Nov 06, 2006 - As It Happens

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SADDAM LAWYER

Its critics have long been saying Saddam Hussein's trial is a sham. They've maintained that the former Iraqi leader was destined for the gallows from the start, and that his case should have been heard before an international court. And no one is more critical of the trial -- and yesterday's death sentence -- than Saddam's own defense team. One member of that team, Ramsey Clark, was ejected from the court after he criticized the Tribunal, calling it "a mockery of justice". Now, Saddam Hussein's only chance -- however slim -- is to appeal that "mockery". That's where Curtis Doebbler comes in. He is another one of Saddam's American lawyers. We reached him in Geneva, Switzerland.

FTR: GILLER - SOUCY

And the winner is ... Well, we'll just have to wait until tomorrow to find out who will take home the 2006 Scotiabank Giller Prize for Literature. Until then, we've been contenting ourselves with readings from the five shortlisted authors. "The Immaculate Conception" is a novel that was originally published in French in 1994. The book received acclaim in Quebec, and since its translation, English reviewers have also been effusive in their praise.

Author Gaetan Soucy has set "The Immaculate Conception" in east-end Montreal in the 1920s. The book tells the story of two characters who are trying to rebuild their lives after a terrible fire. In the excerpt we're about to hear, Mr. Tremblay, a quadriplegic, is visited by a nurse. For the record, here are Gaetan Soucy, and translator Lazer Lederhendler, reading at the International Festival of Authors in Toronto -- for the record.

OBIT: FRANK CALDER

When the Nisga'a First Nation of British Columbia won its treaty in 2000, its members honoured Frank Calder with the title "chief of chiefs". The diminutive man from Nass Harbour had spent a life-time fighting for the rights of his people. Frank Calder died on the weekend. He was 91.

Dr. Calder battled for his people in the Supreme Court of Canada. He was the country's first native legislator, fighting on their behalf in the B-C legislature. And he was Canada's first aboriginal cabinet minister. But most important, he was a champion of the Nisga'a's quest for recognition as a First Nation.

Nelson Leeson is the President of the Nisga'a Lissims government -- and he was a close personal friend and relative of Chief Frank Calder. He is in New Aiyansh, B-C.
Right, time to "drill down", "think outside the box", "push the envelope" and "blue-sky" our way into this next story. Which just happens to be about -- you guessed it -- needless jargon in the workplace.

A new study out today on employer-employee relations suggests that buzz words are causing a "brain dump" among employees. And not in the positive way that phrase is apparently intended. Office jargon is baffling, concludes the report. It isolates staff and widens the divide between management and the people who actually do the work. Not what you'd call "proactive".

Jane Jones is a director of Investors in People, the British business consultant group that conducted the survey. Ms. Jones is in London.

Six months. That's how long NATO's top commander in Kabul figures he has to show Afghans a better life. Otherwise, seventy percent of the population will throw their allegiance to the Taliban.

The rigorous mandate should keep the Canadians in Kandahar occupied this winter -- when they aren't busy fighting for their own lives.

General Rick Hillier is Canada's Chief of Defence Staff. We reached him in Ottawa.

Warning: if you're a parent, best to cover your ears now -- to say nothing of your children's scalps. Because, whether your kids have had an infestation or not, they're two words that are bound to provoke a shudder: Head. Lice.

The nasty little bugs infest a person's head and lay eggs, or "nits" -- happily living on that head for generations. Meanwhile, the head's unhappy owner scratches, and blanches at just how disgusting it is to have bugs making a home in your hair.

Parents have tried various chemical treatments and homemade remedies -- involving such ingredients as mayonnaise, or oil -- to rid their children of lice. But often, unless every last nit is removed, lice just keep on living and passing from person to person.

Now, researchers at the University of Utah believe that they have come up with a chemical, nit-picking-free solution. Dr. Dale Clayton leads the research team that developed the LouseBuster. He's a professor of biology at the university and we reached him in Salt Lake City.

Back in the nineteen-eighties, Jake Jacobs trained athletes to lift weights for the British television series, "Superstars". But yesterday, he lifted a total of 500 pounds -- using only his fingers.

It was brains, not brawn, that Jacobs flexed for almost four hours, to become the United Kingdom's National Scrabble Champion. His eight-letter winning word, "solutive", earned him the crown, and the prize of 500 British pounds -- just over a thousand Canadian dollars.

We reached Mr. Jacobs at his home in Ely, Cambridgeshire.