 on sale 14th - 16th, Locust Walk
Sponsored by the Sophomore Class Board

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A premier buyout firm located in New York City seeks candidates for its financial analyst program. Stonington Partners will be conducting on-campus interviews on Monday, February 12, 1996. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to OCA, Stonington Partners, Inc., Monday, November 27 and Thursday, November 30, 1995. Seniors of all majors are invited to apply. Further information is available at CIPPS.
Wharton Graduate Women in Business Presents:

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- Work and Family
- Women’s Leadership Styles
- Managing a Career Change

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Please return this form with a check payable to the Wharton Graduate Association to:

Name:  
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Registration Fees:

__Student/partner (grad, undergrad, WEMBA) $15

__Wharton affiliate (alumna, faculty/admin) $30

__Non-affiliate $50

An additional $10 will be required for registration after Nov. 23

Please indicate panel preference:

__Navigating Career Fast Track OR

__Women’s Leadership Styles

__Work and Family OR

__Managing Career Change

Fees include breakfast, lunch and closing reception. Please indicate which events you will be attending:

__breakfast  __lunch  __closing reception
Local residents criticize zoning request

**PRACTICE from page 1**

bags of trash each week.

Carol Schenkel, University vice president for government, community and legal affairs, said the trash problem was solved on Friday when UCA arranged for a private hauler to pick up the office's trash twice a week. Nicklin and the pickups will begin in January.

"Any neighbor's concerns are the University's concerns," Schenkel said.

Vaughn also explained that he was concerned the bags contain hazardous waste which is left exposed when rodents and homeless people go through the garbage.

Valerie Barry, another opponent of the proposed expansion, said she believes the University freely gains property outside the property at 43rd Street.

But Nicklin says his office's "abate pole" is behind trash cans for contaminated materials in every room — as well as outside containers for needles and diapers.

He also said a private company already picks up the practice's hazardous waste as required by law.

"We're not responsible in this area because it's the right thing to do," Nicklin said. "Schenkel said she is confident the doctor's office did dispose of medical waste improperly. She also said she will check the office's hazardous waste disposal records to make sure.

Vaughn tried to fill patients up the neighborhood's parking spaces and streets so patients would not park in front of houses.

But while Nicklin said he is aware of the parking situation in the area, he decried his office's slow in the area's parking congestion.

"We're not the cause of the parking problem here, we're just a contribu-

But Nicklin said his office is con-

ferring a survey of how its patients got to his office, which it will present to the zoning committee.

Only 10 of patients who recent-

ly filled out the survey responded that they drove to the office, according to Nicklin.

Barry said he opposes the zoning request because she fears the Uni-

city will make the entire block into a commercial area.

Vaughn also expressed concerns about the University's effect on the neighborhood, saying that CCA is a stranger, as outsider coming in and polluting the area.

Nicklin said Vaughn never ex-

panded concerns with the office's ex-

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"Any neighbors concerns are the

University's concerns," Vaughn said.

Nicklin has also agreed to restore the lids and make it difficult for SEPTA bus drivers to enter the neighborhood's parking spaces.

According to Alex Senderowicz, who owns property in the area and supported the zoning request in return for Nicklin's support, Vaughn said Nicklin will get something in return.

But Greenbach said after giving the property to the University, he re-

sponded to neighborhood residents and post-

ed signs about the coming change.

"If he doesn't like what's going on,

leaves it to him to either do it or

move away," he said.

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- 208 S. 37th Street
- Philadelphia, PA

Reception following lecture
Penn School of Social Work
Student Lounge
3701 Locust Walk

This is a free public lecture, co-sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work and the Annenberg School for Communication

For more information call 215-898-5526

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MEMBER ALL PRINCIPAL EXCHANGES
Editorial

A Deli Delight

The entire University community will greatly miss Lou Koch.

Lou Koch was one of the people that made this city feel a little bit more like home. We could all walk over to the neighborhood deli and eat chat with our friend Lou Koch. He would offer up a sample of his latest honey turkey or a zip of one of his famous millhoneks. He offered his latest or oldest joke to put a smile on our face and remember who we were when we re- turned.

He filled our stomachs when we were hungry and our hearts when we were upset. Lou Koch showed us how simple luxury could be as long as you worked hard and kept a smile on your face. We hope that Koch's Take-Out Shop will remain open and that Bob Koch will contin- ue on - this time, telling jokes for...

Lee Bailey

The Immaculate Permeation Culture

In my opinion, fast and edibles moves to in- creadible speed. Acid wash jeans came and endless humor will not be for- gotten any time soon.

As students ventured to third and Locust streets, they always knew what to expect - friend- ly deli sandwiches, a warm, brotherly atmosphere and Lou Koch standing behind the counter with a smile and a joke. Koch's deli sandwiches may have been what originally attracted its customers, but it's the Koch broth- er's good humor and pure hearts -

that keep people coming back.

Lou Koch was one of the people that made this city feel a little bit more like home. We could all walk over to the neighborhood deli and eat chat with our friend Lou Koch. He would offer up a sample of his latest honey turkey or a zip of one of his famous millhoneks. He offered his latest or oldest joke to put a smile on our face and remember who we were when we re- turned.

He filled our stomachs when we were hungry and our hearts when we were upset. Lou Koch showed us how simple luxury could be as long as you worked hard and kept a smile on your face. We hope that Koch's Take-Out Shop will remain open and that Bob Koch will contin-ue on - this time, telling jokes for the people that made this city feel a little bit more like home. We could all walk over to the neighborhood deli and eat chat with our friend Lou Koch. He would offer up a sample of his latest honey turkey or a zip of one of his famous millhoneks. He offered his latest or oldest joke to put a smile on our face and remember who we were when we re- turned.

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American Culture?

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State inquiry into college finances stalls

By Josh Fineman

Since the beginning of this year, the Pennsylvania Legislature has been holding a series of hearings aimed at study how state-owned and state-funded universities across Pennsylvania — including the University — spend their state aid. State Representative John Lawrence, a Democrat from Montco (Montgomery County) has severely criticized some of the state's public higher education programs. Last week, the State System of Higher Education, which includes the University and 14 state-owned universities, pulled out of the hearings, which have been a mainstay of the hearings.

The hearings are being held by the

Liberal arts students get advice from alums

By Stephanie Sherman

In an attempt to calm the nerves of anxious liberal arts students coming to terms with their future, the College Planning and Placement Service, in conjunction with the College Alumni Society, sponsored an educational fair at the University Wednesday night at Houston Hall.

The fair was an informal event designed to enable College of Arts and Sciences students to meet with people who represent opportunities that await them in the job market.

"Many people in the liberal arts don't really know what's out there," said Alig, who has helped run the program for the past several years.

Alig said the purpose of the fair is to give students the opportunity to meet with alumni working in a variety of fields, and to prove that a liberal arts education qualifies graduates for any job.

About 20 college alumni in careers ranging from health care administration to entrepreneurial management came to support the event.

Linda Scheman, a management creative writer at Rollins Financial Bank in Center City, was among the alumni participants.

"I wish they had done this when I was there," said Scheman, who graduated from Temple University in 1986. "I feel like I would have enjoyed the experience because I would have been able to take the class the last quarter in which I received it when we were at Penn, and it was an interesting class back then in that we were writing business plans for others."

Scheman added that the probability of the University winning this debate will be influenced by the school's central admissions office.

"The real thing that I feel has to change in order to get students the opportunity to meet with alumni working in a variety of fields, and to prove that a liberal arts education qualifies graduates for any job, is to change the way the school's central admissions office works," she said.

Alig added that he believes Lawless' positions have been both times consuming and difficult to answer and hard to respond to, and he is not heading, he said.

But while this "walk through" program seems to have gotten to the heart of the matter, it was not without its critics.

Some of Lawless's main criticisms was well justified.

"I think that the hearing has been our best asset in the legislature," he said. "I think the higher education community would be justified in choosing to shun the committee and the negotiations of the Legislature, and to work directly with the legislature."
United decides not to pursue USAir

CHICAGO — United Airlines decided yesterday to cancel talks with USAir Group Inc., ending a potential battle with American Airlines for dominance in the U.S. market. United, whose long-term debts total nearly $8.3 billion, unions and their prospective parent brokered an agreement with the United and American said they might be interested in a potential purchase of United.

United and American are tied for the top rank of domestic carriers in revenue United flies 56 scheduled flights per day.

The negotiations with USAir could have significant revenue benefits from increased United capacity but perhaps the current strategy is more risky.

Tribunal indicts 6 Bosnian Croat leaders

ACCUSED of terrorizing and destroying a Muslim region in central Bosnia, 6 Bosnian Croat leaders were charged with war crimes yesterday.

The 6 leaders were among 14 Bosnian Croat leaders, accused of terrorizing and destroying a Muslim region in central Bosnia, that were charged with war crimes by the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for each of the 6 men, who are accused of crimes such as killing or driving out people from the town of Vitez in central Bosnia.

The tribunal is a U.N.-organized war crimes court set up to try war criminals accused of crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes against civilians.

 Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kansas, left) meets with Congressional Republicans at the Capitol yesterday after President Clinton vetoed their temporary borrowing bill yesterday morning.

In the effort to avoid a shutdown, Clinton met with senators for about 40 minutes last night in the Cabinet Room at the request of GOP leaders, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said they "went around and around but we can't find a way to stop the shutdown." Dole said the talks would continue this morning, with White House chief of staff Leon Panetta meeting with House Budget Committee Chairman Jim Kolbe and his Senate counterpart, Peter Garden, yesterday. Democratic leaders emerging from the meeting said there would be some form of a short-term extension of the government to keep it from closing by midnight.

"There was no progress at all," said Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle.

LAGOS, Nigeria — A Nigerian Airways plane carrying at least 129 people crashed upon landing yesterday in northern Nigeria, and news reports said 77 people were feared dead.

The plane was the fourth Nigerian airliner to crash since June.

Akpor and Kerke were accused of commanding troops that destroyed 15 towns in the Lower Zaire Valley, including the April 1993 massacre at Awam, in which troops killed 120 people and burned down 1,500 homes.

In addition, the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia charged a Bosnian Croat leader and 12 others with war crimes.

The tribunal is a U.N.-organized war crimes court set up to try war criminals accused of crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes against civilians.

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At least 60 people were wounded, including more than 30 Americans. Five Americans were killed.

LA JOLLA, Calif. — Victoria Shen-Miller died in her home. She was a num-
er of Americans were listed in critical condition, and dozens were injured. The

The researchers could not rule out the possibility that the enzyme, which can

1,288-year-old seed germinated

The Daily Pennsylvanian

BERLIN — The East German leader

The news came after a bomb ripped
targeted at least a dozen foreign envoys and

The researchers could not rule out the possibility that the enzyme, which can

1,288-year-old seed germinated

LA JOLLA, Calif. — Scientists grew a tiny green

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The researchers could not rule out the possibility that the enzyme, which can
BOOZ-ALLEN & HAMILTON

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Time: 7:30pm
Place: Faculty Club

Reception to follow
Water Polo just shy of title

FOURTH From Back Page

"We knew heading into the fourth quarter that if we were still in this game," Dwight said. "Not too long into the fourth quarter, however, Penn quickly found itself down by four goals and was forced to switch to "catch-up" mode. Penn was able to regain its composure after the loss to Army and, after trailing for the first three periods, made a valiant comeback in the fourth. With 15 seconds remaining, Penn found itself down 8-7, but this was suddenly death and in the first minute of the fourth quarter to tie the game at 9-9 and send it into overtime.

In the first overtime neither team scored. With a minute left in the second overtime, Fallon, a member of the all-tournament team, scored to give Penn a 10-9 lead. Unfortunately, Williams scored the game into its third overtime period. The third overtime was just one third of the way into the game. Williams put one into the goal for the game. "With the talent we have I see no reason why we shouldn't be able to compete for nationals again next year," Dwight said.
The University Chaplain is looking for students of all faith traditions who would be willing to plan and participate in an Inter-Faith Thanksgiving. This formula means a lot to his family. To learn more, please call the Chaplain's Office at 898-8456. The planning meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 1995, 4:30 pm at 361.1 Locust Walk.

**Professor Clark uses every formula in applied physics. With one simple formula, he can calculate his life insurance needs.**

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**USC**

382-0343
W. crew misses race after timing mixup

CREW from Back Page

upon arriving on the course. "We were a little disappointed," Bergman said. "The guys did a good job, but our performance showed that we need to improve our training. We need to pick it up a little bit." Bergman said. "We were a little disappointed. "The guys did a good job, but our performance showed that we need to improve our training. We need to pick it up a little bit."

The Lightweight fared considerably better than the Heavyweight in the Frostbite Regatta on the Schuylkill River. The Lightweight boats finished in second and fourth, but they felt they should have won their respective races. The Lightweight fared considerably better than the Heavyweight in the Frostbite Regatta on the Schuylkill River. The Lightweight boats finished in second and fourth, but they felt they should have won their respective races.

Four-way tie wouldn't do season justice

WALENTAS from Back Page

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The jury in the King trial deliberated about three hours after lunch, then the jurors deliberated about 20 minutes after the prosecutor presented his rebuttal. The jury was then allowed another five minutes before they were excused for the day. The jury deliberated for two hours before the trial judge directed them to return to the courtroom.

The net result was that the jury deliberated for a total of 115 minutes, including a 20-minute lunch break. The prosecution then made its final argument, followed by 20 minutes of rebuttal for the defense. The jury was then excused for the day.
3 quarterbacks injured; Maddux wins Cy Young

Pittsburgh's defense before dinner passed for just one touchdown; the defense was so weak.

Model was missing, and even the Browns needed help in their last visit to Philadelphia as they lost to the Eagles Central Division with a 3-6 victory last night.

Stewart, upstaged him by throwing two touchdowns in the second quarter and the Cleveland defense turned it over to him.

Kordell Stabler, Eric Zeier at quarterback.

dimmish the impact of Stewart, who only two weeks ago would excite fans like no Browns' rook played Zeier, whom Model forecast last season, threw for a touchdown, overall against the Steelers and 0-5 in victories in 19*189, and they're 0-4 Pittsburgh sine last season

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N.Y. Giants 7   4   1  233 163 358

Dallas 10   5   1   233 186 360

Hawks 7   4   1  233 186 360

Pittsburgh 6   7   1     13 34   47

Tampa Bay 3   9   4     10 44   64

Kansas City     9   10     900 245 148

Chicago 8   5    3     19 57   48

New Orleans     7   7   0     18 37   55

New York Rangers 4. Hartford 1

Chicago 8   6   3    19 60  51

Toronto 8   5    3     19 57   48

Detroit 9   5    2    20 60  38

Philadelphia          2 2 .500      2

Kansas State 9   3   0    24 64  64

Florida State 6   6   0     14 33  34

湘北remains the first player to win by baseball's major award three straight times. It wouldn't have been possible to do this without place holders such as "a" and "b" which are used for the purposes of.

Maddux led the NL in wins with a 16-7 mark and was tops in the league in ERA (1.61) and complete games (27) in 1995. He became the first major league pitcher since Randy Johnson to win more than 16 games in a season since the early 1980s.

College Football

The New York Times Crossword

Sui VINEY, P.C.
Belsley caps sold season with stellar showing

By Joanne Jacobs
The Daily Pennsylvanian

The men’s cross-country team finished the season on a good note Saturday at the Penn Relays. The Quakers finished 14th, the best of any Ivy League team. Nicole Rizzuto, a freshman, capped a season that also included a trip to the NCAA championships as a member of the team that placed 12th.

The heavyweight crew team turned in a disappointing performance in its final race of the fall season. Its three boats finished well behind Princeton, which captured first and second place in the Championship Eight race. The Quakers finished seventh, 15th and 27th.

The Daily Pennsylvanian

By Meghan Leary

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Islam: The Basics

by Bilal Shafi

The word Islam means submission coming from the Arabic word for peace. All Muslims submit to the will of Allah. Islam defines a way of life based on five basic pillars. It is obligatory on every Muslim to satisfy these basic pillars. To fulfill these obligations, Muslims rely on two primary sources. First Muslims consult the Quran which is a direct revelation of Allah (the Muslim God) to his last messenger, Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him). The second source which Muslims consult is the Hadith which are collected sayings and actions of the Prophet Mohammed (p.b.u.h.). All Muslims consult these sources to fulfill the five pillars which are: Shahadah, Salat, Zakat, Sawm and Hajj.

Shahadah or the affirmation of faith is the first pillar of Islam and can be considered one of the most important. As a part of Islam, every Muslim must recite and sincerely believe in the following: There is no God but Allah and Prophet Mohammed is his messenger. By reciting this statement one must believe that there is no deity worth worshipping other than Allah, the Quran is the last message from Allah, Prophet Mohammed is the last messenger, and that there will be a day of judgement. This affirmation of faith is recited by all new Muslims and Muslims to reaffirm their faith and remind them of their duties as Muslims.

The second pillar of Islam is Salat which means prayer. It is obligatory on every Muslim to perform prayers five times a day. The timings are before sunrise, at noon, in the afternoon, after sunset and in the late evening. Muslims turn towards the Kaaba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, which was built by the prophet Abraham on the order of Allah and is considered to be the symbolic house of Allah, at these five times and illustrate their subservience to their lord, Allah. To some the prayer may seem like ritualistic acts of standing up and bowing down over and over, however performing the salat reaffirms the Islamic faith and belief in Allah and reminds him/her five times a day that he or she was put on this earth to serve Allah. Salat is considered to be a time when a person has a one on one relationship with Allah where tahleel will seek guidance. So, five times a day Muslims stand, kneel, and prostrate towards their lord to strengthen their faith and remind themselves of their duties towards Allah.

Sawm or fasting during the month of Ramadan is the fifth pillar of Islam. Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset usually eating before sunrise and immediately after sunset. Fasting involves abstention from worldly comforts such as food, and sexual relationships to all evil intentions, desires and actions. Abstinence from these worldly pleasures allows Muslims to purify their souls. Fasting during this month teaches a person to control his/her desires and to again realize that everything is done for the sake of Allah. Essentially fasting is a test which in the end will strengthen a person against any wrong doing. In addition to this purification, fasting provides a way of reminding the fortunate of the suffering of their less fortunate Muslim brothers and sisters, who are deprived of these basic necessities of life, in war torn countries such as Bosnia, Kashmir, and Chechnya. This allows the person to consider the hardships of the less fortunate, and pray for their welfare with greater sympathy and reverence and help them overcome their unfortunate situation in any way they possibly can.

Another pillar of Islam which brings the believer closer to his lord is Zakat. Zakat is charity for the poor, consisting of a minimum of 2.5% of one’s capital. Zakat is paid every year and distributed to the neediest people. Zakat allows an equalization between social classes eliminating chances of hatred and enmity between classes. Muslims believe that Allah has given wealth to people and it is obligatory on the fortunate to help the less fortunate. Again, paying the zakat reestablishes one’s belief in Allah and his subservience to his lord.

The final pillar of Islam is Hajj which is a pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. During Hajj millions of Muslims migrate to Mecca to appear before the lord Allah and recite: “Here I am at your service O lord! over and over again. Hajj is a symbol of equality of all people before their lord. All Muslims are dressed in a simple piece of white cloth which is similar to what they will be buried in. This signifies that in eyes of Allah all humans are the same regardless of race, nationality, status, wealth or gender. During the Hajj, Muslims practice strict self discipline and all sacred garments are removed. The Hajj is only obligatory once in a lifetime on Muslims who can afford it. After completing the Hajj, a Muslim is a new born baby, a new perspective on life where his/her faith and belief in Allah is stronger than ever.

These five pillars of Islam are not the only aspects of Islam. As stated earlier, Islam is a complete way of life. Every action and deed should be done to please Allah. Every Muslim makes the intention that he or she is performing salat and such deed for the pleasure of Allah. This allows a person to be true to his/her beliefs and think twice before doing something against the beliefs of Islam. Therefore worship and subservience to Allah is not confined to just the five basic pillars, but encompasses every aspect of a Muslim life.

Major Concepts in the Quran

by Shehzad Malik

Background

The Quran, an Arabic word meaning recitation, consists of the actual words of God delivered to the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) by the Angel Gabriel. The Quran is held as the primary authority on all religious and moral matters and consists of divine laws and injunctions and ethical and spiritual teachings which will assist humanity in leading a successful and prosperous life in this world and the Hereafter.

From the time Muhammad was chosen as a prophet of God to the time of his death (632 A.D.), a series of revelations were sent down to him for approximately twenty-three years. Muhammad and many of his followers memorized the entire Quran by heart in order to preserve God’s message. Finally, in 650 A.D., all of the revelations were collected and compiled into the text we have today. Thus, for the past fourteen centuries the Quran, which was revealed in the Arabic language, has been preserved in its original form. No other book in the history of the world has stood the test of time more so, and has undergone such careful and meticulous preservation as the Quran. The Quran consists of 114 chapters and about 6000 verses. Since the Quran is the book of God, the text of the Quran is unchangeable, perfect, and permanent.

MAJOR DOCTRINES AND CONCEPTS OF THE QURAN

Unity of God

In the Quran the word Allah signifies the One and Only God (i.e. the God of Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus (peace be upon them), etc.). The concept of God in the Quran is one of uncompromising monotheism. God is One,Unique, and Eternal. He has no begotten son, and has no partners or associate deities. In fact, associating partners or any other deity with God is considered as the greatest and most unforgivable sin in Islam. The Quran rejects all forms of idol worshipping; for it states that Othere is no deity except God. In other words, no single entity in the universe (i.e. prophets of God or any other human being, angels, idols, science and/or technology, wealth, material items etc.) deserves to be worshiped other than the One and Only God; all other things or beings we can think of are in no way comparable to Him. God is Omnipotent and Omniscent. Believing in the One and Only God and in his ultimate supremacy is the most essential element of Islam.

Prophets and Scriptures

God chose a select group of people who were in charge of conveying His instructions and guidance to all of mankind, teaching them the laws of God, admonishing those who do evil, and bearing good tidings to those who work righteousness in the earth. These special group of individuals, known as prophets, received their revelations from God by means of divine inspiration or via angles. God sent prophets as human examples of the highest moral and ethical fiber in order that men and women of all eras may emulate the character of the prophets and strive for the same religious excellence. Prophets never created their own religious messages, since all prophets stated that what they received is not their own but from God. They confirm what was revealed before them and what may be revealed after them.

Prophets were subject to the same human wants as the rest of mankind: eating, drinking, sleeping, marring, etc. On the other hand, the prophets possessed the highest possible ethical and moral standards of any human, not only in their private lives, but also in their public lives.
man being and were capable of performing miracles by the power and permission of God.

Adam, the first man created, was the also the first prophet of God. Following Adam were numerous prophets who were sent to different regions of the world. The Quran only lists a few of the myriad of prophets who were selected by God to spread His message: Noah, Enoch, Abraham, Ishmael, Jacob, David, Solomon, Jeh, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Lot, Hud, Shuayb, Salih, Ezekiel, Zechariah, John, Jesus, and Muhammad (peace be upon them). Muhammad was the last in a long line of prophets who delivered God’s message. All prophets are treated with equal respect since each was chosen by God to deliver the same fundamental message: belief in the oneness of God and to obey His laws and commands.

Besides the Quran, Muslims also believe in the original scriptures which were given to such prophets like Moses (Torah), David (Psalms), and Jesus (Gospel). The Quran is regarded as the final and most complete scripture since it has been preserved in its original form, whereas the Old and New Testaments of today are not regarded as accurate copies of the original texts since for centuries they have undergone constant revision and editing.

Final Judgment, Accountability for One’s Actions, Heaven, and Hell

According to the Quran, death does not bring an end to life. After the death of all humanity there will be a Day of Judgment or Resurrection in which the actions of every human being will be taken into account and weighed by God. Individuals will be judged according to their deeds and the sincerity of faith. Based on God’s decision, people will enter heaven and enjoy the rewards of eternal paradise, or they will enter hell and be subjected to the worst physical punishments imaginable. Redemption, atonement, or intercession through an intermediary will be granted to nobody. Only God decides the ultimate fate of every human being.

All prophets warned their people concerning the Last Day and Final Judgment in order that people remain conscious of their actions. If people believe that they are somehow accountable for their actions and that their actions may have harmful effects in the present world and in the Hereafter, than people will think twice before doing something.

Divine Will

Islam teaches that God is omniscient and omnipotent; thus He is not limited by anything including time. People rarely think of time as something that is created by God. Due to this oversight, they often misunderstand the concept of predetermination and believe that it contradicts the concepts of free will and accountability. However, if God is omniscient and omnipotent, why would He be limited by the very thing He has created, i.e. time? According to Islam, God is not limited by time and is thus constantly aware of the past, future and present. Although we have control over and are accountable for our decisions, God is aware of our past (the circumstances in which we make our decisions), the present (what choice we make), and the future (the consequences of our decisions). Another way to think about it is the possibility that while we are bound by time, God transcends it. In light of this explanation, we see that predestination and free will are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

THE HADITH

Whatever the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) did was worthy of emulation, for he was the embodiment of the teachings of the Quran. He declared its truths and practiced what it preached. Throughout his life as a prophet, Muhammad frequently commented and expounded upon both general and specific issues within the Quran. These conglomerate of sayings or hadith which dealt with all aspects of Islam were memorized by his closest companions, and finally around the 5th to 10th century, the ahadith (plural for hadith) were collected into large books by the most learned Islamic scholars during this time period. Since the hadith was preserved orally through many hadith reports in generations following Muhammad’s death (632 A.D.), the scholars sifted through many hadith reports in order to determine which reports were authentic and accurate, and which reports were false and fabricated. Those hadith which the scholars found to be the most valid and authoritative were collected into large books which have been preserved until the present day.

Besides the Quran, the hadith reports of Muhammad provide Muslims with another major Islamic religious and legal source. Since the hadith contain the sayings and practically every action and mannerism of Muhammad, it allowed and still allows for Muslims to pattern their lives according to his. It must be noted, however, that the hadith was and has always been secondary to the Quran. In other words, the Quran should be looked upon as the primary authority on all matters religious and legal. Only if certain verses or ideas in the Quran need further explanation should one resort to the hadith which may provide added clarification of the Quranic text.

Whereas the hadith represents the words of Muhammad, the Quran is the unchangeable word of God. Also, while some hadith reports are regarded as more authentic than others, the Quran exists in its pure and original form with no variations.

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by Dr. Robert Crane
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Tues Nov 14th: Steinberg/Dietrich 350 7:00 PM
"Moses and Jesus in Islam"
Anwar Muhamin
Director of The Quha Institute of Arabic and Islamic Sciences

Wed Nov 15th: Smith-Penniman Houston Hall 2:00PM
"Islam, Quran and The Female Voice"
Amina Wadud Muhsin
Author of "Quran and Woman"

Thurs Nov 16th: Bodek Lounge Houston Hall 7:00PM
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Safet Catovic
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Women in Islam

Women in Islam: An Overview
by Sadaf Kazmi

Islam and Muslim bring to mind images of covering women draped from head to toe in black, amorphous garb. Muslim women are subservient and subservient. They are inferior. Unfortunately these stereotypes are all too common. Also unfortunate is that often the traditions in Muslim countries are contrary to the teachings of Islam. The distinc-
tion between Islam and Muslims is a vital one. Islam is the religion. Muslims are those who practice Islam. Like everyone, Muslims are fallible and they often misrepresent Islam, generally as a result of ignorance about their own religion.

Islam gives women rights that are unmatched in any other religion or doctrine. The rights and responsibilities of women in Islam are equal to those of men, however they are not the same. This by no means indicates that men are more important than women. Instead it shows that Islam recognizes the differences between men and women and treats each as an independent entity. It is evident in the Qur'an and the example of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) that both men and women are essential to society and that neither gender is inherently superior or inferior. For example, In Islam Eve is not blamed for the first sin. She is not believed to have "tempted" Adam to sin. Both Adam and Eve sinned and both were punished equally by Allah. Both repented and both were equally for-given:

O Adam! Dwell thou and thy wife in the Garden and eat from whence you will, but come not near this tree lest you become wrong-doers. Then Shaytan (Satan) whispered to them that he might manifest unto them that which was hidden from them of their shame, and he said: Your Lord forbade you from this tree only lest ye shall become angels or become of the immortals. And he swore unto them (saying): "Lo! I am a sincere adviser unto you. Thus did he lead them on with deception. And when they tasted of the tree, thy began to (benefit) on themselves some of the leaves of the Garden. And their Lord called on them (saying): Did I not forbid you from that tree and tell: Lo! Shaytan is an open enemy to you? They said: Our Lord! We have wrangled our- selves. If Thou forgive us not and have not mercy on us, surely we are of the lost!"

Qur'an 7:19-23

Women and men are equal in front of Allah. They will be judged equally by Him and they will be rewarded equally by Him for their deeds.

Islam realizes that women are capable of reaching the same state of spiritual-ity and piety as men.

Lo! Men who surrender unto Allah and women who surrender,
and men who believe and women who believe,
and men who speak the truth and women who speak the truth,
and men who persevere in righteousness
and women who persevere, and
men who are humble and women who are humble,
and men who give alms and women who give alms,
and men who fast and women who fast,
and men who guard their modesty and women who guard,
and men who remember Allah and women who remember
Allah has prepared for them forgiveness
and a vast reward.

Qur'an 33:35

And their Lord has accepted their prayers and answered them (saying):
"Never will I cause to be lost the work of any of you, be he male or female; you are members, one of another."

Qur'an 3:35

Women are equal to men in the pursuit of knowledge and education. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: "Seeking knowledge is mandatory for every Muslim" (Al-Bayhaqi). Muslim includes both males and females. Ibn Tamiyya, an eminent scholar in the medieval period, was taught by four female professors. In particular, it was a woman scholar named Zainab Bint Makki who taught him the science of hadith (tradition of the Prophet (pbuh)). Zainab was not the only female scholar in Islamic history. Other prominent women scholars included Aisha bint Abd-al-Hadi (15th century), Shuhaba bint Katsha (12th century) and Zaynab bint Al-Kamal (14th century). Furthermore, Aisha, wife of the Prophet (pbuh), re-

laid unwavering Ahadith (plural of hadith) which were later recorded by scholars and are one of the main sources of Shariah (Islamic Law), sec-

ond only to the Qur'an.

Another area of misconception is the Islamic view of marriage. Contrary to what most people might think, marriage in Islam is a form of Badshah (worship of Allah), not of male domination. Islamically, a woman cannot be coerced into marriage. The con-

sent of the woman is essential and is in itself a prerequisite of the validity of the marriage. This concept is so vital that according to Shariah, if the woman does not agree to the marriage, then the marriage is null. It was recorded that a girl approached Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and said that her father had forced her to marry without her con-

sent. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) then gave her the choice to accept or reject the marriage. The girl then said that she was happy with the marriage, how-

ever she "wanted to let women know that parents have no right to force a

husband on them" (Ibn-Majah). Un-

fortunately all Muslims don't take the

time to learn their religion and often

adopt un-Islamic practices when it comes to this issue. However, this

stance on marriage was taken by

Muslims during the lifetime of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in the 7th century, when women were being sold as property in most areas of the world. In Islam marriage is viewed as a partnership based on faith in Allah as well as love and trust between a woman and a man. The Qur'an says:

And among His signs is this: That He
created mates for you from among yourselves that you may find rest, peace of mind in them, and He or-

bined between you love and mercy.

Lo, herein indeed are signs for people who reflect.

Qur'an 30:21

Within the family structure the primary role of a woman is as a mother. In Islam this position is ex-

al ted. Where many contemporary societies consider themselves pro-
gressive by de-emphasizing mother-

hood, Islam's progressivism lies in the enormous value it gives to women's role. In an age

where broken families are the norm, I think it is evident how important it is that parents properly care for their children. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was recorded to have said that paradise is beneath the feet of the mother. Fur-

ther supporting Islam's concept of motherhood is the following account:

A man came to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) asking, 'O Messenger of Allah, who among the people is the most wor-
ty of my good companionship?' The Prophet (pbuh) said, 'Your mother.' The man said, Then, who is next?' The Prophet (pbuh) said, 'Your mother.' The man said, Then, who is next?' The Prophet (pbuh) said, 'Your mother.' The man further asked, Then who is next?' Then did the Prophet (pbuh) say, 'Your father.'

Al-Bukhari

This does not mean that women are not allowed to participate in public life or that their contributions outside the home are unimportant. Women have the right to work, and what they earn is theirs to spend as they please. They are not obligated, Islamically, to con-

tribute their earnings to the household.

In contrast, the ante-bellum American woman was not allowed to keep her earnings. And women were permitted by law to put her to work for him to pay off his debts (Moyiman). During the time of the early Muslims, women took an active role in------
Coming to Islam
by Mary Nachtrieb

I came into Islam slowly, after years of study and discussions with many different Muslim friends. My first exposure to Islam was in Pakistan. I was a foreign service child who attended an international high school in Islamabad. During my senior year I realized that Christianity, which I practiced, was not the right spiritual path for me.

My Muslim friends had a wholly different relationship with their religion. They seemed at peace with their beliefs, were happy to discuss them but felt no need to push their views on me. For them there was no inherent clash of reason and faith, no natural ideology to battle with. While they did not always agree with each other on details of practice, these differences were acceptable to them and did not obstruct a sense of unity around the essential beliefs of Islam.

From this exposure sprung a life-long interest in Islam, an interest that was in its early stages more academic than personal. What had really struck me initially was how distorted my views of Islam had been before that trip to Pakistan. If we had not engaged in such intense discussions about Islam I might never have come to realize that the media's skewed equation of Islam with oppression and violence. In college I began taking courses on Islamic thought and history, and the more I learned the more amazed I was at how consistently and insistently the media misrepresented Islam. On the personal side, my small but increasing understanding of Islam did occasion me or two minor spiritual crises. At an abstract level, I was beginning to believe that the Qur'an is indeed the word of God and that Muhammad, peace be upon him, is God's Prophet, but I was not ready to accept on a concrete level all the practical implications of this creed. I explained this to my friends, some of whom had a grain of truth, and that perhaps I just was not meant to commit to any particular faith. After graduating from college I went to Cairo, Egypt for two years to work and to study Arabic. In my second year there, I was hit one day—quite literally—with a strong feeling, a sense that I had waited long enough to become Muslim and that it was time to begin praying. For me.

See Coming on Pg. 6
Science and Islam
by Mansoor Ahmad

Islam is a religion based upon knowledge, for it is ultimately knowledge of the Oneness of God combined with faith and total commitment to Him that saves humanity. The text of the Quran is replete with words inviting man to use his intellect, to ponder, to think and to know. Prophet Muhammad’s (P.B.U.H.) sayings such as, “seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave,” and “verily the men of knowledge are the inheritors of the prophets,” have echoed throughout the history of Islam and incited Muslims to seek knowledge wherever it might be found. During most of its history, Islamic civilization has been witness to a celebration of knowledge. For example, every traditional Islamic city possessed public and private libraries with over 400,000 books. The scholar has always been held in the highest esteem in Islamic society.

In Islam there is no contradiction between faith and reason. In fact, the latter can be shown to reinforce and strengthen the former. The Quran implores faith and reason in Cadun. Thus: “Indeed knowledge will increase your hearts” (Al-Ikhlas: 6). For example, every lii-ill knowledge every human being should be made aware of both the natural ecological balance of the planet and the need to preserve it. Islam teaches: “It included the study of logic, the sciences of nature (including psychology and biology), the mathematical sciences (including music and astronomy), metaphysics, ethics, and politics. Each of these disciplines had a body of literature in which its principles and problems had been investigated by classical authors, whose works had been, in turn, stated, discussed, criticized, or developed by various commentators. Islamic philosophy emerged from its theological background when Muslim thinkers began to study this foreign tradition, became competent students of the ancient philosophers and scientists, criticized and developed their doctrines, clarified their relevance for the questions raised by the theologians, and showed what light they throw on the fundamental issues of revelation, prophecy, and the divine law.

The introduction of Greek philosophy had a far-reaching impact on Islamic intellectual and cultural life in the ninth century. The task of justifying the introduction of Greek philosophy into the Islamic world was taken up, first, by Abu Yusaf Yazq al-Kirdi (d. 873) as the first great Muslim thinker to wrestle with and the perennial question of the harmony of philosophy and dogma, he showed a moderation almost without parallel in the history of Islamic thought. He was a prolific writer: the total number of books written by him was 241, the most prominent among which were divided as follows: Astronomy 16, Arithmetic 11, Geometry 32, Mathematics 22, Physics 12, Philosophy 22, Logic 9, Psychology 5, and Music 7. Abu Bakr ar-Razi, a towering philosophical and medical figure, showed a far greater zeal for the cause of reason in general, and for Greek philosophy in particular. Two successors of ar-Razi, Al-Farabi and Ibn Sina (Avicenna), developed a philosophical and ethical world view derived ultimately from Plotinus and Porphyry, the last two great Greek philosophers of late antiquity. The more conservative theologians approached the study of philosophy with grave suspicion, and regarded its dissemination as a genuine threat to orthodoxy. The most devastating attack on Neoplatonism was launched by al-Ghazali (died 1111). His declared aim was to show the internal incoherence of the philosophers.

Anti-philosophical reaction received support in the 14th century from an unexpected quarter. Ibn Khaldun of Tunisia, the founder of sociology and the philosophy of history in Islam, stood out as one of the major protagonists of anti-Hebraism in Islam, of whom al-Ghazali was the most eloquent. Ibn Khaldun’s greatest contribution to Islamic thought, however, is his positivist philosophy of history and social evolution. His deference to empiricism enabled him to develop a science of civilization, without parallel in the history of ancient and medieval thought.

Source:

Philosophy and History in Islam
by Mansoor Ahmad

Science and Mathematics
by Usman Malik

MEDICINE:

Among the many aspects of Muslim contribution to the development of man, a very intriguing and largely unknown facet is the contribution to medicine. This contribution can be divided into two main parts. One, the Muslims gathered, translated, and built upon the Greek and Indian civilizations. Second, using the previous work done and their own original findings, they made significant new discoveries in the field of medicine.

This article will mainly deal with the original contributions made by Muslims to the advancement of Medicine. Many Muslims physicians and scientists made great original strides in the field of medicine. Among them was the scholar Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Zakariyyah Razi (961-928), also popularly known in Latin as Rhazes. He wrote 333 works, the most famous of which is Al-Kitab al-Manusuri, which was translated into Latin and called Liber Almaneser. In this work al-Razi dealt with the subjects of anatomy, hygiene, surgery, various kinds of fevers, and other related topics. This book had a tremendous influence on Europe. The ninth volume of this work, dealing with surgery in particular, was used as a medical text in medieval Europe, and was part of the syllabus at the Tubingen University till the end of the 14th century. In another book, he became the first person to distinguish between Small Pox and Chicken Pox.

Another Islamic Muslim contributor to medicine is Ibn Sina (980-1037), popularly known in the West as Avicenna. He compiled about a 100 works, the most famous of which is the Al-Qanun fi al-tibb, known in Latin as the Canon. This book was a master piece of medical literature, and was unique in its philosophical approach, originality of thought and sheer comprehensiveness. The Canon’s influence can be ascertained from the fact that over 36 editions have appeared in Latin. The work constituted over half the course of study at both Islamic and European medical schools till the 15th century. In the Universities of Montpellier and Louvain it was part of the course till 1650 A.D.

Apart from these two towering figures there were many other Muslim physicians who made numerous contributions to medicine. Among them are: Ibn Nafa, the first person to discover pulmonary circulation of blood; Ibn Judah, who wrote extensively on Drugs and Nutrition; and Ibn Khatimah (d. 1360), who can be called the founder of modern bacteriology as he showed, on the basis of his experiments and observa-
Islam in the Media
by Shabeer Abubucker

Wednesday April 19, 1995. On this day I, like every American, awoke to the shocking news of death, senseless death. I was utterly shocked and dismayed by the senseless killing of innocent people in Oklahoma City. I grieved the death of the men, women, and especially children who were ruthlessly and unhesitatingly slaughtered by people whose actions defy explanation. I searched my heart for an answer to the question everyone was asking: Why must innocent people die so senselessly and so indiscriminately?

The next morning I picked up the DP and read Josh Fineman's article on the tragedy. When I read this article my heart was broken a second time, this time not by the tragedy but by the accusations of guilt. How is it that I could have had any connection with this senseless tragedy? How is it possible that I would even think of condoning such an act? As shocking as these questions may seem, this is precisely what the article alleged. Being a Muslim, I was very hurt by the rather indiscriminate allegations made by Professor Stephen Gala. The article made no attempt to explain that Muslims here in the United States and through out the world have not, do not, and will not participate or support terrorist activities. I do mean all Muslims. No one that takes part in the intentional killing of innocent civilians is a Muslim. Islam does not allow the killing of civilians even in times of war let alone times of peace. This standard of valuing human life cannot be claimed by any group not even the "civilized" West. The record of the West in the most recent wars shows this lack of concern for the life of other human beings. In fact Professor Gala, when he made the comment that there are a lot of Muslim fundamentalists in Oklahoma City and that until now there has never been any problem between them and the general public, went out of his way to give the impression that average Muslim Americans do not recognize and support such activities. This statement gives the impression that the Muslims of Oklahoma City were responsible for this tragedy.

The tendencies to indulge in biased reporting of events in which Muslims are perceived to be involved is not limited to the DP and its ignorant "expert" but to the general media and their ignorant representations of Muslims. The media's verdict was out before the indictment was even made. The demonization of Muslims and Islam began long before there was any evidence of involvement in the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City. The caution was taken before finding the innocent guilty.

The attitude of the media, before the bombers in Oklahoma City were captured, was one of demonization of the Muslims. In this incident and in other incidences where Muslims are perceived to be involved no attempt is made to analyze the causes of these events and the rational of the people who resort to these actions. Why are such desperate actions taken? Desperate actions are taken by desperate people or by insane people. Muslims are almost always categorized as insane by the media and presented as incomprehensible to the rational Western mind. By categorizing Muslims as insane, the media also prevents the American public from developing any sympathy for the injustices that cause such desperate acts. Arguing that we should delve into the rationalities of these people is not equivalent to suggesting that their actions are in anyway justified. Rather I wish to emphasize the role and responsibility of the media in dealing with such events. As is very clear, the media's role is not to justify or demonize but to inform the public in as rational and unbiased a manner as humanly possible.

The use of the term Islamic fundamentalist furthers this idea of the insane Muslim out to get the West. This term is very ambiguous, and even after years of hearing the media use it I am not sure of its definition. What this ambiguity does is facilitate the connection being made between terrorism and Islam. The term Islamic fundamentalist is used to describe terrorists and also everyday practicing Muslims such as myself. Thus notions of terrorism and Islam become subtly connected rendering them both as dimensions of the same phenomenon.

This attitude taken towards Muslims is quite different from that taken toward the true perpetrators of the Oklahoma City bombing. When the true suspects were found to be related to the militia movements, the entire attitude of the media changed. It was no longer one of demonization but one of rational inquiry. We found various national magazines which had articles that attempted to explain the "anger" of the militia towards the government; we found that Nightline had an hour long special in which a town meeting was held in a militia town in order to give them a chance to present their side of the story. Through the media did not try to justify the militias, it did give the militia movement a chance to be seen in a more rational manner. Even the government went out of its way to look at the situation in a rational manner. This summer, soon after the bombing, there were investigations of the ATF Wyco, and the killing of the wife and son of Randy Weaver. These investigations would not have taken place or would have been much more low key, if the federal building in Oklahoma City had not been bombed.

I have so far spent this article talking about a very specific event which very lucidly illustrates the contrast between the attitude of the media toward the Muslims and towards other groups. By illustrating this contrast so specifically, my hope is that the media's bias will be very clearly apparent, and that individuals will be able to perceive such biases more easily in the future.

Media bias toward Islam exists on a more general level. If you, the reader, try to look back and think about previous media coverage about Islam, it will become apparent to you that this bias exists. Ask yourself two questions: 1) Did the media approach the event rationally and attempt to understand the situations of the perpetrators or were they simply demonized? 2) Did the media attempt to make a clear distinction between Islam and the perpetrators or acts or did it try to connect Islam to these acts? In answering either of these questions with a yes, one finds that the media's coverage has been skewed and biased.

One last point that I must make in reference to media bias is the idea that the media do not exist in a vacuum; their actions have real social consequences. By portraying Islam and Muslims as such a negative light, the media reinforce the general public fear of Muslims. This fear affects Muslim Americans in a very detrimental manner. For example mosques have been burned down or vandalized in California, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New York. Yet the media never publicizes these events. While one cannot say that biased reporting led to violence aimed against American Muslims, it can certainly be argued that skewed coverage is detrimental to building understanding and trust among Muslims and the general public.

All people have a tendency to subconsciously hold on to ideas and attitudes that have been handed down to them at a very young age without questioning them. One such idea is that if something is said in a book in the newspaper or on the news, it is true. We as students in college claim to have long since disregarded this notion, but it still subconsciously holds us in its grip and at its mercy. My goal in writing this article is to help the reader escape from this trap.
Coming to Islam

finally, people are judged by Allah based on their intentions, if it is not your intention to please Allah in the way you dress, then there is no point in dressing that way.

It is unfortunate that people dwell so much on the issue of women in Islam. I am not downplaying the importance of the subject. Women are, after all, half of the human population. However, the guidance of the Qur'an and Prophet Muhammad (phuh) was meant for all people regardless of gender. There is tremendous beauty in Islam's reverence of women, however there is so much beauty in the other teachings of Islam as well. I find myself constantly defending the status of women in Islam, and I repeatedly have to prove to people that gender equality exists in Islam. This isn't a problem because the evidence is there and it is very clear. Yet, I wish that more people would ask me about what Islam means for them and how I find peace in its teachings as a human being, not as a woman.

This is only an overview of some of the key aspects of a woman's status in Islam.

Science and Mathematics

Mathematics: continued from Pg. 7

pitalis were built on a grand scale, often with the capacity for thousands of patients and consisting of multi-building complexes spread over large areas of lands of up to 10,000 square yards.

Astronomy

The Muslims were also great observers of the sky. In fact, the world's first observatory was established by a Muslim, Al-Tusi, as a scientific institution at Maragha in Persia. This was indirectly the model for later European observatories. The Muslims developed many astronomical instruments, the most famous being the astrolabe. The result was extensive charting of the astronomical sky and discoveries of new stars. The book on stars by Abu al-Rahman al-Sufi was translated into Spanish by Alonso X el Sabio, and had a profound influence on stellar topography in European languages. The fresh observations done were contained in astronomical tables called zij, which yielded a tremendous influence on the Western astronomy till the time of Tycho Brahe.

The Muslims applied their knowledge of Astronomy to finding directions, devising almanacs (the word used in Europe). The first observatory was built upon his work, explaining the formation of a rainbow.

Chemistry

The first influence which Islam had on Chemistry was through Alchemy, with both this word and the word Chemistry itself being derived from the Arabic al-kimya. The Muslims mastered the Alexandrian and some aspects of Chinese Alchemy, and experimented extensively with various metals. Finally in the hands of Muhammad ibn Zakariyya' al-Razi, Alchemy was converted into the science of Chemistry. The mercury-sulfur theory of Muslim alchemists became the foundation for the acid-base theory of Chemistry. Al-Razi also classified materials into animal, vegetable, and mineral; a division which is as a matter of fact the word "Algebra" comes from a part of his book called Kitab al-jadid al-muqaddas. This science was further developed by other Muslim mathematicians until it reached its zenith with Khwarizmi, who classified algebraic equations up to the third degree by kind and class.

Muslim mathematicians also made great strides in Geometry, as can be seen in Islamic art. The brothers Banu Musa were the first Muslim mathematicians to develop Geometry, while their contemporary Thabit ibn Qurrah employed the method of exhaustion to give a glimpse of what would become known as integral calculus. Other Muslims such as Khayyam and al-Tusi dealt with the fifth postulate of Euclid and the problems known in Europe as Theorems of Optics within the confines of Euclidean geometry. Similarly, the Muslims made advances in the field of trigonometry, which was first established as a distinct branch of Mathematics by al-Beruni. Al-Batani, Abu'l-Wafa', Ibn Yunus, and Ibn al-Haytham made contributions to Spherical Astronomy and applied it to solve astronomical problems.

Physics

In Physics Muslims mainly concentrated in three areas. The first was the measurement of specific weights of objects and the study of balance, building upon the works of Archimedes. Secondly Ibn Sina, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and Ibn Bajaj critiqued the Aristotelian theory of projectile motion, and in an effort to explain this phenomenon, developed the idea of impetus, momentum, which greatly influenced the West up to the writings of Galileo. Thirdly is the field of Optics where the name of Ibn al-Haytham, known in Europe as Alhazen, stand out prominently. His main work on Optics, the Kitab al-Manazir, was well known in Europe as Theorems of Optics. He studied the property of lenses, discovered the camera obscura, explained the process of vision, studied the structure of eye, and explained for the first time why the Sun and the Moon appear larger on the Horizon. Two centuries later Qutb al-Din al-Shirazi and al-Farisi built upon his work, explained the formation of a rainbow.

Women in Islam

continued from Pg. 5

of the most fundamental ideals of Islam. People or cultures which force women to dress a certain way are contradicting these basic Islamic teachings. The Qur'an clearly relates:

Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out Clear from Error...