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Verbatim

'Let's not Rumsfeld Afghanistan.'

LINDSEY GRAHAM, South Carolina Senator, referring to former U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's decision—now widely perceived to have been a mistake—to limit the number of troops on the ground in Iraq; Graham is lobbying to deploy more soldiers to Afghanistan

'It was the Wild West out there.'

ROBERT GOTTHEIM, district manager for Manhattan Congressman Jerrold Nadler, on the treacherous airspace above the Hudson River, where a helicopter collided with a small plane on Aug. 8, killing all nine people on both aircraft

'My husband is not Secretary of State. I am.'

HILLARY CLINTON, responding to a question from a Congolese university student during her tour of Africa; according to reports, the student had meant to inquire about President Barack Obama's position on an issue but instead mistakenly referred to former President Bill Clinton

'The pandemic makes no distinctions.'

OSCAR ARIAS, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning President of Costa Rica, announcing on Aug. 11 that he had contracted the H1N1 virus. Arias, who has been mediating talks to resolve the ongoing leadership crisis in Honduras, is expected to recover and will work from home while convalescing

'It's kind of like being a motivational speaker in a hospice.'

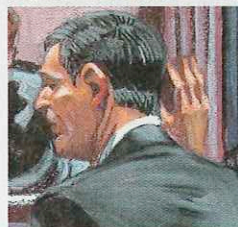
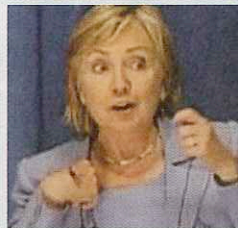
BILL KELLER, executive editor of the *New York Times*, on discussing the fragile state of the newspaper industry

'I ended up being loyal to a terrible, terrible fault.'

FRANK DIPASCALI, who pleaded guilty on Aug. 11 to 10 charges including fraud and money-laundering while serving as one of Bernie Madoff's top executives. DiPascali, who could be sentenced to as many as 125 years in prison, told a federal judge that he and others knew about Madoff's investment scam as far back as the early 1990s and aided it by helping falsify trading records

'This time, I'm saving it for retirement.'

EDWARD WILLIAMS, after winning a \$900,000 jackpot in the Kansas Super Cash lottery on Aug. 5; last September, the 47-year-old Wichita, Kans., native won \$75,000 after buying a \$10 scratch ticket



BACK & FORTH

Torture

'We are an independent service working to our own laws—nobody else's.'

SIR JOHN SCARLETT, chief of the British intelligence agency MI6, dismissing calls for an inquiry into allegations that the organization tortured terrorism suspects

'If they continue to refuse this request, the British people will draw their own conclusions.'

MOHAMMED SHAFIQ, of the U.K.-based Ramadhan Foundation, a Muslim youth group

Gun Rights

'You brought a sign that said, "The tree of liberty has to be watered with the blood of tyrants," and you're carrying a goddam gun at a presidential event. I think those things make people wonder what you're about.'

CHRIS MATTHEWS, MSNBC host, castigating New Hampshire man William Kostric for taking a licensed, loaded handgun to President Obama's town-hall meeting on health-care reform

'That's not even a relevant question. The question is, Why don't people bear arms these days?'

KOSTRIC, saying his firearm should not have caused alarm

LEXICON

Hedonometer *n.*—A computerized 'sensor,' created at the University of Vermont, that surveys the Web to measure the collective happiness of millions of bloggers

USAGE: "[Researchers] said this hedonometer showed that the U.S. election day last November was the happiest day in four years." —Reuters, July 29, 2009

AFGHANISTAN: EMILIO MORENO/ATI—AP; GRAHAM: RICK GERSON—GETTY; ARIAS: JUAN CARLOS ULATE—REUTERS; NEWSPAPERS: GETTY; DIPASCALI: CHRISTINE CONNELL—AFP/GETTY