

Exposing the
junket racket
Brad Bumsted
Page G3.

OPINION AND COMMENTARY

WAR!

George F. Will
details
the coming
dichotomy

WASHINGTON

In estimating the potential impact of Colin Powell's U.N. presentation on those best equipped to judge there is no justification for a military response to Iraq's behavior, remember the human capacity for the willful suspension of disbelief. Remember this: People determined to believe that a vast conspiracy assassinated President Kennedy believe that the complete absence of evidence of the conspiracy proves the vastness and cleverness of the conspiracy.

People committed to a particular position will get to it and will stay there. So the facts that Powell outlined, and the pattern they form, will not persuade people determined to be unpersuaded. But Powell's presentation, in power

enhanced by his evidence of historical, will change all minds open to evidence. Thus it will justify disregarding the preceptively close-minded people who persist in denying... what? What are people denying who still deny the need for force? That Iraq has weapons of mass destruction? Or that Iraq is resisting the inspectors? No, they are denying only that force is needed. They say an enhanced presence of inspectors will paralyze Iraq's weapons programs.

▶ John Ruch says morally, respect for humanity requires that we depose Saddam before he departs of us. Page G3.

▶ But John Dugley says war with Iraq is morally indefensible. Page G4.

FRENCH INCOHERENCE

Speaking, as we are, primarily of the French government, its always foreign minister, Dominique de Villepin, addressed the Security Council after Powell. Following some initial circumlocutions, the capacity of which could not conceal their offensiveness, de Villepin only has begun exercising the skill France has often boasted since 1870 — that of retreating, this time into incoherence.

After dismissing Powell's photographs and voice intercepts as "information, indications, questions, which deserve further exploration," de Villepin declared: "It will be up to the inspectors to assess the facts as is stated in Resolution 1441." Such cheek. De Villepin put Powell through torturous word-by-word negotiation of 1441 and knows that it does not contain what he, de Villepin, now purports to find in it. It does not void in Black Box's relations the sovereign power to declare for the U.N. that Iraq is or is not in material breach.

Perhaps de Villepin's statement and were clearly in translation. More likely, it was incoherent because his position is.

He said "the disarmament of Iraq" is "a clear objective which we cannot compromise." He said inspections require Iraq's "active cooperation." Then, although Powell's evidence was still fresh in the minds of the Security Council members, de Villepin said "this



Three rivers the world avoids

Eric Miller attempts to divine
Pittsburgh's immigration problem

SAN FRANCISCO

I recently engaged a group of folks in an e-mail discussion on why Pittsburgh lacks significant numbers of foreign immigrants. I was accused of not knowing anything about Pittsburgh (even though I lived there most of my adult life), was told Pittsburgh is diverse because of the variety of European settlers that had landed there 150 years ago and was told that I was wrong — there are lots of newcomers from Asia and other locales in Pittsburgh.

Further, I was accused of reverse discrimination because I would dare to suggest that diversity, or encouraging immigrants to come to Pittsburgh, is a good thing.

In the words of one group member: "Why contaminate Pittsburgh with reverse racism? We have who we have living here — if other cultures do not wish to live there — so be it!"

Perhaps I do play the instigating part of an angry prophet in these discussions. But I have

never had such blatantly wrong facts used in opinions lined up in unison against me. I don't know who exactly the people on the group list are, and it doesn't much matter, except that I hope they are not representative of the average Pittsburgher (maybe not even representative of the rest of the list since those who participate are only a handful). In fact, the issue is quite hot in local papers and I find it hard to believe these few people are so misinformed.

Let's start with the reality of who lives in Pittsburgh.

According to the U.S. census narrative (on Allegheny County) for 2001, 4 percent of the people living there were foreign born. Ninety-six percent were native, including 85 percent who were born in Pennsylvania.

Among people at least 5 years old living in Allegheny County in 2001, 6 percent spoke a language other than English at home. Of those speaking a language other than English at

PLEASE SEE THREE/03

Illustration: Bob Newell/Tribune-Review

Eric Miller is editor of www.newcolumnist.com, a Web zine about city life. E-mail him at: www.ericmiller.com

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PLEASE SEE **THREE/G5**

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Eric Miller is editor of www.newcolonist.com, a Web 'zine about city life. E-mail him at: www.ericwmiller.com

d can't afford unmanned exploration

(one girl, one boy) and notions related to "nesting" — home improvement and plumbing.

Gary Locke must have scored 100 percent when a selection committee calculated whom to choose to respond to the State of the Union Address. Back home, where the governor is under attack by his own party for his proposed

ington, D.C., and Green Bay, Wis. She gets things done; even Democrats complain about poor Gary. One said, "He's a high-potential underachieving governor," and another, "He's a thinker; he mulls things over forever and ever; politics demands quick action sometimes."

Before we see an East Coast-West Coast Democrat alliance for the presidency — the Hillary and Gary show — there are a multitude of questions to be answered. Stay tuned.

Dateline D.C. is written by a Washington-based British journalist and political observer.

Three rivers the world avoids

THREE FROM/G1

home, 22 percent spoke Spanish and 78 percent spoke some other language; 95 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well." (Strange considering 96 percent were born there). Also in 2001, less than a half percent had moved to Pittsburgh from abroad.

Pittsburgh ranks 57th out of the 66 cities ranked by the U.S. Census in terms of the number of people speaking a language other than English at home. On the e-mail list, I was told that Asian and Latino immigrants didn't come to Pittsburgh because it is too far from the West Coast (or already filled with them in the opinion of another group member). Yet some of the cities that beat it in this category include Wichita, Kan.; Columbus, Ohio; Omaha, Neb.; and Buffalo.

The percentage of the population in Pittsburgh that is foreign-born is also dismal compared with other sizeable cities in the United States. There are more foreign-born people in Nashville, St. Louis and Tulsa City, Okla., than in Pittsburgh. Few cities fare worse in this category.

The other category the Census Bureau provides is how many people speak Spanish at home in a given city. Pittsburgh is not a destination for the now-largest ethnic minority group in the United States, Hispanics. Pittsburgh ranks 65th out of the 66 cities listed in this category. What city is less a destination for Hispanics than Pittsburgh? Toledo takes that spot.

Again, it was explained to me by those who say they are older and wiser and have a Hispanic friend in Pittsburgh that this is the case because the Mexico border is so far away and there are no steel jobs for Hispanics. There are no Asians, of

course, because Asians arrived in the West where they built the Union Pacific to connect the two great oceans. Somehow they came in more numbers to western New York and Toronto, but not Pittsburgh. (The last two sentences were sarcasm).

Well, someone I do know from South America who now lives in Pittsburgh conveyed to me (and single examples should not be used to infer systematic or overall conditions) when he arrived he tried to join a local union but was told "we only hire 'local' people." More, Hispanics appear to flock to other industrial cities at greater rates than Pittsburgh. Among these are Cincinnati, Baltimore, Buffalo, Detroit — basically anywhere but Toledo.

I brought this up and tried to make my point because from my experience, Pittsburgh is a great place and I don't really understand why immigrants don't go to Pittsburgh. It has a relatively low cost of living, an availability of housing, more jobs than many other cities in the current economy and lots of opportunities to start businesses (since as my Japanese friend says Japanese food there is pretty bad. All you need to do is have good food and you won't have competition).

CENSORED

Every time I dared to suggest that Pittsburgh is not diverse or that there are not many immigrants there I am told that I am wrong, the census is wrong, these silly surveys the Census Bureau takes can be made to show anything the authors want them to say. And now I have been censored from the group. (The distaste from being censored is what lead to this column.)

Back when I started the Discov-

er Pittsburgh e-mail group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/discoverpittsburgh>) for immigrants and minorities to find people (or anyone new) in Pittsburgh to welcome them I also faced a discouraging front. Immigrants who did not live there asked me why I thought they would be crazy enough to move to Pittsburgh? Apparently most are not "crazy enough." From the people who joined the list who were in Pittsburgh, I more commonly got a response telling others to "stay in California."

As I discussed with my good newspaper friend a while back, immigrants on the shores are slowly spreading though the country. Even if Pittsburgh is the last city to fill with immigrants, it will eventually fill. I look forward to that day. I look forward to the day when the city is able to elect a mayor who is not white or part of the machine, not because he is not white, but because it will mean the power structure has been broken (and we know if he's not white or a he or Irish, for that matter, she or he will not likely be part of the machine.)

What other industrial northeastern city has never been represented by a black mayor at some point in recent history? This will be a symbol to the world that Pittsburgh is open to the diversity too many people there contend, with their heads in the black-and-gold sand, that the city already has or does not need.

One final word or the "reverse racism" I was accused of. I do not wish Pittsburgh would be a destination for newcomers because of the color of their skin or their racial and ethnic background. It is also not to diminish the rich European heritage that the immigrants

of a century or so ago brought with them. (Today the demographics of these European countries look a lot like Pittsburgh, aging, so don't expect too many more boatloads). I want immigrants and new people to come to Pittsburgh because the population is aging and Hispanics and Asians represent the youngest and most mobile populations in the United States and world.

I want newcomers to find Pittsburgh because it is currently shaped in the mold of a black-white (whoever has more people wins) city than any other major city in the United States (And a word to blacks — do not be afraid of losing power or influence as other minorities arrive; it will be the coalitions formed with your own political group that change the city and elect future leaders).

TRY PITTSBURGH

If you are an immigrant looking for a new place to live, if you're looking for a real challenge in a great place, I encourage you to look beyond Sacramento and Tulsa and Nashville (and New York and San Francisco) to discover the city that is Pittsburgh.

There are lots of opportunities, lots of cultural amenities, better weather than Chicago or Toronto, great architecture, lots of places nearby to visit, beautiful recreational opportunities (in and outside the city) and more and more good places within the city to live (a credit to the current administration).

If you are not in for a challenge, Tulsa, Buffalo and Philadelphia may be better picks, because almost for sure (at least from what we can tell from this list) your new life in Pittsburgh will be a great challenge.

WAR!

WAR! FROM/G1

international community," de Villepin proposed using "some unused space in Resolution 1441" by "decisive reinforcement" of the instructions, tripling the number of

IRAQI CONTEMPT

De Villepin having deflated the French reputation for deft diplomacy, we are left with the stark fact that Iraq is demonstrating contempt for U.N. Resolution 1441 and for the

dent Bush decided at least a year ago that U.S. force would be necessary, and would be used, for regime change in Iraq, with or without U.N. approval. The U.N. was warned by the president in last

stands out:

It would be more difficult for the president to wage war against Iraq if the U.N. did not exist. But if the U.N., having passed 1441, now refuses to authorize war, the U.N.

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As I discussed with my good newspaper friend a while back, immigrants on the shores are already spreading though the country. Even if Pittsburgh is the last to fill with immigrants, it will eventually fill. I look forward to the day when I look forward to the day when this city is able to elect a mayor who is not white or part of the majority — not because he is not white or because it will mean the political structure has been broken — I don't know if he's not white or a Jew or Irish, for that matter, she or he is not likely be part of the majority.

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