

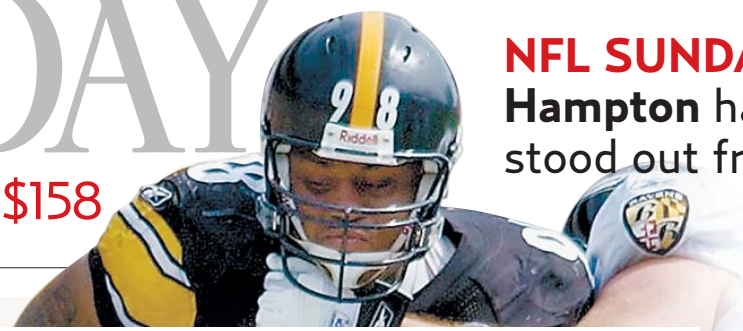
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NOVEMBER 13, 2005

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Egyptian unrest blamed on play

Muslims seek 'revenge for our prophet' as Alexandria seethes on the brim of violence.

BY BETSY HIEL
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt — Police man metal barricades around St. George's Church, a flashpoint of Muslim rage-turned-deadly. Three truckloads of riot officers park nearby.

In this once-cosmopolitan port city, Egyptians fear deep-rooted religious hate will explode in a new outbreak of violence.

"It was heartbreaking, it was shocking and ugly in many ways," says Hossam Bahgat, a human-rights advocate who witnessed the clashes. Muslims on the street said "terrifying things about Christians."

Ten days of sectarian tension and violence — Egypt's worst in five years — erupted Oct. 21, leaving three dead, a nun stabbed, and more than 100 people injured.

Unlike the rioting by Muslim youths in France, sparked by social and economic frustration, the rage here involves competing faiths.

Some 5,000 Muslims surrounded St. George's following weekly prayers at a next-door mosque.

They demanded an apology for a two-year-old play that they said insulted Islam and the Prophet Muhammed.

"We want revenge for our prophet!" a bearded man shouted, according to one witness.

As the mob tried to storm the church, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets.

SEE EGYPT • A15



JASMINE GEHRIS/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

ABOVE: Bernice Durant and Jackie Brice, of the Saxonburg District Women's Club, have been instrumental in making a historical landmark in Winfield, Butler County, of unmarked graves of Eastern European immigrants who fell victim to the 1918 influenza pandemic. **BELOW:** June Earl Austin, 105, of Oakdale, still retains disturbing memories of the pandemic, which swept through Pittsburgh when he was 18.

A LESSON FROM HISTORY

Pittsburgh hardest-hit city in 1918

No flu vaccines existed and living conditions helped spread the virus.

BY ALLISON M. HEINRICHS · TRIBUNE-REVIEW

June Earl Austin still is haunted by memories of the world's deadliest influenza pandemic.

A skinny 18-year-old, he was loading freight trains for Pennsylvania Railroad Co. when the deadly virus swept through Pittsburgh in the fall of 1918.

"There were so many dead people that the undertakers were all full — they didn't have enough coffins," said Austin, 105, of Oakdale, who lived in Carnegie at the time. "At the railroad stations, they piled the pine boxes with the dead three or four high on the platforms. The whole town was in mourning; there were dead everywhere."

No other big city in the nation had a higher death rate from the 1918 flu than Pittsburgh. More than one in every 100 people — twice the

national mortality rate — died that year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. During the worst days, a new person caught the flu every 70 seconds and someone died of it every 10 minutes.

Nearly 24,000 people were brought to the city's hospitals and at least 4,500 died, according to data from Pittsburgh Mercy Health System. Mercy Hospital treated 1,062 cases of the flu or flu-related illnesses and recorded 275 deaths.

With fears mounting that H5N1 —



KEITH HODAN/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

a new strain of avian influenza that could mutate and produce human death tolls three times that of 1918's flu pandemic — experts are urging government officials and health workers to learn from history.

"There are a lot of lessons, chiefly in what not to do," said John M. Barry, an expert on the 1918 flu pandemic and author of "The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History."

SEE LESSON • A10

Bill would repeal raises

It could pass House, Senate this week

Lawyers may have to convince senators it will be an effective plan.

BY MIKE WERESCHAGIN
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

HARRISBURG — State lawmakers might be tiring of playing Ping-Pong with their pay raise. After two weeks of bouncing a legislative pay raise repeal bill back and forth with the state Senate, the House of Representatives could vote Monday on an entirely new bill that, in short, simple language, repeals the controversial July 7 pay hike for state officials.

"Hopefully, it will get a third reading on Monday, and then it will pass," said Steve Miskin, spokesman for House Republicans.

The House repeal bill, first introduced Sept. 27 and then sent to languish in the House Rules Committee, deals just with the pay raise.

Government watchdogs have criticized a Senate repeal bill passed Oct. 26, because it originally was written to create an emergency energy assistance fund. Just before its passage, Sen. Sean Logan, D-Monroeville, attached an amendment repealing the pay raise.

Pay raise opponents, although happy that a repeal seemed imminent, said the Senate bill was conceived in the same closed-door manner as the pay raise itself. There was little public debate, and the Senate didn't consider it before it passed.

The House bill, sponsored by Rep. William Gabig, R-Carlisle, carries none of that baggage. If it passes the House, the Senate could give its final OK as early as Wednesday.

SEE REPEAL • A9

Annan seeks Iraqi reconciliation meeting

It was the U.N. head's first visit to the country since 2003.

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD — U.N. chief Kofi Annan called Saturday for national reconciliation in Iraq during a surprise visit, arriving just as a car bomb exploded

near a street market in a Shiite neighborhood of Baghdad and killed eight weekend shoppers.

Also, the highest-ranking official still at large from Saddam Hussein's regime, a man accused by the United States of playing a key role in organizing the insurgency against coalition forces, has died, a Baathist Web site reported.

Saturday's posting appeared

to confirm an e-mail announcing the death of Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri that circulated Friday. He was believed to be at least 62.

It was Annan's first trip to Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion and the third by a high-level international official in as many days. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visited Friday, and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw the day before.

All three encouraged disaf-

ected Sunni Arabs, who form the core of the insurgency, to participate in next month's parliamentary elections.

A major Sunni Arab party called Saturday for an end to U.S. and Iraqi military operations in heavily Sunni Anbar province, saying they threaten Sunni participation in the Dec. 15 election.

SEE IRAQ • A8



Iraqi women mourn the death of their relative Saturday in Baghdad. The relative was a mini-bus driver killed when gunmen attacked the vehicle. GETTY IMAGES

MORNING BRIEFING

Weather

62-41



Partly sunny with showers today. Partly cloudy with an early shower tonight. **A18**

Nation & World

Thousands of Parisian police guard the Eiffel Tower, the Champs Elysees and train stations, as part of emergency measures. **A3**
A leading University of Pittsburgh researcher on embryonic stem cells will leave a collaboration with a team of South Korean scientists because he believes the lead Korean researcher engaged in ethical breaches. **A3**

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Pitt evens its record at 5-5 with a shutout win over UConn. **D1**

Local

A Salem Township farmer is honored as Farmer of the Year. **E1**

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Walking a labyrinth can be mobile meditation. **F1**

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The Arizona town of

Tombstone retains its Old West allure and a few ghostly attractions. **F8**

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Brad Bumsted offers a 10-point plan for reforming the General Assembly. **G1**

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Economists and investors fear the housing bubble's burst could start a recession. **H1**

The iceman cometh

After creating more than 40,000 sculptures, appearing at a local bridal show should be easy for Richard Bubin of Ice Creations. **F12**



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