



MOVIE REVIEWS

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**Movie Review:
“Weekend (+)”**



This film depicts a weekend spent by two gay guys in Britain, beginning with a pick-up at a gay nightclub.

We are first introduced to Russell (Tom Cullen) a ruggedly handsome and unassuming life-guard hanging out with his straight friends. We also see him with the family of his best friend where he clearly fits in. Russell then goes to a gay nightclub where he meets Glen (Chris New). Glen, who appears to be a few years younger than Russell, is good looking, far more talkative, and maybe more cerebral.

The two wake up in Russell’s apartment the next morning. Over the weekend they discuss what any young heterosexual couple would talk about in a similar situation: their thoughts, fears and ultimately the love and attachment that builds between the two in a short period of time. Of course there is sex, but except for one frame, no frontal nudity is shown.

“Weekend” is a very endearing film and worthy of viewing by both homosexual and heterosexual filmgoers.

Watch Ed Koch’s Movie Reviews at www.MayorKoch.com.

Divers Against Debris



Divers Against Debris, Project Aware, coordinated an underwater and above water cleanup at Davenport Park for International Beach Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 17. This is the second annual cleanup at Davenport Park for the organization, which participated in five Long Island Sound and two lake cleanups this year. Volunteers cleaned up the beach, lawn, and water, filling 10 bags of trash. Learn more about The Scuba Sports Club online: <http://www.projectaware.org/category/tags/scuba-sports-club>.

PEOPLE

Bartlett Arboretum Hires ARI Client at Newly Opened Silver Educational Center

Stamford, CT -- This past August the Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens opened their new 8500 square foot Silver Educational Center on their grounds in North Stamford. Although the Bartlett had been using a weekly commercial cleaning service for their old facility, they realized the need for daily help with the maintenance of their new center. Seeing the new center as a catalyst to greater community outreach, Executive Director of Operations, Peter Saverine sought the assistance of ARI in filling the important position. After a series of meetings with Clifford Beaulieu, Manager of Employment Services to discuss candidates, Clifford’s recommendation of Travis Baskin turned out to be the perfect fit as Travis had already been trained as part of the Landscape and Cleaning team of ARI. After an on-site interview, the Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens hired Travis Baskin through the ARI Job Placement program as a custodian for their new Silver Educational Center at the Arboretum.

“Since coming to ARI a little more than one year ago, Travis made clear that his goal was to work in the community” says Cliff Beaulieu, Manager of Employment Services for ARI of Connecticut, Inc. “Over this time Travis has worked with the ARI Housekeeping Crew excelling with all work duties assigned to him. His work ethic and determination allowed him to gain employment with the Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens in August. We thank the Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens for helping achieve Travis’s goal of working in the community.”

In his short time at the Arboretum, Travis has received praise for the work he has done from Arboretum staff members, board members, and supporters. He was even invited to attend and was publicly recognized at the Arboretum’s Gala on Saturday, September

10th for his outstanding efforts in preparing the building for the event that was attended by over 500 distinguished guests including Mayor Pavia and Senator Dick Blumenthal among others.

Peter Saverine, Executive Director of Operations at the Arboretum and Travis Baskin’s supervisor, is pleased with the great job being done by Travis. “Travis has quickly become a respected and appreciated member of our team at the Bartlett. His enthusiasm for his job and willingness to assist wherever needed has already endeared him to our staff, volunteers, and board of directors. We are pleased to be able to give him this opportunity, and, more importantly, we are rewarded by the good feelings he brings to all of us every day. We look forward to a long relationship with Travis and everyone at ARI.”

Travis Baskin is just one of the many ARI clients that work in a community based job. There are many benefits to hiring ARI clients. ARI clients are reliable and hard working. Each client has a job coach that helps with the training process and will work with employers to ensure that any possible issues are addressed.

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. provides jobs, homes and services to adults with developmental disabilities in Fairfield County. ARI’s mission is enriching the lives of people with disabilities and their families by enabling them to achieve their fullest potential at home, at work and in the community. The ARI Job Placement Department currently works with over 25 individuals working on job skill development, job placement and retention, and situational assessments. ARI relies on local businesses to hire clients. The Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens is one of many area businesses that have placed an ARI client. For more information on hiring an ARI client, visit www.arict.org or contact Cliff



Beaulieu, Employment Services Manager at (203) 324-9258, ext. 3035, or e-mail Cliff at BeaulieuC@arict.org

The Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens is located at 151 Brookdale Road in Stamford, CT and is a natural preserve like no other in this region. The property features 91 acres of irreplaceable open space highlighting the best of what Connecticut’s native landscape has to offer: magnificent award-winning Champion trees, charming gardens, wildflower meadows, red maple wetlands and boardwalks, woodland walking trails, varied wildlife and native habitats. A wonderful getaway from the hustle and bustle of daily life, it serves as a leading recreational and educational resource for area residents and visitors of all ages. For weekend gardeners to budding young botanists, the Bartlett offers a place to relax, learn and play. The mission of the Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens is to inspire the community to explore, examine, understand and appreciate the natural history of the botanical world and its place in our lives. It is open to the public 365 days a year. Children under 12 are always free, adult entry is \$6. Individual, family, and senior memberships are available for free access year round and discounts to programs, special events and local merchants. Visit www.bartlettarboretum.org or call 203-322-6971 for more information.

ENERGY ISSUES

Anti-Nuke Rallies Urge for Closure of Indian Point



By **ABBY LUBY**

New York, NY -- Last Saturday, October 1, 2011, mass rallies across the United States protested the dangers of nuclear power. Since the devastating destruction of the Fukushima plants in Japan last March, the urgent message from anti-nuclear forces here in this country is “it *can* happen

here.”

Billed as “A National Day of Action for America’s Nuclear Free Future,” groups rallied in 16 cities from coast to coast. Organized protests happened in St. Petersburg, Fort Lauderdale and Fort Meyers in Florida, San Clemente and San Diego, California,

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Nuke Dead End “Protester at NYC Rally on Saturday”



ENERGY ISSUES

Anti-Nuke Rallies Urge for Closure of Indian Point

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Atlanta, Georgia, Michigan, Ohio, Asbury Park, New Jersey, Raleigh, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Here in New York City, some 300 people converged at Pier 95 to show their support and hear celebrated spokespersons urging to shut down nuclear plants, especially the Indian Point Nuclear Power plants, just 24 miles from New York City.

Many claimed solidarity with "Occupy Wall Street" where 700 people were arrested as they attempted to cross the Brooklyn Bridge. Some from the Nuclear Free Future said they planned to join the Wall Street group later in the day.



Hall at NYC: "John Hall performing at NYC Rally on Saturday

Japanese speakers, mostly young women, about how the Japanese government was urging people living near Fukushima to show patriotic solidarity by eating local food probably contaminated with radioactivity. One woman who lives 400 miles from Fukushima said there was evidence of contamination in the soil of local, organic farms.

John Hall famed singer / songwriter of the band *Orleans* and former New York congressman who represented the 19th district where the Indian Point twin reactors are located, serenaded protesters with both new and old songs about the dangers of nuclear power, including "Plutonium is forever" and his newest about Fukushima, "I Told You So." Hall, co-founder of Musicians United for Safe Energy (MUSE), urged for the closure of Indian Point, which is currently in the final phases of the re-licensing process. Entergy, the owner of the reactors, applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to renew their operating license in 2007, but there has been strong opposition from Governor Cuomo and New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman against the license renewal application.

Also speaking Saturday was Harvey Wasserman anti-nuclear activist, author of *SOLARTOPIA!: Our Green-Powered Earth, A.D. 2030*, Kevin Kamps, Radioactive Waste Watchdog at Beyond Nuclear, Karl Grossman, investigative journalist, author, and professor at SUNY Old Westbury, recipient of the George Polk, James Aronson and John Peter Zenger Awards and Alice Slater, Founder of Abolition 2000, NY Director of Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and its UN representative.

The nationwide rally was the brainchild of Priscilla Star, executive director of Coalition Against Nukes. Star lives just downwind from the Millstone nuclear reactors in Waterford, CT, "We hear from Japanese people affected by Fukushima every day at the Coalition Against Nukes Facebook

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Girl with mask: "Japanese protester at NYC Rally on Saturday

"We are all about the same thing and we are connected to the Wall Street protests because whether its nuclear power or nuclear weapons, it's all about corporate greed," Dr. Helen Caldicott, co-founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility, told *The Westchester Guardian* before she publicly addressed the rally.

The 73-year-old Caldicott has authored numerous books and spoken out against nuclear power and nuclear proliferation for four decades. Her public speech on Saturday was brief but highly charged.

"I'm fed up with this bloody industry. It's a death industry. Forty percent of the European land mass is radioactive and will be for hundreds of years. Nuclear radiation never ceases and is in our food." Caldicott slammed President Obama for supporting the nuclear industry.

Brent Blackwelder, former president of Friends of the Earth, and a senior environmental lobbyist in Washington D.C., warned about the daily affects of living within 50 miles of nuclear plants. He asked the audience "Will we be sending our kids to school with potassium iodine pills and a dosimeter?" (potassium iodide or KI pills are used to protect against thyroid cancer if exposed to radiation).

Emotional testimonies by several

Pothole repairs, as provincial as they may seem, are the solemn responsibilities of bureaucrats in a civil and just locality. The proper execution of these tasks by city officials is no less fundamental to the conduct of our civic and commercial life than the provision of national defense and law and order by the nation and states.



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ENERGY MATTERS

Anti-Nuke Rallies Urge for Closure of Indian Point



Caldicott: "Dr. Helen Caldicott talking to Dr. Andrew Kanater of Physicians for Social Responsibility"

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page," said Star. "They're afraid to abandon their homes and businesses, but afraid to stay," she said. "They're frightened for their children and it just breaks your heart."

Star organized a massive outreach via a cyber network after the catastrophe at Fukushima. Organizations who supported her effort include Shut Down Indian Point Now, Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition, Friends of the Earth, Sierra Club NYC, Greenpeace, Ralph Nader, NYPIRG, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Helen Caldicott Foundation, Beyond Nuclear, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Westchester Citizens Awareness Network, Time's Up, ECOFEST, Rock the Reactors.

Abby Luby is a Westchester based, freelance journalist who writes local news, about environmental issues, art, entertainment and food. Her debut novel, "Nuclear Romance" will be out in September. Visit the book's website, <http://nuclearromance.wordpress.com/>

RELIGION

Running for Their Lives



By **RAYMOND IBRAHIM**
Jihad Watch September 28, 2011

<http://www.meforum.org/3054/running-for-their-lives>

Historically, non-Muslims whose lands were seized by the jihad had three choices: conversion, dhimmitude, or death. Today, however, they have a fourth option largely unavailable to their forbears: quit their lands of origin—emigrate—the latest testimony to the nature of Islam.

A [recent report](#) indicates that unprecedented numbers of Copts, Egypt's indigenous Christian population, are emigrating from their homeland in response to the so-called "Arab spring":

The Egyptian Union of Human Rights Organizations (EUHRO) published a report today on emigration of Christians from Egypt, saying that nearly 100,000 Christians have emigrated since March 2011. The report, which was sent to the Egyptian cabinet and the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF), warned that this emigration has been prompted by the escalating intimidation and attacks on Christians by Islamists. "Copts are not emigrating abroad voluntarily," said Naguib Gabriell, the director EUHRO, "they are coerced into that by threats and intimidation by hard line Salafists, and the lack of protection they are getting from the Egyptian regime."

The report goes on to list a number of attacks on Copts and churches—including the killing of Coptic youth in Moqattam, the Imbaba and other church attacks—adding "Salafist clerics, who gained political influence after the January 25 Revolution, have become emboldened, calling Copts *Dhimmis*

who have to pay the *jizya* (tax paid by non-Muslims to the state) because they are not first class citizens and can never enjoy full citizenship rights, or obtain sensitive posts."

Indeed, this boldness is a harbinger of things to come—and Copts know it, hence the emigration. [Wagdi Ghoneim](#), a popular cleric and former imam in California, recently called Copts "Crusaders" on Al Jazeera—about the worst thing to call someone in the Muslim world—insisting that they do not deserve equal rights with Muslims in Egypt, because they are infidel dhimmis. Likewise, [Abu Shadi](#), a top representative of the Salafis, told Tahrir News that the Copts must either convert to Islam, pay *jizya* and assume inferior status, or die. These are just a couple of examples of the countless Muslim leaders openly hostile to Egypt's native population.

Nor is this phenomenon limited to the Copts of Egypt:

Gabriel sees a parallel with the Christian emigration from Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon. "After the massacre of the congregation of Our Lady of Deliverance Church on October 31, 2010, and other attacks in Iraq, the ratio of Iraqi Christians went down from 8% to 2%; in Palestine to just .5%, and in Lebanon from 75% to 32%. If emigration of Christians, who constitute nearly 16% of the Egyptian population, continues at the present rate, it may reach 250,000 by the end of 2011, and within ten years a third of the Coptic population of Egypt would be gone."

Bear in mind these large numbers are

not simply indicative of those who *want* to emigrate, but those who simply *can*: not only does it take years to work out the legalities of emigrating, but many simply cannot afford it. In other words, if emigration were a simple thing, the number of Christian emigrants from the Muslim world would be even higher.

As professor Habib Malik confirms, "It is principally the violence visited sporadically upon these Christian communities in their native towns and villages across the Middle East, and the absence of any reliable means of protection in a region seething with religious fanaticism and despotic forms of rule, which impels Christians to flee and not return" (*Islamism and the Future of the Christians of the Middle East*, pgs. 36-37).

But it's more than this; in fact, we are witnessing another manifestation of history—witnessing firsthand how formerly non-Muslim lands become Muslim. For just as conversion to Islam (out of force, out of necessity, out of cynicism) and the outright killing of non-Muslims saw the ranks of Islam grow, so too does emigration fit in this same paradigm of Islamization.

Beyond the authoritative primary sources which unequivocally demonstrate the violent nature of Islam—including history and theology texts—which many prefer to dismiss as "dead books," here, then, is yet another *live* example. And yet the West's leaders, from academics to politicians, will continue insisting that Islam is the "religion of peace"—testimony to the endemic blindness inflicting this age.

Raymond Ibrahim, an Islam-specialist, is a Shillman Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center and an Associate Fellow at the Middle East Forum.

SENIORS

Save Our Seniors!



By **FRANK V. VERNUCCIO, JR.**

2011 may well be the worst year in living memory for older Americans. During this extraordinarily difficult period,

- Despite 24 months of nonstop inflation, social security recipients received no cost of living increase for the second straight year, a virtually unprecedented event.
- The ongoing depressed housing market continued to limit the ability of older homeowners to sell or mortgage their homes as a means of securing urgently needed funds.
- President Obama proposed \$248 billion

in cuts to Medicare, and \$72 billion in cuts to Medicaid, as part of his deficit reduction plan. This emphasis on placing a greater burden on seniors is consistent with his health care reform proposals. He has often complained, "those toward the end of their lives are accounting for potentially 80% of the total health care costs." Republicans have frequently complained that the President wishes to impose so-called "death squads" that would limit treatment to older, chronically ill patients.

It is, perhaps, in the workforce that older Americans face the most severe challenges. The statistics are truly appalling. In January 2008, when President Obama first took office, the unemployment rate for men

55-64 years of age was 2.8%. By July of 2011, that number had skyrocketed to 6.7%. For female workers of the same age, the number grew from 2.7 to 7.1%. Even these numbers may not reveal the true extent of the crisis. Maureen Callahan recently noted in the NY Post that while statistics indicate one million men aged 55 to 64 are unemployed, 5.2 million are designated as "not being in the workforce," for a variety of reasons.

As the terrible national unemployment figures continue at near-depression levels, displaced workers over 50 are finding that, despite extensive experience, achievements, and qualifications, they are being almost universally ignored by hiring managers. Alicia Munnell, the Director of the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College recently wrote in "Encore," "The

unemployment rate for older workers has increased more than in any previous post-war recession. And older workers who lose their jobs have a very hard time finding a new one." Emy Sok of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics noted that displaced older workers face vastly longer periods in their attempts to find replacement positions than their younger counterparts.

Hiring managers, stressing that older workers have a shorter remaining career, complain that investing in job training for the over-55 set is not as cost effective as it would be for younger recruits.

Older workers fortunate enough to find re-employment often must accept significantly reduced wages, at a time when their financial burdens are skyrocketing due to

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