



Drama in street of Iran is difficult to watch

The drama being played out on the streets and rooftops of Iran is difficult to watch, even more difficult to understand.

Did the government steal the election for the terrorist President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, as the opposition protests? Or was the vote as fair and overwhelming as the government maintains?

It seems likely that the vote was fixed, but there's no way to prove it from here.

Whatever the truth, the protest movement — aimed at liberty and liberalization from the strict, radical conservative religious movement which has controlled Iran for the past few decades — may just have started something that the mullahs cannot stop.

It seems that Iran, with 70 percent of its population under 30, yearns for freedom. And freedom is not something the ruling elite is prepared to grant. As time passes and leaders change, however, the movement may prove more durable than the ayatollahs.

Many think the ruling cleric, or "supreme leader," Ali Khamenei, lost his superior position when he backed the Ahmadinejad government and threatened to have protesters shot. Rather than placing himself above the fray, he descended into it.

Only time will tell. Meantime, what should the U.S. do? Back the protesters? Or stand meekly by?

President Obama has tried to maintain neutrality while censuring the government and the conservative militias for their treatment of protesters, many of whom were seen being beaten or shot.

Even so, both Ahmadinejad and Khamenei have accused the U.S. of meddling in Iran's affairs. It's a standard charge, designed to take the heat off those responsible for bloodshed on the streets.

The latest outrage is to blame the CIA for the shooting death of a young woman near a demonstration. In a carefully orchestrated campaign, starting with the president, the government is trying to convince the world that America, and not it's thugs, killed a woman on the streets.

Neda Agha-Soltan was young, pretty, westernized and, by radical Islamic standards, immodest. Photos given the world press show her, head uncovered, wearing makeup and jewelry, though protest posters show her wearing a shawl. There was no evidence she was anything other than an innocent bystander, but she has become the symbol of a movement.

When the government threatens, demonstrators reportedly take to rooftops and other hideouts, where they call out in the night. A movement like that can take root and be hard to stop.

If we in the U.S. sympathize, should we help?

We should not, at this point, get involved. We're trying to run too many countries already, and while Iran, with it's nuclear plants, is a threat to world order, it's not within our capacity as a nation to do everything.

We should stand aside and let this movement take root in Iranian soil. Besides, what more could we do.

The yearning for freedom may turn out to be our strongest ally. — Steve Haynes



'Dumbed down' American electorate

Letter to the Editor:

I note the following letter (italics) which appeared in the May 27, 2009, edition of Pravda, Russia's official newspaper:

It must be said, that like the breaking of a great dam, the American descent into Maxism is happening with breathtaking speed, again the backdrop of a passive hapless sheeple.... To properly repair the American populace for the surrender of their freedoms and souls, to the whims of the elite... the population was dumbed down through a politicized substandard education system... Then their faith in God was destroyed, until their churches... where for the most part little more than Sunday circuses until... preachers were more than happy to sell out their souls and flocks to be on the "winning" side of one pseudo Marxist politician or another... their flocks so quick to reject Christ in hopes for earthly power. The final collapse has come with the election of Barack Obama... These make our Russian oligarchs look little more than ordinary street thugs in com-

Letter to the Editor

parison.... The proud American will go down into his slavery without a fight.... The world will only snicker.

Below is a commentary on the letter:

Russia suffered through 70 years of Marxist Communism, and when we went to Russia between 1989 and 1995, they looked upon us as deliverers. Now Russia warns Christians in our nation what will happen if we continue on the path we are going. The global economic arrangement and increasing high wages and taxes, with all other business employee expenses, with little trade restrictions, has resulted in the escape of U.S. industry to overseas, leaving in its wake unprecedented U.S. unemployment and trade deficits that has bankrupted the nation. As this economic hysteria and solar panels are being made in other countries — practically none in the United States. As Pravda points out, the "sheeple" (church memberships) are being led by their shepherds to the slaughter.

The silence of pastors across the nation is deafening.

Terry Rueb
St. Francis

P.S. At his inauguration President Obama said that this was no longer a Christian nation. Since that time, he has made this same pronouncement to world audiences. Yet, in his speech to the Islamic world on June 4, he said that the United States was one of the largest Muslim nations. Islam or Arab has racial or national connotations, but Muslim means religion. Therefore, in just four months, we have gone from being a non-Christian nation to a large Muslim nation.

Also, the "dumbed down electorate" would do well to remember that China, Russia, Cuba and Mongolia were nations taken over by socialists/communist governments that resulted in the death of over 100 million Christians. Furthermore, socialism has failed or is failing everywhere it has been tried!

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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I mean no disrespect to a dead person. But I've had it up to here with the overboard tributes to Michael Jackson.

What does it say about our country and culture that this person is receiving the attention he's gotten? Yes, it's too bad he died at age 50. Yes, he sang some good

songs and did a terrific dance. But come on.

One television presenter described his passing as losing one of the most influential Rock and Roll artists of all times. He said there were three momentous "explosions" in Rock music: first Elvis, then the Beatles and finally Jackson.

I'm sorry but I don't get it. Why is this guy being given cult status?

Just for a second let's forget about his freakish transformation from a handsome young man to heavens knows what. And take out the accusations of child molestation.

What do you have? A guy who could sing and dance.

I admit that I like music and sports. But I don't want my kids to idolize professional athletes or musicians. Most have too much money to do them much good and it leads to corruption. Just look at the evening news.

How about using the media to remember the life of a doctor who saved lives? Or a teacher who got through to a kid, showing that they can change their world? Or how about one of the many people around us who live quiet, honest existences and work hard for a buck?

Who really makes a difference when all's said and done? Some multimillionaire who bathes in the spotlight or a normal Joe? You can guess which one I admire.

Honor Roll

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GOD SAYS
Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God: and knoweth God.
I John 4:7

Granddaughter writes about town

Recently, our 10-year old granddaughter, who lives in Denver, came to visit us. One evening she sat down at the computer and wrote the following story without any prompting from us. We had no idea what she was writing until she had printed it off.

We love St. Francis, and wouldn't want to live anywhere else, but, like everyone else, sometimes we take it for granted and don't fully appreciate what we have here. Is St. Francis perfect? Of course not, but no place is. Occasionally, maybe we need to step back and look at things through the eyes of a child.

Sherry and Eddy Schultz
St. Francis

St. Francis

St. Francis is a great town because there are so many nice people like Pastor Morita Truman, the Thrift Store Ladies, the Grocery Store People, and even the kids are friendly. Also, there are some great places to go like the Thrift Store and the Grocery Store.

Let's say you did not know where you were going and you stopped and asked someone for directions they would probably give you a map to look at and you could find where you were going. One other great thing is they have great places to stay here in St. Francis. Some yummy foods that St. Francis grows are corn, wheat, tomatoes and a lot more.

Everyone I know in St. Francis are some of the nicest people I have ever met. The St. Francis mascot is the Cheyenne Indians and the kids at that school are very nice. St. Francis has the most beautiful views ever.

It would be awesome if I lived in St. Francis because there are the best things to do here and I would love to live here. If I were you I would come live in St. Francis because it rocks.

It is a great city to live in so come live in St. Francis, Kansas, and I promise you will have the time of your life.

I hope you come to live in St. Francis, Kansas because it is great.

By Megan Gartland
Denver

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Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m., Wed. AWANA Club, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

United Methodist Church
Church Office 332-2292, Church 332-2254, 512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
No Sunday School
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jerry Nowack
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship 10:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday of the month

St. Francis Equity

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