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وكل عام وانتم بالخير

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**Harper Introduces Oath of Citizenship Act**

Al-Mersal-Toronto: -The Government of Canada introduced the Oath of Citizenship Act, to ensure Canadian citizenship applicants show their face while taking the Oath of Citizenship during citizenship ceremonies. The Oath of Citizenship Act will ensure that candidates are seen and heard reciting the Oath in community with others, to



confirm their commitment as new citizens to Canada's laws, values and traditions. Swearing or affirming the Oath is a legal requirement,

a public declaration that a citizenship applicant is committed to adopting and upholding Canadian values. The Oath of Citizenship Act will require that the Oath be sworn or affirmed publicly and openly, and in a way that others can verify: aloud and with face uncovered.

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**The CBC TAKES ANOTHER HIT**

Al-Mersal-Toronto: - The public is in shock and still struggling to understand what happened after the host of the CBC'S two top political shows, News Network's Power & Politics and CBC Radio's The House—was fired so quickly as The Toronto Star reported that Mr. Solomon moonlighted as a broker for fine art, using at least one political contact to earn big commissions. "It's terrible. Everyone's still numb," said another CBC



employee. "He was a tremendous journalistic leader." CBC journalists Chris Hall and Rosemary Barton had been hosting since Solomon's departure, he was unexpectedly taken off the show with no

answers given to staff. They learned about his dismissal during the airing of Power & Politics.

By email from CBC News editor-in-chief Jennifer McGuire, before the end of the program, informing staff about the news. The Toronto Star reported that Mr. Solomon had been working with Toronto art collector Bruce Bailey to broker sales of fine art to high-profile clients,

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**Discrepancy In Duffy's Personal Bank Account**

Al-Mersal-Toronto: - Sen. Duffy had a total of at least \$109,477 more in his personal bank account through the years 2009 to 2012 than the balances he should have had according to the taxable income declared on his annual tax forms, a federal government forensic accountant testified. But the accountant, retained



by the RCMP in 2013 when the Mounties began an investigation into allegations that Sen. Duffy

wrongly claimed a living allowance for his Ottawa home and broke Senate rules over travel expenses, could not explain the reason for the difference.

The admission by accountant Mark Grenon, a senior forensic accountant with the Public Works Department's Forensic Accounting Management

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**رمضان مبارك Ramadan Mubarak**  
By: Harry Ziad Malawi



Muslims in Canada and in many countries around the World began to observe fasting the Islamic Holy month of Ramadan this year on June 18th, 2015.

The Holy month of Ramadan is the 9th month of the Hijri calendar that is based on the lunar cycle.

According to the Islamic teaching, fasting is an obligation on all healthy Muslims to observe it during this Holy month and fasting is one of the 5 pillars of Islam which Allah has prescribed it upon you "Muslims" as he prescribed it on all other religions before you.

The common meaning of Fasting is to stop eating, drinking, smoking or partaking in any marital activities during the daytime from Dawn to dusk (Sunset) for about 12 - to 18 hours a day and in some countries up to 22 hours a day.

However, Ramadan is not just for refraining from food or water or for slimming down, Muslims should also behave in an ethical way to please God and ask him to accept their fasting and prayers.

It is also a time to cleanse their bodies and soul by giving it a break from the fast food and unhealthy eating habits and to think of needy and the less fortunate other people in the World. Ramadan is not just about fasting, it is also a chance for Muslims to re-examine their ethical training on how to be merciful, charitable, compassionate and polite, not only just during the month of Ramadan, but also all through out the whole year, and that is the main purpose and target of "Islam" the religion of tolerance and peace. However, Not all

Muslims are obligated to fast. There are some exemptions to certain people who may not be able to fast such as; children under the age of nine years old, the elderly, the ill, people who are travelling long distance or can't bare the hardship of fasting and women who are pregnant, nursing or on their cycles. Those people can substitute fasting with another day or month or be charitable by feeding one hungry and needy person for each fasting day missed. As God said in the Holy Qur'an "Allah wants ease for you and not hardship"

Ramadan is usually 29 or 30 days depending on the lunar cycle which is followed by 3 days of Eid Festivity on or about the 16th -17th of July. Working hours may change from country to country. Shopping times and shopping habits also may change as many Muslims tend to be more charitable and generous and spend more money on food and clothes during Ramadan. Some Muslim attitudes may also change, So in this month when you talk to a Muslim, just remember that some of them may become nervous especially those who had to give up a vice like Smokers in the first few days, but this is not an excuse for any ill behaviours and everybody should be tolerant, smiley, quiet and in a good manner.

May Allah accept your Fasting, your Prayers your Charities and your Supplications? Wishing you all peace, happiness and divine blessing "Ramadan Mubarak" and may God Bless you all...!

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**Dr. Pamela Taylor**



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**Canada Day in Ottawa**  
July 1, 2015

7:00 AM: Departure from CDC Offices 17A Kelfield St., Toronto (Dixon Rd. & Hwy 27). 9:00 AM: Stop at Big Apple Colborne, time for breakfast. 4:00 PM: Arrive in Ottawa. 6:30 PM: Dinner. 8:00 - 10:00 PM: Concert and the fireworks. DAY 2: Hot breakfast buffet at the hotel. 9:00 AM: Check out our hotel. 9:30- 11:30 AM: 2- hour guided city tour. 11:30 - 1:00 PM: Lunch. 1:00 PM: Drive to 1000 Islands. 4:30 PM: Return to Toronto. Expect to arrive by 7:30 PM Depending on Traffic and Road Conditions



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**3 Days Quebec City/Montreal**  
July 3, 2015

7:00 AM: Departure from CDC Offices 17A Kelfield St., Toronto (Dixon Rd. & Hwy 27). 8:30 AM: Stop in Colborne for breakfast. 1:30 PM: Arrive in Montreal. 3:00 PM: Fully Guided tour of Montreal. DAY 2: Hot buffet breakfast at the hotel. 9:00 AM: Drive to Quebec City. 12:00 PM: Arrive in Quebec City. 2:00 PM: Fully Guided tour of Quebec City. DAY 3: Hot breakfast buffet at the hotel. 9:00 AM: Return to Toronto. Expect to arrive by 8:30 PM Depending on Traffic and Road Conditions



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Day 4: Explore Toronto  
Day 5: 1000 Islands - Ottawa  
Day 6: Ottawa - Quebec City  
Day 7: Tour of Quebec City  
Day 8: Quebec City - Montreal  
Day 9: Tour of Montreal  
Day 10: Flight back home.



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Aug 1, 2015

Day 1: Toronto to Chicago - Aug 1, 12:30 AM: Departure from CDC Offices 17A Kelfield St., Toronto (Dixon Rd. & Hwy 27). To Sarnia Canada/U.S. border. 8:00 AM: Stop for Breakfast. 12:00PM : arrival at the hotel. 12:00 - 4:00 PM: lunch. 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM: Boat Cruise. Day 2: Chicago - Aug 2. 8:00 - 9:00 AM: Breakfast. 10:00AM - 1:00PM: Enjoy a Guided tour of Chicago. 1:00 PM: Dining, & shopping. Return to Toronto. Arrive Monday evening Depending on Traffic and Road Conditions



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**Highlights of New York City**  
Aug 1, 2015

00:30 AM: Departure from CDC Offices 17A Kelfield St., Toronto (Dixon Rd. & Hwy 27). 8:00 AM: Breakfast. 10:00AM: Shopping/ Lunch. 3:00 PM: arrive at the Hotel. 5:00 PM: Manhattan. DAY 2: 8:30 AM: Manhattan. 11:00 AM: Museum. 12:30 PM: World Trade Centre. 3:00 PM: Cruise(Hudson River). 4:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Times Square. DAY 3: 8:30 AM: Waterloo Premium Outlet Mall. 4:30 PM: Return to Toronto. Expect to arrive by 10:30 PM Depending on Traffic and Road Conditions



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## Harper Introduces Citizenship Act

### Quick facts

\*In 2014, 3,121 citizenship ceremonies were held across Canada, where more than 262,000 new citizens were welcomed - this is more new Canadians than in any year in Canada's history and more than double the number from 2013.

\*Canada has one of the highest naturalization rates in the world: more than 85 percent of eligible permanent residents in Canada go on to become citizens.

\*The Citizenship Oath is a solemn declaration in which citizenship candidates promise to obey Canadian laws, while fulfilling their duties and responsibilities as Canadian citizens.

\*The Oath recognizes that Canadian citizenship confers both rights and

### Continued from Page 1

responsibilities, and one cannot gain citizenship or any of the privileges that go along with citizenship without taking the Oath of Citizenship.

\*A majority of Canadians believe new citizens should be seen and heard taking the Oath of Citizenship.

### Quote:

"Canadians expect that new citizens should show their face when swearing or affirming the Oath in community with others, at the very moment they become part of the Canadian family. This means they are committing publicly to embracing Canada's values and traditions, including the equality of men and women."

-Tim Uppal, Minister of State for Multiculturalism.

## Discrepancy in Duffy's Bank Account

Group, prompted an unusual outburst from Donald Bayne, Mr. Duffy's lawyer, after Mr. Bayne had earlier told Judge Charles Vaillancourt that recent court rulings have underlined the risks expert testimony can pose for criminal trials such as Sen. Duffy's.

By tabulating and comparing Sen. Duffy's personal bank records, credit card statements, and his salary and pensions over the four-year period, Mr. Grenon found a series of unattributed deposits and transfers into Sen. Duffy's bank account.

Mr. Grenon said the total was \$159,477. He added that if \$50,000 he believed was an inheritance from Sen. Duffy's deceased mother was taken out of that total, it would be \$109,477. "If I had further information, I could come up with a better explanation. Right now that's all I have," said Mr. Grenon.

Mr. Grenon also demonstrated how Sen. Duffy relied on a personal credit line to pay for his personal expenses, mortgage payments, bills and other costs through the four years despite his Senate salary and pensions,

### Continued from Page 1

including one from his years as a CTV broadcaster and his Canada Pension Plan. Sen. Duffy also had his own private company through which he would be paid for speaking engagements.

Mr. Bayne challenged the Crown's attempt to enter



forensic reports containing hundreds of pages of expense and bank items, as well as income tax records, arguing Senator Duffy's personal financial history was an unexpected "dump" of evidence that includes a mountain of data unrelated to the charges.

The proceeding is called a "voir dire" in court terms, a trial within a trial, and would not be public in a jury trial, in case some or all of the evidence is ruled inadmissible.

## The CBC TAKES ANOTHER HIT

### Continued from Page 1

including Jim Balsillie, co-founder of BlackBerry, and Mark Carney, former Bank of Canada governor and current governor of the Bank of England.

Mr. Solomon earned at least \$300,000 over two years through sales, according to the Star. Mr. Solomon had dealt with Mr. Balsillie as a journalist at CBC and Mr. Carney had appeared on both of his shows.

Mr. Solomon issued a statement through his lawyer that said the business involved "only two clients" and that, following the dispute, he ended the partnership. "I did not view the art business as a conflict with my political journalism at the CBC and never intentionally used my position at the CBC to promote the business," Mr. Solomon said. "I am deeply sorry for the damage that my activities have done to the trust that the CBC and its viewers and listeners have put in me." The morning after the story broke; Ms. McGuire held a conference call with senior news manager Jonathan Whitten as well as other managers in Ottawa and the Power & Politics team, CBC sources said.

During the call, Ms. McGuire confirmed that The Toronto Star story was accurate. Staff raised questions about the actions against Mr. Solomon compared to the broadcaster's dealing with Amanda Lang, the high-profile CBC business journalist who had taken paid speaking engagements at events sponsored by Royal Bank of Canada. (CBC updated its speaking policies this year to prevent such fees.) Ms. McGuire's note said Mr. Solomon disclosed to CBC in April that "a production company he owned with his wife had a business partnership with an art dealer. We told him, and he assured us, this could not conflict in any way with his work for CBC News." She added that, under the collective bargaining agreement with CBC, employees have a right



to earn income outside of CBC. Craig Stehr, a labour lawyer with Nelligan O'Brien Payne LLP in Ottawa, said journalism ethics must be taken seriously, though Mr. Solomon may have recourse through CBC union the Canadian Media Guild depending on what policies were breached, what was disclosed to management, and what guidance management provided him, if any. "We also need to take a close look at how serious that breach is," Mr. Stehr said. "Not all conflicts of interest are created equal."

In a statement last week, Carmel Smyth, national president of the Canadian Media Guild, suggested Mr. Solomon's quick dismissal may have been linked to previous CBC controversies, such as the broadcaster's handling of Amanda Lang's relationship with the Royal Bank or the Jian Ghomeshi scandal. Hubert Lacroix, chief executive of CBC/Radio-Canada, said in scheduled interview with CBC Halifax, that the broadcaster acted on information from its own, independent investigation.

He said the decision to fire Mr. Solomon was made in the context of employment lawyer Janice Rubin's report into the Jian Ghomeshi affair, which found senior managers failed to investigate reports of inappropriate behaviour and breaches of standards.

"There's always been zero tolerance," Mr. Lacroix said.

"We were challenged by the Rubin report, by the recommendations that came out of Mme. Rubin, and all the actions we took from there on [are] about protecting and supporting the integrity of the content and the journalism that we make."

## Ontario's Government Increasing Child Benefit

Ontario is increasing its maximum monthly Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) payment to help eligible families with the cost of raising children. The OCB supports about 500,000 families across Ontario.

The OCB provides direct financial support to low- to moderate-income families with children under the age of 18. Starting July 1, 2015, the OCB, which supports about one million children in Ontario, will be increased to a maximum of \$1,336 per child, per year. Tying future increases to the Ontario Consumer Price Index will ensure that the OCB keeps pace with inflation now and in the future.

Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy, which includes the OCB, has helped lift 47,000 children and their families out of poverty.

Breaking down barriers

for low-income Ontarians and reducing poverty is part of the government's plan to build Ontario up. The four-part plan includes investing in people's talents and skills, making the largest investment in public infrastructure in Ontario's history, creating a dynamic, innovative environment where business thrives, and building a secure retirement savings plan.

Families who have filed their previous year's income tax return and have registered their children for the Canada Child Tax Benefit will be automatically assessed for OCB eligibility by the Canada Revenue Agency.

Through the Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent, Children's Aid Societies receive funding to provide children and youth in care more recreational, educational, cultural and social opportunities.

## THE THREAT OF WOMEN DRIVERS



By: Lana Richards.

I remembered how proud my father was when I became a licensed driver many years ago.

So when I recently read an article about how leaders of the orthodox Jewish sect Belz, in England wrote to parents to voice concern about the number of women driving,

I couldn't help questioning the disconcerting reasoning behind its decision.

The ban will be placed starting this august,

In Taking the Wheel: Women and the Coming of the Motor Age about the first licensed female driver in 1899, the ambulance drivers of the first world war, also about Alice Huyler Ramsey, a 22-year-old housewife and mother, who became the first woman to drive coast to coast across the United States.

And took her 59 days with all-female passengers. The expedition was conceived as a stunt for a



barring children from the classroom whose mothers drive them to school.

That woman driving a car is something that goes against the laws of modesty in their society. The community issued a statement: "It is a fact that most women in our community do not drive cars.

But it is equally true that a fair number of women all over the world do drive.

And the idea that women should be prohibited from driving is highly shocking and unacceptable in this time and age. "In fact Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world that bans women from driving - a woman must show written consent from a mahram (a close male relative), if she is to travel at all.

Virginia Scharff writes,

car manufacturer, but it had a serious point.

As Scharff wrote, "Some hoped the motorcar would simply make their lives easier, more fun, and more interesting.

Whether venturing out in cars on mundane errands, competing in organized racing events, or undertaking ambitious cross-country journeys, they challenged the social limits of femininity.

The intention behind such a draconian ban by the Belz community leaders may be one of power and control.

Women getting behind the wheel are designed to curb independence, a fear these community leader are not willing to give up.

But at some point they will be forced to take a back seat.

## TRUMP.. Don't Steal My Song

When Donald Trump strode on to the stage at Trump Tower to announce that he would enter the Republican race for president, Neil Young's 1989 hit "Rockin' in the Free World," could be heard blasting through

the time, including a caustic reference to the "thousand points of light," a slogan used in speeches by then-President George H.W. Bush. "We got a thousand points of light for the homeless man/ We got a kinder, gentler



the sound system for the crowd.

It was an odd choice, given that the 1989 song seemed to slam a Republican administration for not caring about the poor. The song paints a deeply critical picture of the United States of

machine-gun hand," the lyrics state. Young, says Roberts, is instead rooting for another presidential candidate on the opposite end of the political spectrum: Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).

Young, 69, is a "longtime supporter" of Sen. Bernie (I-VT).

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## US Ambassador's Visit to LGBT Event Sparks Outrage in Jordan

Al-Mersal-Toronto: — US Ambassador to Jordan Alice G. Wells' recent attendance at an LGBT event has sparked an outrage.

About 40 people gathered in central Amman to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

Organized by My Kali Magazine and LGBT activists, participants got together to raise awareness of the social and economic challenges facing the LGBT community, and some Western diplomats joined them.

The Islamic Action Front, the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, issued a statement condemning the session.

"We in the Islamic Action Front emphasize that such meetings are a form of corruption and deviation," it said. "These meetings threaten the security and stability of the country, spreading the taboo and immorality in this conservative society and are also contrary to the constitution."

Criticism spread across much of the Jordanian media. Omar Kallab attacked Wells' visit in one of Jordan's largest newspapers, Ad-Dustour, which generally toes the pro-government line. Kallab said this was a sign of US and Israeli attempts to sabotage the culture of Islamic and Arab societies.

A Pew Research poll found 97% of Jordanians do not accept homosexuality — one of the world's highest levels of rejection.

Jordanians' acceptance of homosexuality has actually declined by 3% since the 2007 questionnaire.

Walid Abu-Dalbouh, professor of international studies at the University of Jordan, said that because of a struggling economy and numerous regional conflicts, many Jordanians feel that the country has more important issues to address.

"When Jordanians see the US ambassador visiting this meeting, this is against their religion, beliefs and common sense," said Orieb al-Rintawi, director of the Amman-based Al-Quds Center for Political Studies.

Rintawi said that many of the regional conflicts are religiously motivated with a fierce competition of who represents "true" Islam, so the Jordanian government can ill afford to take a progressive stance on the LGBT issue and appear anti-Islamic.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Jordanian Prince Zeid al-Hussein called on all countries to provide legal recognition for same-sex couples and their children.

While Jordan does not criminalize homosexual relations, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan does not permit same-sex marriage or recognize any LGBT organizations.



US Ambassador to Jordan Alice G. Wells

## What's AHEAD for Saudi Arabia?

Al Mersal-Toronto: — In-the 4½ months since King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud ascended to the throne in Saudi Arabia, he has made profound changes in the leadership of the kingdom.

He has removed King Abdullah's choice for crown prince in favor of a younger prince, replaced the longest serving foreign minister in the world, streamlined decision-making and created two powerful committees to oversee defense and economic issues. Most of all, he has promoted his 29-year-old son to be minister of defense and given Prince Mohammed bin Salman command of Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen.

The changes mark a generational shift in power from the generation of princes who took the kingdom from a desolate, poor and isolated outback in the Arabian Peninsula and made it into a global energy giant and the most powerful state in the Arab world to a new royal generation that has grown up with incredible wealth and power.

Not surprisingly, there is intense speculation in and out of the kingdom about what may come next.

Does the king plan more changes in the royal family's leadership and power structure? In the kingdom's fellow monarchies, Jordan and the Gulf states, there is much quiet speculation that King Abdullah's favorite son, Prince Mutaib bin Abdullah, who is minister for the National Guard, may be next to go.

The New York Times reported that Mutaib's aides suspect he may be replaced

by Salman.

Others have suggested the Saudi Arabian National Guard (SANG) might be reorganized or placed under the control of the Defense Ministry.

Mutaib, 63, is Abdullah's second son. He was educated in Beirut and Jeddah before graduating from the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst.

He also studied at the King Khalid Military College before a long career in the guard. In May 2013, he was elevated to minister of National Guard, a newly created post, to give him more stature. His brother Prince Mishaal was the governor of Mecca province until this year, and another brother, Prince Turki, was governor of Riyadh province.

Both Mishaal and Turki were replaced under Salman in January.

The Houthis' land and Scud attacks suggest the pro-Iranian rebels are not intimidated by the Saudis.

They have already succeeded in gaining direct contact with the United States. U.S. diplomats met with Houthi representatives in Oman, which is brokering behind the scenes to get all parties to the United Nations talks in Geneva on June.

There is little sign that the Houthis and Saleh are prepared to implement UN Security Council Resolution 2216, which calls for them to evacuate their forces from Sanaa and other major cities. The king's war is not producing the decisive victory it promised.

How he deals with Mutaib may be an indication of how many more risks Salman is prepared to take.

## LEBANESE TURN TO FAITH TO BREAK POLITICAL STALEMATE

By: Maroun Hage:

Christians in Lebanon seem to have lost hope in politics and politicians and decided to resort to religion for solace, as the Catholic churches in Lebanon have taken steps to consecrate their country to the "immaculate heart of Our Lady Fatima."

The statue will be brought all the way from Portugal to roam the regions of Lebanon and visit four Catholic patriarchates amid various political and religious expectations.

They said that the first appearance of the Virgin Mary in Fatima happened in 1917 during World War I, and they described how she had predicted to three children the situation in communist Russia at the time and how the consecration of Russia for the Virgin Mary would re-ingrain Christianity in the country.

The political dimensions and significance of the statue's purported capacities do not end there. The leaders of the Lebanese church convoy shared their belief that Portugal's 1938 consecration of "Lady Fatima" protected the country from the tragedies of World War II, and how Lady Fatima saved late Pope John Paul II from death when Mehmet Ali Agca attempted to assassinate him on her commemoration day on May 13, 1981. John Paul II himself reiterated this belief several times.

The statue will visit these four patriarchates during its tour, but the trip won't consist of only liturgical ritual. Beylouni added that the Maronite Patriarchate will dedicate Lebanon to the heart of the Virgin Mary, just like the Portuguese did in 1938. The Armenian Catholic Patriarchate will perform a prayer for



Christians in Syria and ask for the intercession of the Virgin Mary to protect Syria, and the Syriac Catholic Patriarchate will pray for Iraq and its Christians.

The remaining stops will be dispersed all over the Lebanese territories and offer opportunities for the Virgin Mary to bless all believers.

Father Salim Rendi and Brother Emmanuel, members of the convoy who actively participated in organizing the event, revealed the national concerns that prompted the visit.

They believe that the presence of the statue in Lebanon and the consecration of the country to her will soon resolve the stalemate in Lebanon.

It might even lead to the election of a president. The convoy members said that the scheduled tour was initially prepared for this purpose.

Even the Our Lady of Fatima might not have miraculous solutions, but it is enough for Christians and the Lebanese people to feel that she protects them.

This will grant them the ability to be stronger in facing the crises or at least in bearing them, until better circumstances or more efficient solutions arise.

## VOLUNTARY BLACKS



Al-Mersal-Toronto:-Rachel Dolezal has been pretending to be black for nearly a decade, her avowedly Caucasian parents say. It's an unusual story, but not one without precedent. On a number of occasions in American history, dating to before the Civil War, white individuals have claimed or implied that they were black: Dave Wilson. Wilson, described in this local news story as a "gleeful political troublemaker" and anti-gay activist, ran for a spot on the Houston Community College board in a predominately black district in 2013.

His campaign materials featured stock photos of black individuals emblazoned with the words "Please vote for our friend and neighbor

## There is an Intriguing History of White Americans Pretending to Be Black

Dave Wilson." From the same local news story, under the headline "White guy wins after leading voters to believe he's black": Mark Stebbins. A People magazine article from 1984 describes the controversial case of Stebbins, a city councilman in Stockton, California who sincerely self-identified as black—but wasn't—and won election in a black- and Latino-heavy district. Needless to say, his mother, Neta, is supportive but puzzled by her son's claim.

To hear her tell it, Mark's racial conversion was like one of Archie Bunker's worst nightmares about the seductiveness of ethnic foods. "He came down here," she remembers, "tried some hot soul food and decided, 'Wow, this is for me.' Now he feels he's genetically black." Mezzrow. A musician who played with some of the early greats of jazz, Mezzrow married a black woman, lived in Harlem, and called himself a "voluntary Negro."

Unlike some of the others on this list, he doesn't appear to have tried to hide the fact that he wasn't "actually" black—except for the time he was imprisoned after being caught with marijuana at the 1940 World's Fair in Queens. Martha Griffiths. Brownie

was an abolitionist who wrote an 1857 book called Autobiography of a Female Slave under the assumed identity of, yes, a female slave. "After freeing the six slaves she inherited from her parents, she wrote her fictionalized narrative under a false name in order to raise the money required to resettle them," the New York Times wrote in 2012. Clarence King. King is perhaps the most interesting case on this list; he was a 19th-century blue-blood society type who lived half his life as a well-known explorer and Manhattan man about town—and half as a black married man with five children in Brooklyn and Queens. In a 2003 book called Interracial Intimacies Harvard Law School professor Randall Kennedy suggests

that such transformations as King's—and Stebbins', which Kennedy specifically cites—should be allowed so long as a "white" individual's self-identification as "black" is made in "good faith." A well-ordered multiracial society ought to allow its members free entry into and exit from racial categories, even if the choices they make clash with traditional understandings of who is "black" and who is "white" ... Rather than seeking to bind people forever to the racial classifications into which they are born, we should try both to eradicate the deprivations that make some want to pass and to protect individuals' racial self-determination, including their ability to revise stated racial identities.



## Street Vendors EXPELLED From CAIRO



Al Mersal, Toronto: — Egyptian authorities began a steady advance on the streets of downtown Cairo, evacuating unauthorized street vendors and retaking main arteries and squares. The move is part of a project spearheaded by the Cairo government to clear the city from street vendors. "There are 5 or 6 million street vendors in Egypt, around 3 million are in Cairo," Said Mohamed Abdallah, the head of the independent national syndicate for street vendors of west Cairo. Abdallah, who represents 3,000 street vendors, chose Ahmed Helmy as the new site for the vendors after negotiations with

the governor from the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Urban Development. However, Ahmed Helmy a parking area behind the central railway station in Ramses Square can only accommodate 550 of the 1,250 street vendors.

While the streets of Cairo are cleared of street vendors, they have yet to receive permits for their activities. Egypt's unemployment rate, at 13.4%, forces people to resort to the informal economy, which represents about 40% of the country's gross domestic product. According to Abdallah, the government's past attempts to grant the vendors licenses failed.

Instead, street vendors paid bribes to the authorities to stay on the streets. "No one knows when the government will give us a license," one of the older vendors said. "One day of talking by the government means one year." Penalties for street vending include hefty fines and a police file with charges of harassment, public space invasion and theft of electricity.

## Blood money marriage makes comeback in Iraq

Women recently took to the streets of al-Mutanabbi in central Baghdad holding large banners denouncing fasliya marriage — the Arabic word for marriages arranged as compensation, through which tribal conflicts are resolved, it has since surfaced in Iraq anew.



The return of this type of marriage comes as a result of a frail state and the predominance of tribal

values over social life, as well as the exacerbation of conflicts between Iraqi tribes in central and southern areas.

Women who have been placed in a fasliya marriage are not entitled to file for divorce or separation because, according to tribal customs, they are stripped away of any rights.

## Turkey's Politics of Peace



By: Carl Bildt:

Turkey is moving into uncharted political territory, following the failure of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) to retain its parliamentary majority in the country's recent general election.

The choices that Turkey makes in establishing a new government will not only be pivotal to shaping the future of democracy there; the next administration could also play a decisive role in a series of peace processes vital to restoring stability in the wider Middle East.

First and foremost for Turkey, there is the ongoing peace process with its own Kurdish population.

At its core, this process is about redefining the secular, unitary state created in 1923. Everyone in the new republic who was not explicitly defined as a member of an officially recognized minority was supposed to merge into a new Turkish identity.

But this did not happen as Atatürk planned. Kurds held fast to their own ethnic identity.

Eventually, the suppression of the Kurdish language and culture fueled a brutal insurgency, led by the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) which has cost the country more than 30,000 lives.

It is to the great credit of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan that he had the courage to launch an open peace process with the PKK in 2013. Since then, that

process has made progress that seemed unthinkable only a few years ago. Yet key steps toward lasting peace remain to be taken.

Comprehensive settlement of the Kurdish issue within Turkey will be key to the country's stability and the future of its bid for accession to the European Union.

Otherwise, one can envisage scenarios in which the forces of disintegration now roiling the neighboring Levant actually spread into Turkey itself, with unimaginable consequences.

A high priority for any new government in Turkey should be to complete the peace process that Erdoğan began. And Erdoğan should understand that his legacy might well be shaped by whether that process succeeds or fails.

The second peace process at stake is the new attempt to unify Cyprus, which has been divided since its constitutional breakdown in 1963 and Turkey's invasion in 1974.

The continued division of Cyprus is blocking both the EU accession talks with Turkey and increasingly necessary cooperation between the EU and NATO.

But now, under President Nicos Anastasiades and the newly elected president of Northern Cyprus, Mustafa Akinci, there is a real possibility, after years of stalemate, of reaching a settlement that can re-unify the island. But a settlement will not be possible without the clear support of the Turkish government: Turkey has much to gain by supporting a solution in Cyprus; but it could also revert to old habits and spoil today's unique opportunity.

The third peace process in play concerns Turkey's relationship with Armenia, which, if improved, could help create the conditions for a peace settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

A far-sighted agreement was signed by Armenia and Turkey in Zürich in October 2009; but wider regional forces eventually blocked progress, with Russian intervention decisive.

Maintaining the frozen conflict with Armenia is not in the long-term interests of Turkey or any other state in the region.

The ongoing blockades and military face-offs could, at some point, lead to violent upheaval in the southern Caucasus, with very negative effects for Turkey.

The next government should resume the approach it took in Zürich — and Armenia's government must do the same.

The fourth and most immediately consequential peace process concerns Syria. Turkey has taken a principled and strong stand against President Bashar al-Assad's regime, and has generously taken in more than a million refugees.

All key actors have a common interest in preserving the Syrian state while changing the regime.

A complete collapse, fueled by efforts to impose a political solution by military means, would most likely lead to catastrophic consequences for decades to come, with Turkey among the worst affected.

So Turkey's new administration should be ready to engage in a constructive dialogue, together with the United States and Iran, on possible solutions.

The immediate task facing Turkey is to bridge old divisions and establish a functioning coalition government. Otherwise, a fresh election — and thus fresh political uncertainty — will be unavoidable.

That is why Turkey's friends should take this opportunity to remind the country's leaders of what is at stake — for Turkey itself, as well as for peace in the region.

## Egyptian-Jordanian Cooperation Remain HAZY

Al-Mersal-Toronto: -After a year of undeclared tension, Egyptian-Jordanian relations witnessed remarkable developments following the overthrow of the Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated President Mohammed Morsi in July 2013.

Jordan did not initially express its reservations after Morsi's election in July 2012. At the time, the Jordanian government welcomed the success of the electoral process in Egypt, without making a clear reference to Morsi. Two days after Morsi's election, King Abdullah

the choice of the Egyptian people and its confidence in the armed forces. Egyptian-Jordanian relations entered a new stage of positive development. Most recently, the two countries signed 10 memorandums of cooperation during the May 27 visit of Egyptian Prime Minister Ibrahim Mehleb to Oman.

Jordanian-Egyptian rapprochement has provoked questions regarding the possible formation of an Arab front between the two states that shares a unified political

of Trade and Industry, said Egypt's economic relations with Jordan have become stronger. "The most important outcome of Mehleb's recent visit to Jordan is the improvement of the situation of the Egyptian workforce in Jordan after the deterioration of their situation under Morsi's rule," he said.

He said a protocol to prevent double taxation was signed between the two countries, meaning that Egyptian workers taxed in Jordan will be exempt from taxes in Egypt and vice versa.



Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi with His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan

welcomed the move, but a muffled crisis surfaced because of the low flow of Egyptian gas to Jordan.

Less than a month after his election, Morsi met with Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh, who expressed his hope to solve the problem of the gas line from Egypt to Jordan, since the decline in gas flow was costing Jordan \$5 million a day.

Egypt has been exporting natural gas to Jordan since 2003. After the January 25 Revolution in Egypt, attacks by extremists on the pipeline impacted gas supplies. The Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis terrorist group, which operates in the Sinai Peninsula, repeatedly claimed responsibility for bombing the pipeline.

Egyptian-Jordanian relations have been strained ever since, as Jordan believes that Egypt's attitude toward securing the pipeline was lax. In response, Jordan deported about 1,900 Egyptian workers in December 2012. About 500,000 Egyptians, many of whom do not have work permits, work in the Jordanian service industry.

It was therefore not surprising that Jordan welcomed the July 3 events in Egypt, which marked Morsi's overthrow. The Hashemite Kingdom announced its support for

vision to deal with regional issues.

Ambassador Badr Abdel Ati, spokesman for the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, told Al-Monitor that the two countries share common challenges and interests, so coordination is only natural. Abdel Ati denied that the two countries would form any kind of alliance, since "alliances do not fall within the scope of Egypt's foreign policy."

Abdel Ati said that Egypt and Jordan agree on reviving Arab cohesion and forming a joint Arab defense force to deal with the challenges facing the Middle East.

Jamal al-Shalabi, professor of political science at Hashemite University, believes that what unites the two countries is greater than these issues, and that they form the "concerned party."

Shalabi defended his theory by stating that Jordan-Egypt relations, which deteriorated in the era of the Muslim Brotherhood, have since been mended and are now better than ever. King Abdullah was the first ruler to visit Egypt after the dismissal of Morsi. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi visited Amman in December 2014.

Abdul Nabi Abdul Muttalib, undersecretary of the Egyptian Ministry

Abdul Muttalib described Jordan as a transit line for Egyptian goods to Arab countries like Iraq and Syria. During Mehleb's visit, the prime minister agreed to facilitate the transit of goods.

Also signed was a cooperation agreement between the state-run Egyptian Middle East News Agency (MENA) and its Jordanian counterpart, the Petra News Agency. MENA Managing Editor Ezzat Shaaban, who signed the agreement, said the two agencies will exchange news and photos.

Egypt supports a political solution in Syria that would guarantee its territorial integrity, without insisting on the ousting of President Bashar al-Assad. The Jordanian stance is similar, yet Assad claims that Jordan supports extremist groups in Syria, while Jordan says that he is the initial cause of the crisis.

Nevertheless, Marzouk said that Egypt and Jordan have an almost consensual vision on most regional issues, thus ruling out the hypothesis that concern regarding the Muslim Brotherhood is the strongest link between the two countries. The strongest links are, however, the Palestinian cause and economic relations.

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## The Top 10 Jobs For Millennials

Al-Mersal-Toronto: — A new study finds that millennials, born between 1981 and 2000, are best suited for civil engineers, data scientists and surprisingly, top-notch account executives, financial planners and data scientists. Job search portal CareerCast just released its annual report of Best Jobs for 2015 and, for the first time, included rankings of the most attractive careers for millennials. Using data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the site evaluated 200 jobs across several factors, including pay, growth outlook, stress levels, and overall work environment. Though the top-ranked jobs offer salaries above the current median for millennials; roughly \$30,000 annually for men, \$35,000 for women. "The key is to make it a workplace that is fulfilling to the needs of younger employees," says CareerCast publisher Tony Lee. Many of the jobs on the list didn't exist a few years ago, notes Lee, citing jobs like Social Media Manager and Data Scientist.

Below is a list of the top 10 jobs for millennial employees today.

- 1. Advertising Account Executive**  
-Annual Median Salary: \$115,7502.
- 2. Civil Engineer**  
-Annual Median Salary: \$79,340
- 3. Computer Systems Analyst**  
-Annual Median Salary: \$79,680
- 4. Data Scientist**  
-Annual Median Salary: \$124,149
- 5. Financial Planner**  
-Annual Median Salary: \$67,520
- 6. Market Research Analyst**  
-Annual Median Salary: \$60,300
- 7. Physical Therapist**  
-Annual Median Salary: \$79,860
- 8. Social Media Manager**  
-Annual Median Salary: \$46,169
- 9. Software Engineer**  
-Annual Median Salary: \$93,350
- 10. Statistician**  
-Annual Median Salary: \$75,560



## You can be a Phenomenally Successful Person, If...

Incredibly successful people make a huge difference not just in their own lives but also in the lives of the people they care about, both professionally and personally.

### 1. Answer the unasked question.

Maybe she's hesitant. Maybe he's insecure, or shy. Whatever the reason, people often ask a different question than the one they really want you to answer. Behind many questions is an unasked question.

Pay attention to that question, because that's the one the other person might really need answered.

### 2. Don't wait.

You don't have to wait to be discovered. You don't have to wait for an okay. You don't have to wait for someone else to help you.

You can try to do whatever you want to do right now. You may not succeed. But you don't have to wait.

### 3. Appreciate the unappreciated.

Some jobs require more effort than skill. Bagging groceries, delivering packages,

checking out customers -- the tasks are relatively easy. The difference is in the effort.

Do more than say thanks to someone who does a thankless job. Smile. Make eye contact. Exchange a kind word.

All around you are people who work hard with little or no recognition. Vow to be the person who recognizes at least one of them every day.

### 4. Give latitude instead of direction.

Letting another person decide how is the best way to show you respect their abilities and trust their judgment. In a command-and-control world,



latitude is a breath of freedom and is a gift anyone can give.

### 5. The dream is real.

Sure, always strive for more but don't forget to take a

moment to realize that all the things you have, especially your relationships, are more important than anything you want to have.

Unlike a want, what you have isn't a hope, a wish, or a dream. What you already have is real. And it's awesome. And it's yours.

### 6. Look beneath the surface.

Sometimes people make mistakes. Sometimes they piss you off. When that happens it's natural to assume they didn't listen or didn't care. But often there's a deeper reason. They may feel stifled. They may feel they have no control. They may feel frustrated or marginalized or ignored or not cared for.

### 7. Make love a verb.

You love your work. When you're working, that feeling shows in everything you say and do. You love your family. When you're with them, does that feeling show in everything you say and do?

### 8. Be yourself.

That is the one thing you can do better than anyone else.

## Putin Says Russia Weathering Sanctions

President Vladimir Putin boasted that Russia had found the "inner strength" to prevent sanctions causing a deep economic crisis, and told the West to stop using "the language of ultimatums."

Investment in Russia has slowed to a trickle, capital flight has risen and the economy has been sliding into recession since oil prices tumbled last year and the West imposed economic sanctions on Moscow over the Ukraine crisis.

Instead, he warned the West not to meddle in Moscow's affairs and shifted blame for the conflict in Ukraine onto the West, primarily the United States.

"I would like to point out that at the end of last year we were warned and you know this well that there would be a deep crisis," Putin said.



President Vladimir Putin

"It has not happened. We have stabilized the situation ... mainly because the Russian economy piled up a sufficient supply of inner strength," he told an audience including rows of foreign and Russian businessmen and much of the Russian government.

Russia's central bank reduced its main interest rate by a percentage point to 11.5 percent, inflation has

slowed from 16.9 percent in April to 15.8 percent in May, and the rouble has risen to around 54 to the dollar after briefly hitting 80 in December.

Even though the bank expects the economy to contract by 3.2 percent in 2015, Putin said: "With us are businessmen, people and new leaders prepared to work for Russia and its development.

For this reason we are absolutely certain of success."

Putin said he did not intend better ties with Asia and Greece to upset other countries, but made clear he believes it is up to the West, not Russia, to change its behavior if it wants a better geopolitical climate.

"We will not be talked to in the language of ultimatums," Putin said.

## Pope Francis the Green Pope

Al-Mersal-Toronto: - The pope says flatly that a "very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system," that "things are now reaching a breaking point" and that greenhouse gases are "released mainly as a result of human activity." This can mean only that humanity "is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption." There is no ambiguity in what the pope is saying, which is why the critics will descend upon him and accused him of meddling in political and scientific questions that are beyond his purview. This critique is coming especially from conservatives who have welcomed the intervention of the Catholic Church on some political issues but not others, and particularly not this one. Yet progressives and conservatives alike should attend to what motivates Pope Francis here — not the usual left-right politics but a theological concern for our obligation to care for our "common home," a skepticism of a "throwaway culture," and an insistence that a belief in God means that human beings cannot put themselves at the center of the universe. "We are not God," the pope declares,

and should not act as if we are "usurping the place of God, even to the point of claiming an unlimited right to trample his creation underfoot." Believers who disagree with the pope will have to grapple with his religious understanding and not simply dismiss his embrace of a thoroughly orthodox view that places the spiritual and the ethical



ahead of the material. Yet any who claim that Francis is ignoring the Catholic past and inventing radical new doctrines will have to reckon with the care he takes in paying homage to his predecessors, particularly Pope Benedict XVI and St. John Paul II. He cites them over and over on the limits of markets and the urgency of environmental stewardship. "Laudato Si (Praised Be)" is thus thoroughly consistent with more than a century of modern Catholic social teaching, and if it breaks

new ground, it does so within the context of a long tradition — going back to St. Francis himself.

Pope Francis poses a challenge to those of us in the wealthy nations, and he speaks specifically about how "opinion makers, communications media and centres of power are far removed from the poor." Ouch! He demands payment of an "ecological debt" between "north and south." Again and again, he returns to the twin ideas that the world's poor face the largest threat from climate change and that the world's rich have a special obligation to deal with it. The pope who immersed himself in the most marginalized neighborhoods of Buenos Aires has not forgotten where he came from. But if Francis is making himself the Green Pope, it's not just because he has a social agenda. Like his namesake saint, he believes in the transformative power of simplicity and compassion. "We must," he writes, "regain the conviction that we need one another that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it." This is precisely where the personal and the political must meet.

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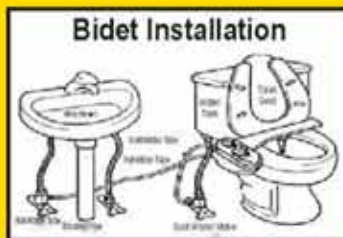


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## Nobody Saw it Coming, NBA Champion GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS

Al-Mersal-Toronto: — Before the season, no major newspaper or sports journal predicted the Warriors to finish as NBA champions and become the hottest team in basketball. The Warriors lost in the first round of the playoffs last

were confident in their plan to win. Why not now?

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year and their leader had never coached an NBA game.

But Warriors owner Joe Lacob, general manager Bob Myers, and Coach Kerr had different ideas. They knew what type of talent the team had, and

Just ask the rookie coach and his group of upstarts. This is a team with plenty of young talent who wasn't truly battle-tested in an organization that hadn't won a championship in 40 years.



## Sepp Blatter Endorses Reforms Amidst Turmoil

Sepp Blatter believes FIFA's top officials should be required to pass integrity checks as the governing body remains mired in scandal.

The 79-year-old Blatter used his column in FIFA's weekly magazine to float reforms, but he did not address a recent report he could perform a U-turn and stand in the fresh presidential elections.

Four days after being elected to a fifth, four-year presidential term, Blatter abruptly announced plans on

June 2 to stand down amid escalating criminal investigations into FIFA officials. FIFA said he stands by that statement.

Blatter said he will back introducing "independent integrity checks for all members of the most important FIFA committees," following a proposal by committee member Wolfgang Niersbach, the German Football Association

president.

Niersbach's suggestion was used by Blatter as a chance to take another swipe at UEFA, whose president, Michel Platini, led opposition to Blatter's re-election last month and is the favourite to succeed him.

Highlighting how Asia was the only regional body with an independent ethics body like FIFA,

Blatter said other confederations "are lacking," and "acknowledge their responsibility in matters of ethics."

"Blatter also believes FIFA's 25-person ruling executive committee should be expanded to ensure Africa and Asia is better represented.

There are only five African members and four from Asia.

"The future of FIFA has begun," Blatter said.

The key is to strengthen democracy within the "FIFA government."



# TRAVEL TRAVEL

## Food Poisoning Remedies for your Next Travel Adventure

Feeling queasy after a questionable meal? Here are some essentials for preventing and treating food poisoning:

### Angostura Bitters:

A few dashes of this botanical liquid doesn't just make your Manhattan all the better, it can soothe your stomach and relieve headaches, too.

A product of Trinidad and Tobago, this miraculous liquid was initially consumed in Trinidad by Simón Bolívar's soldiers with upset stomachs, a few drops mixed with club soda is all you need.

### Charcoal pills:

Never heard of them? Also called activated charcoal, they're on the World Health Organization's Model List of Essential Medicines. The pills are known to absorb toxins and are easy to stash in your carry-on.

### Vodka:

No further explanation is needed here, Vodka kills bacteria. Any brand of Vodka would do it.

## Rental Car Mistakes You Can't Afford to Make

Al-Mersal-Toronto: — Yes, the comparison shopping process is annoying, but it's well worth your time. (Tip: If you are renting in a big city, check prices at downtown rental car offices as well as airport offices. In some cities, you can save a lot of money if you pick up and return your rental car downtown.

Waiting for a Better Deal The closer you get to your rental date, the higher prices are likely to be. To save money, book your rental car as far in advance as possible. Continue searching for a better deal as your departure date draws closer. If you find one, reserve a car and cancel your original reservation.

Pre-paying for Your Car Rental Some car rental companies offer a discount if you pre-pay, but your payment is usually nonrefundable. Unless you have purchased travel insurance that will reimburse you for your prepaid expenses if you

cancel your trip.

Forgetting to Save Your Gas Receipt

You will need to fill the gas tank before you return your rental car. Save your receipt and keep it until you get your next credit card statement. Some rental car companies will charge a refueling fee if the gas tank is not completely full, and you will need your receipt

to document this damage before you drive away; every rental car company has a damage report form for this purpose. Save your copy of the form and take photos of the damage. This is the best way to prove that you did not cause damage to your rental car.

Leaving Your Car in the Rental Return Lot after Hours

the car was returned.

Failing to Read Up on the Collision Damage Waiver

In many cases, you can skip paying for the Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) and liability insurance sold by your car rental company. Your credit card company may offer similar coverage for free or at lower cost, or your automobile insurance policy might cover rental vehicles as well as your own cars. Some travel insurance policies also include rental car coverage.

There are three steps you must take to become familiar with CDW requirements and potential cost savings for your car rental. First, find out what coverage you already have.

Next, check your rental car company's website for country-specific CDW requirements so you know what coverage you must pay for. Finally, read every word of your rental contract when you pick up your car. If you don't understand it, ask the rental agent to explain it to you.



to prove that you did indeed fill the tank.

Neglecting the Pre-Rental Inspection

A few car rental companies will inspect your car with you before you sign your contract and drive away. Others do not. It is your responsibility to thoroughly inspect the car for dents, scratches, scrapes and interior damage. Ask

If you know you will have to return your rental car when the office is closed, look for a nearby office that will be open when you bring back your car and book through that office instead. You will face the possibility of being charged for additional rental days, and it will be your word against the company's if you don't have proof that



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