

Genocide continues in Africa



CHRISTIAN MCPHATE
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According to an article in the Journal of Science, the number of people killed in Sudan's Darfur conflict has reached into the hundreds of thousands. By using scientific sampling techniques and data from camps for displaced persons, researchers estimated that as many as 255,000 people have died, though they believe the actual number may be much higher.

"We could easily be talking about 400,000 deaths," said Dr. John Hagan, a sociologist and author of the article.

The Darfur genocide is an ongoing military action between the Sudanese government and the rebels of the Darfur region of the Sudan, the largest country in Africa (about the size of everything east of the Mississippi). The area is a crossroad of civilizations, connecting different cultures, rebel organizations and religions from the forest of Africa to the deserts of the Middle East.

In early 2003, two local rebel groups, the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudan Liberation Movement accused the Sudanese government of oppressing non-Arabs in favor of Arabs.

The United Nation's International Commission of Inquiry on the Darfur reported that the starting point of the conflict in Darfur region began in February 2003, when rebels attacked police stations, army outposts and military convoys, and the government had engaged in a massive land and air assault on a rebel stronghold in the Marrah mountains.

However, the conflict was also political in nature. The Sudanese government in Khartoum never shared wealth and power fairly with the people of Darfur.

"Citing attacks by rebels in the area, the government of Sudan recruited a tribe of Arab nomads, known as the Janjaweed, who have long resented the Africans of Darfur, due to land disputes and ethnic difference," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said to the members of the African Society of the National Summit on Africa.

"Funded, armed and encouraged by the Sudanese government, the Janjaweed attacked village after village in Darfur – torturing and executing the men and the boys; beating and raping the women and the girls."

In her speech, Rice said that a breakthrough on this front [genocide] came in May, with the negotiation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

"This document does not create peace; it outlines the principles of peace, and creates a political framework to realize them," she said.

However, this document failed to communicate the necessities of the Bush administration's political peace framework.

The government knew that they had accomplished absolutely nothing with the "peace agreement" because not all of the rebel groups had signed the "framework for peace."

Why do politicians constantly speak in half-truths? They use an intellectual framework to phrase words that say absolutely nothing.

"If the government of the Sudan chooses cooperation – then it will find a dedicated partner in the United States," Rice said. "But, if the Sudanese government chooses confrontation – if it continues waging a war against its own citizens, challenging the African Union, undermining the peacekeeping force, and

threatening the international community – then the *regime* (notice the change in description of the government) in Khartoum will be held responsible, and it alone will bear the consequences of its actions."

What kind of consequences will they face? The only ones that Rice pointed to in her speech was the one on U.N. sanctions.

However, given the fact that the United States has already imposed sanctions on the "regime" in Khartoum, I somehow doubt this will deter the Sudanese government.

Why can't this administration take a stand for once and tell the truth:

"Citizens of Darfur, we are truly sorry for your genocidal troubles, but we are unable to implement any kind of punishment upon your killers because we are up to our arses in debt with the reconstruction (occupation) of Iraq, our focus is on trying to prevent the threat of terrorists who are constantly attacking our country in secret, our southern borders are being overrun by illegal aliens and we are wanting to build a giant wall similar to the Nazi's Berlin wall to keep them out while ensuring our nation's entrance into heaven by bringing the bloodied sword of peace to the Middle East."

In the meantime, thousands of lives will continue to be slaughtered each day as the machine of capitalistic democracy slowly begins to take root in a soil saturated with the blood of innocent children.

"We will continue to bend every fiber of our being to ease the suffering of people of Darfur, but our goal is, and must be, more ambitious than that: we do not want the people of Darfur to live forever in refugee camps; we want to help them return home and to live at peace," Rice said.

Indeed we do.

Politicians' words of wisdom



JASON KIMBRO
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

I was given an assignment for this week's column. I was told to write something in the realms of politics in order to satisfy a few of our politic-hungry readers.

Well, I am not particularly fashioned in the realm of political savvy thus my degree of political writing will be limited and mainly on the comedic side, surprise surprise.

Since I am literally being forced by gunpoint to write a political column, I decided to rip off the sources of comedy from the Internet and give you all a sampling of some of the dumbest political quotes from the past few years. Most sites rank them but I will not.

The first quote comes from the Governorator himself, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In 2003, in the height of the California recall, Ah-nuld had this to say about gay marriage, a quote that still somehow didn't affect his winning of the recall election:

"I think that gay marriage should be between a man and a woman." Very interesting. I'm sure there are many post-op women who would agree.

Most people think I am solely a pro-democratic fella and anti-republican. Well, I have my share of dislikes for both donkeys and elephants.

On the democratic side I have

this quote from Howard Dean to offer from his ill-fated presidential campaign:

"I still want to be the candidate for guys with Confederate flags in their pickup trucks." Yeehaw folks! I think he might have said that here in Wichita Falls. I could be wrong.

My next quote comes from the Pentagon's own Oscar the grouch, Donald Rumsfeld:

"Reports that say that something hasn't happened are always interesting to me, because as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns – the ones we don't know we don't know."

What the hell is that supposed to mean? Oh! I know! Rumsfeld is full of crap!

One of comedy's favorite political figures in recent decades has been Marion Barry, the Washington D.C. mayor who has always found an outlet for the stressors of being a mayor:

"Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country." Well, let me be the first to pack my bags and move to our nation's wondrous capital.

Many of us have forgotten the verbal misfires of former Vice President Dan Quayle. From "I love California, I practically grew up in Phoenix," to "We're going to have the best educated American people in the world," Quayle was brewing stew of unintentional hilarity that goes beyond the spelling of potato, or is it potatoe?

One of my favorite Quayle quotes happened in September

1988, speaking on the horrors of the holocaust:

"The Holocaust was an obscene period in our nation's history. I mean in this century's history. But we all lived in this century. I didn't live in this century."

The sad thing with Dan Quayle was that most of the time he had good intentions toward what he was about to say. He was just a bad fumbler of words, unlike our current president who is just a plain idiot.

Over the years there have been many quotes by many former presidents that leave readers in shock and awe:

"I have orders to be awakened at any time in case of a national emergency, even if I'm in a cabinet meeting." – Ronald Reagan.

"People who like this sort of thing will find this the sort of thing they like." – Abraham Lincoln.

"When the president does it, that means that it's not illegal." – Richard Nixon.

Finally I want to give my readers a few of the inevitable Bushisms that are plentiful across the World Wide Web. Some of my favorites include:

"Too many good docs are getting out of the business. Too many OB-GYNs aren't able to practice their love with women all across this nation."

"I'm honored to shake the hand of a brave Iraqi citizen who had his hand cut off by Saddam Hussein."

"I firmly believe the death tax is good for people from all walks of life all throughout our society."

Several years worth of Wichitans probably wouldn't cover the immense amount of ridiculous quotes by our beloved commander-in-chief, but you all know that.

Campus Voices

Q: Would you donate your plasma or blood for money?



"No, I wouldn't do it because it's selling your plasma. You're not actually donating it. Getting money from it, doing it just for the money is doing it for the wrong reason. And if you do it too much, it's not good for your body."

– Adam Hegwar, 20, sophomore, political science and criminal justice major

"I'd donate plasma if I could. I'd do it to help people. Money would be secondary, I wouldn't care about that. There's a big demand for it from cancer patients and burn victims."

– Michelle Montgomery, 35, sophomore, criminal justice major



"I would never donate plasma for money. I'd give it to someone if they really, badly needed it, like life or death, but I've heard bad things about it. I've heard that it takes out all your good cells from your immune system and makes you sick."

– Kelly Land, 19, freshman, art major

"I've heard of people doing it a lot. I've heard it's painful, but I'd do it. I'd like to know I was helping someone out. The money would help, too."

– Jessica McElhannon, 18, freshman, education major



"I actually can't donate plasma or even give blood because I lived in Nigeria during certain years. I wouldn't donate it anyway because I don't like needles in my arm."

– Mary Okonkwo, 20, junior, theater major

"I'd donate plasma, but I wouldn't even need the money. As long as it didn't put me in the hospital at all. There are people out there who really need it."

– Beth Parnell, 20, freshman, mass communication major



–Letter to the editor–

To whom it may concern:

I am a junior here at Midwestern State University. I have been an avid reader of your paper since I transferred here last year. I don't mean to question any of you as writers, but the articles expressed in viewpoints are a disappointment. I have found them to be offensive and just down right immature. My

thoughts, are as a college newspaper the Wichitan needs to find issues out in the real world that would challenge the reader. I don't feel challenged, I am upset at the language and lack of care on the writers parts to portray anything that is important. The Wichitan to me is not a college newspaper, it just seems people throw stuff together and call it a "newspaper." My suggestion is

write about things that are important. You wouldn't find any of the stuff you guys write about in the Dallas Morning News or USA Today. Please take my suggestions. I would like this paper to challenge my thoughts on a weekly basis. Thanks for taking your time to read.

Katie Hoover