

News briefs

France, Germany offer disarmament plan

WASHINGTON — United Nations weapons inspectors on Sunday said Iraqi officials appear to be taking disarmament talks more seriously and have handed over new documents on anthrax, nerve gas and missile development.

But President Bush kept up the pressure on the United Nations. In a speech before a Republican policy conference in White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., Bush said the international body faces a "a moment of truth."

"The United Nations gets to decide shortly whether or not it is going to be relevant in terms of keeping the peace — whether or not its words mean anything," Bush said.

France and Germany have proposed to beef up inspectors and add U.N. forces. The German magazine Der Spiegel reported details of a plan by the two countries, saying U.N. peacekeepers would be deployed, U.N. weapons inspections would be tripled and all Iraqi flights would be banned.

German Defense Minister Peter Struck confirmed a plan was being discussed but would not give details. He said German forces "could well take part" in any peacekeeping in Iraq.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, pushing the administration's case on the Sunday morning television news shows, rejected the French-German proposal. Powell called it "a diversion, not a solution."

Also Sunday, Russian President Vladimir Putin after a meeting with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in Berlin said he supported a peaceful disarmament and saw no reason for using military

force against Iraq.

— Shannon McCaffrey, Daniel Rubin and Diego Ibarguen, Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

Israel, U.S. plan to oust Arafat, newspaper says

JERUSALEM — Israel and Washington have reached a secret agreement on conditions for ousting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat after the U.S. topples Saddam Hussein in Iraq, a leading Israeli newspaper reported Sunday.

Reached by Knight Ridder Newspapers, spokesmen for both Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv declined to either confirm or deny the report carried in the tabloid Yediot Aharonot under the headline, "After Saddam: It is Going to be Arafat's Turn."

But Palestinian Authority regime change has been a long-standing goal of Sharon, whose Likud Party recently swept national elections and who has rejected Arafat as a suitable negotiating peace partner. Sharon has dispatched trusted aide Dov Weisglass to Washington several times in recent months and, according to the newspaper report, the U.S. and Israel now have a secret agreement — in writing. It did not report the terms.

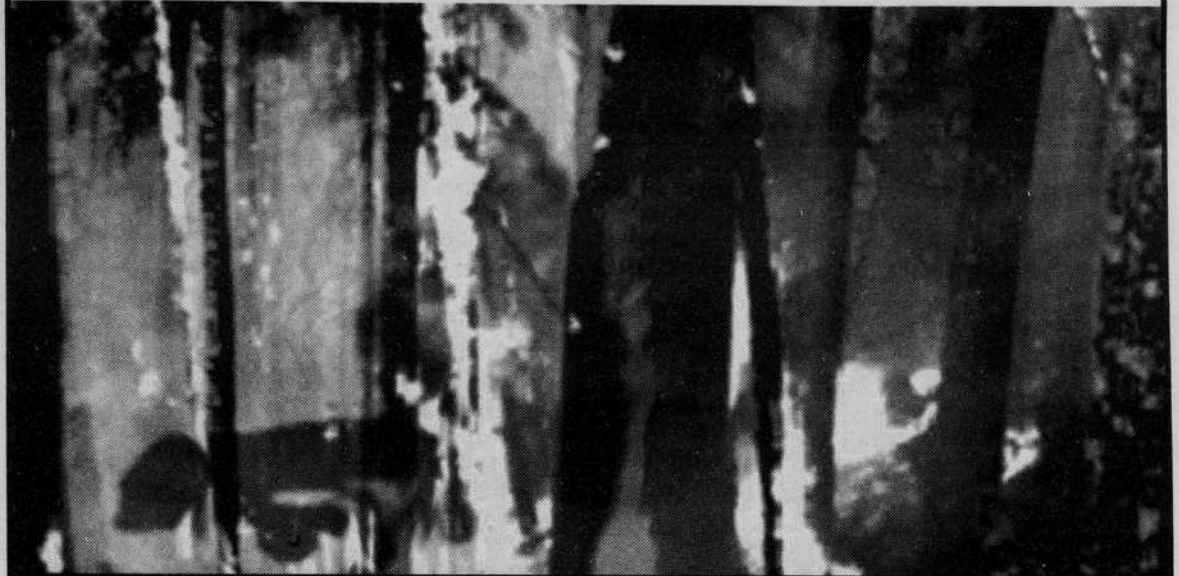
But Weisglass told state-run Israel Radio over the weekend that, rather than exile the Palestinian leader, or kill him, Israel wants the Palestinians to create the position of a powerful prime minister, leaving Arafat in a ceremonial role as president. Israel has such a system.

If Arafat refuses the transfer of power, "We'll kick him out of here with American authorization," according to an unnamed "high-ranking Israeli official" quoted in the article. "In the White House's eyes, Arafat is no different from Saddam Hussein," the official told the paper.

— Carol Rosenberg, Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

Author Alan Siporin

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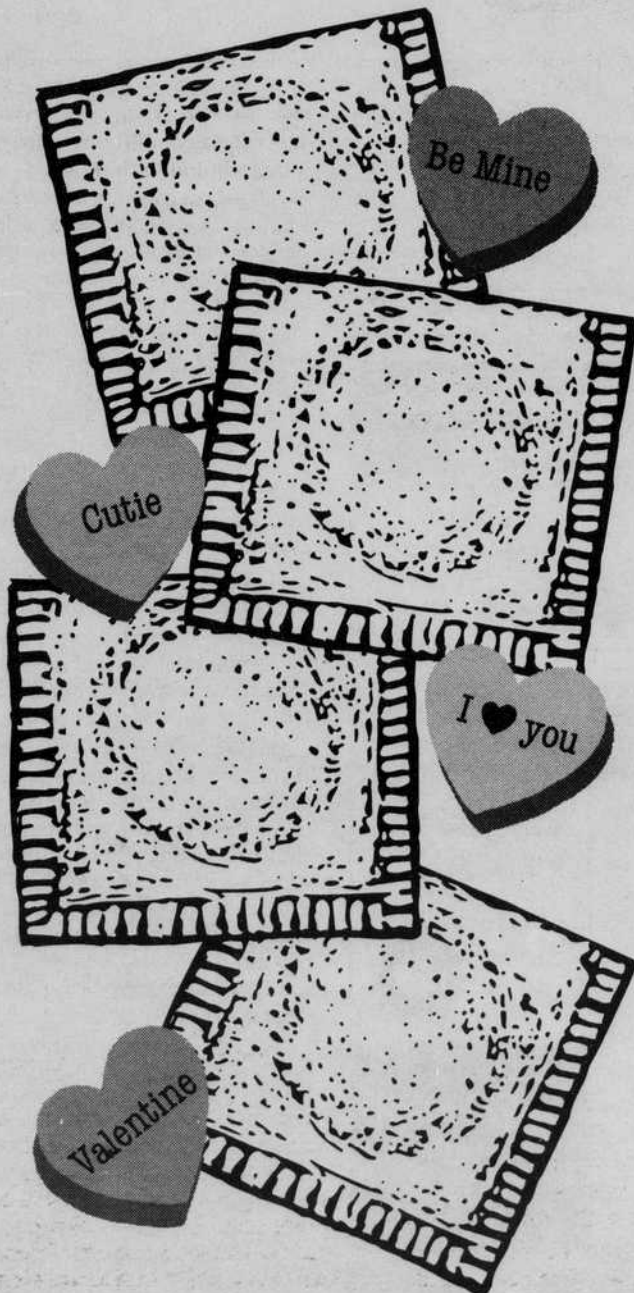


"Fire's Edge"

Local award winning writer and public radio commentator, Siporin incorporates years of reporting on hate crimes into his first novel. A free Readin' in the Rain event.

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Information on Alan Siporin and other author events online at uobookstore.com



IT'S COMING!

National Condom Day February 14th

Find out about free contraception services through FPEP and your Health Center. Pick up a sweet sex treat for your valentine. Let the Peer Health Educators answer your questions about safer sex and other intimate matters. Find them at these Condom Week events:

- Student Rec. Center Condom Fair - Wednesday 3-5 p.m.
- UO Bookstore Condom Fair - Friday 12-2 p.m.
- Vagina Monologues - Thursday-Saturday 7:30 p.m. in the EMU ballroom.
- Peer Health Education Office at the UO Health Center during regular business hours.

For more information or to schedule a speaker on related health topics, contact Peer Health Education Coordinator Ramah Leith at 346-0562



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