

PAGE TWO

IN YOUR WORDS

📌 **Legal marijuana in Mexico**
Ultimately, law enforcement resources should be used to reduce violence. That is why we pay for police and jails, so we can be safer. The “war on drugs,” in Mexico as well as in the U.S., has done just the opposite. It has made the world a much more dangerous place by driving drugs underground, where the whole \$100 billion industry is controlled by violent gangs. In Mexico, the drug cartels are now more powerful than the state. Legalizing marijuana is just a small step to reverse this, but it’s an important first step.

TB, PHILADELPHIA

The flow of people will be going south, not north. Revenues from the sale of marijuana in the form of taxes will be redirected to, and will benefit, the Mexican government, rather than going to the cartel drug gangs. The cartel drug gangs will go bust. The new industry of legalized marijuana farms will give employment to Mexicans. Crime will decrease in both countries.

GERRY O'BRIEN, OTTAWA

You bet this will upset the government of Mexico; this would cut the president of Mexico and all his associates out of that much money. It will never happen.

RABBI MCMOE, SONOMA, CALIF.

📌 **China and Taiwan, 66 years later**
Taiwanese who favor independence need to take a firm stand of forgoing economic benefits for the sake of state sovereignty. There is no one, not even the opposition party, who dares to make this statement.

TED, ALLEN, TEX.

Given Mr. Ma’s standing in the polls, I’m fairly certain a substantial number of Taiwanese wouldn’t mind the president of the People’s Republic of China taking him back to Beijing with him.

EG, TAIPEI

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IN OUR PAGES

International Herald Tribune

1915 Spurious Night Clubs to Close
LONDON The doom of the many spurious night clubs, which have become very numerous in London and other English cities, is now practically sealed. These clubs have been the cause of a succession of scandals, and Lord Curzon, moving the second reading of the Night Clubs Bill in the House of Lords yesterday, said that officers have, in some instances, been drugged and afterwards blackmailed in these resorts. “The Night Clubs Bill,” he said, “is designed to put an end to a great scandal — namely, the rapid and unarrested growth of what are commonly called night clubs, which are really haunts of temptation and dens of iniquity.”

1940 Roosevelt Wins Third Term
President Franklin D. Roosevelt won re-election yesterday to become the first President ever honoured by a third term in the 151 years since the first inauguration of George Washington. The President and his running mate, Henry A. Wallace, rolled up an overwhelming margin in the electoral college over their Republican opponents, Wendell L. Willkie and Charles L. McNary. However, this plurality fell short of the one that President Roosevelt and John N. Garner attained in the 1936 landslide.

🔗 Find a retrospective of news from 1887 to 2013 at [iht-retrospective.blogs.nytimes.com](#).

Colin Welland, screenwriter of ‘Chariots of Fire,’ is dead at 81

BY SAM ROBERTS

Colin Welland, a Liverpoolian screenwriter who won an Oscar for “Chariots of Fire” (1981), the dramatic tale of two Olympian runners who defied both the odds and the British establishment in

OBITUARY

1924, died on Monday at his home in London. He was 81.

The cause was complications of Alzheimer’s disease, said Anthony Jones, his literary agent.

The success of “Chariots of Fire” was perhaps as improbable as that of Mr. Welland, who had once abandoned his dreams of acting to teach art. A relatively inexpensive historical film, it interweaves the stories of a highly motivated English Jew and a Church of Scotland preacher who compete on the British team.

“Can you imagine going in to a Hollywood mogul and saying, ‘I have this idea about two Olympic athletes from 1924?’” Mr. Welland asked an interviewer.

But “Chariots of Fire” emerged as an upset winner, with Oscars for best picture — beating “Atlantic City,” “On

Faith healing in Indonesia



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANTONIO ZAMBARDINO



RELIGIOUS REMEDY

While photographing in Indonesia, Antonio Zambardino stumbled across an exorcism being performed in a remote area of the country. The exorcism, he learned, was part of a larger Islamic healing practice that has been growing in popularity in Indonesia, among the poor and wealthy and both men and women. The practice has even reached large cities like Jakarta, where the number of registered clinics has

skyrocketed. Top, a traditional dentist in Tasikmalaya, Java, treating a patient using pressure and reflective points. Above right, an eye being photographed during a preliminary examination at an Islamic healing clinic in Jakarta. Above left, cupping therapy in Jakarta, in which blood is collected into pressurized cups. Left, a mosque in Tasikmalaya that also has a spiritual healing clinic for drug addicts. [lens.blogs.nytimes.com](#)



Mr. Welland in 1978. He won an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay.

starred Richard Gere and Vanessa Redgrave.

In writing the film, Mr. Welland drew on his own recollections of his wartime youth and solicited them from others as well, including strangers.

“I was quite literally the kid in the movie who gets a hatful of coins from the soldier who won it in a crap game,” Mr. Welland told The Times. “What he says, ‘Spend it for me, kid,’ is exactly what was actually said to me.”

He took a similar tack before writing

“Chariots of Fire,” taking out classified advertisements asking 1924 Olympians to share their memories.

He also learned that Mr. Abrahams had a passion for Gilbert and Sullivan, which gave an excuse to suffuse the film with their scores as incidental music.

Among his other credits was the screenplay for the 1989 film “A Dry White Season,” based on André Brink’s novel about South African life under apartheid.

After “Chariots,” Mr. Welland proposed another historical film, this one titled “Rocket,” about the engineers George and Robert Stephenson, the English father and son who developed rail travel in the 19th century.

“I took ‘Rocket’ to America immediately after ‘Chariots of Fire’ had come out,” Mr. Welland wrote in The Guardian in 2001. “‘We want another Chariots of Fire,’” I was told.

“‘It is another ‘Chariots of Fire,’ I said. ‘Men against the establishment. Robert Stephenson couldn’t read and write, yet he was the greatest engineer of his generation. He had the world against him, yet he fought through. It is another ‘Chariots of Fire.’

“But they wanted another film about runners.”

For Greeks, state is foe, mayor says



Steven Erlanger

LETTER FROM EUROPE

LONDON Yiorgos Kaminis has the privilege and misfortune of being the mayor of Athens, the suffering heart of bankrupt Greece, marked by both the majesty of the Parthenon and a relentless wave of graffiti hooligans, whose work he does not have the money to scrape off.

Now 61, Mr. Kaminis was born in New York and lived there until the age of 5, studied in France, taught law at the University of Athens and was re-elected last year as the nonpartisan mayor of one of the world’s great cities.

With Greece stuffed with migrants as it further cuts spending, Mr. Kaminis is gloomy, to say the least.

“When I look at Europe, I don’t have any optimism at all,” he said. “For a while, everyone will feel good, with the Germans and the Austrians the good guys, but it will help the far right.”

The same holds true in Greece, too, where he sees a bankruptcy of responsible politics. “We live in a situation of extreme urgency,” he said. “We’ve become tired, and we’ve become stuck.”

Greeks no longer believe, if they ever did, he said, in the functionality of politics.

“We have a crisis of the government system in the eyes of the people,” he said. Alexis Tsipras, the prime minister who led the left-wing Syriza party into

“After Tsipras, what’s the alternative? It’s Golden Dawn.”

government on a vow to reject austerity, won re-election on a pledge to enforce a new bailout as painlessly as possible.

“Tsipras would never have been re-elected if we had a credible opposition,” Mr. Kaminis said. “A vote for him was a vote against the old political establishment, and people decided to give him a second chance.”

But governing “will devour Tsipras, too,” he said. “And I’m not happy about that, because after Tsipras, what’s the alternative? It’s Golden Dawn.”

Luckily for Mr. Tsipras, perhaps, the leadership of Golden Dawn, a far-right party with neo-Nazi elements, is being tried on charges of running a criminal organization, and many of its legislators are facing other criminal cases. So he has some quiet as he reluctantly labors at austerity, rather like Sisyphus pushing his rock uphill.

But the real problem for Greece, Mr. Kaminis said, is not economic or political. “It’s cultural,” he said. “It’s our mind-set.”

A long period of occupation under the Ottoman Empire gave the Greeks, like the Serbs, a fundamental mistrust of the state and a pride in stubborn resistance, even if it is self-defeating.

The Ottoman word “inad” or “inat,” from the Arabic, meant something like resilience, but in Serbian, the term came to signal a spiteful, sometimes suicidal obstinacy in the face of power — in the best case, to defend the homeland’s religion and culture from occupation.

The Greeks have inherited the same mind-set, Mr. Kaminis said. If the dark forces from outside were first the Turks, then the Nazis, then the Americans for backing Greece’s military dictatorship, now it is the Germans, who stand simultaneously for Brussels and the Nazis in many Greek minds. Syriza, with its roots in the far left, views itself as an outsider, Greece as alone and the broader world as suspicious and dangerous.

But the Greek mistrust of power goes deeper, he insisted. “It’s resistance, not just against foreigners, whether the Americans or now the Germans — it’s against the authorities, the government and the police.” The state is something to avoid or manipulate, not protect, and the police are considered “the enemy.”

Athens, its budget cut 40 percent in five years, is inevitably deteriorating, the mayor says. Infrastructure is unrepaired, graffiti goes uncleared, potholes are unfilled, and trash is uncollected.

“I have a big problem with people vandalizing public spaces and don’t have the budget for regular police patrols at night,” he said. “So I got some cameras, but many Greeks will say that the cameras are spying by the state.”

Greece is doing what Europe demands, Mr. Kaminis said, but it is like breaking stones in a prison yard. “I’d like to be an optimist,” he said. “But where is the data for it? We have some pockets of performance, but they are isolated. People are beaten down.”

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