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The End of Bin Laden and the Way Forward

by Pierre David

THE NEWS THAT OSAMA BIN LADEN HAS BEEN KILLED, AT A compound just outside Islamabad, marks a critical turning point in the war on terrorism. Bin Laden's death has great symbolic significance, but it also has very important, strategic value. The documents, records and other materials discovered at the compound offer U.S. officials a window into the darkest recesses of the Al Qaeda network. We now know much more about what Al Qaeda planned to attack in the United States and elsewhere and how they planned to go about that. We also know that elements within Pakistan's intelligence service, as previously feared, were probably aiding and abetting

the terrorist mastermind. How else can we explain the many years he spent, not in a tiny, hard to reach cave somewhere on the border with Afghanistan, but in a big house, in a town filled with people and soldiers.

But we shouldn't fool ourselves: Bin Laden's demise does not mark the demise of a movement or a way of thinking or a certain brand of radical Islam. The underlying dynamics and forces that gave rise to the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. are still there, and they have not changed. The face of the movement may change — the

— continued on page 3

Saul Bellow: Collected Stories

by Saul Bellow

SUMMER IS UPON US, WHICH MEANS WE HAVE TO START THINKING about what to read at the pool or beach. The great debate has always revolved around the novel v. the short story — to immerse oneself in a tome, with all its many characters and plots and subplots; or to spend an hour, no more, perusing a pretty scene or setting that, like a diorama, doesn't go anywhere but only...suggests.

There is a way out of this debate — a resolution. It's called *Saul Bellow: Collected Stories*, which includes such minor masterpieces as "The Bellarosa Connection," "Him With His Foot in His Mouth," "A Theft" and "Something to Remember Me By."

It was Bellow's fate to be a great Jewish writer, but more than that, he was a great American writer. He was a writer who understood the contours and inner workings of the American character and its unique provenance. And he was a writer who understood that the interaction between characters — the glance, the nod, the half-sentence — is fundamentally democratic and unifying. It is in this way that Bellow's portraits of his characters and the ways in which they come into contact with each other is really a portrait of America at work. This is how the free interaction of peoples takes place. This is how America takes place.

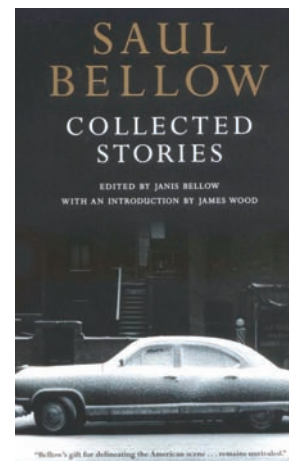
It's worth bearing all this in mind before starting Bellow's *Collected Stories*. In these stories, the reader encounters the brevity, the fleetingness, of the short story, but somehow they don't feel short at all. They feel deeply, unimaginably...involved. The investment is smaller, but the yield is just as big, if not bigger. Indeed, Bellow is one of the few writers — Chekhov is in this camp — who manages to make the short-story experience ultimately novelistic. In most short stories, nothing very much happens. There's no time. That is not the case with Bellow. In Bellow's short stories, everything happens.

That is the key to understanding, say, "Zetland: By a Character Witness." There's so much here — history, philosophy, religious identity and, yes, plot — that when we finish the story (which runs just 14 pages) we feel closer to the characters than we should, as if something vaguely inappropriate has just happened. Bellow always writes from a distance, as if he is observing his characters with a keen but dispassionate eye. But somehow this distance always collapses on itself, or shrinks, or ebbs. There is a point in each and every story at which we are no longer observing from afar but feeling, breathing from within. And then, almost rudely, the story comes to an end.

This is a particularly good moment to be reading Bellow. After all, America — the American idea, the American character — is being hotly debated across the country. This is not how the debaters (the pundits, the politicians, the media celebrities) would put it. They would probably say we're having a series of televised conversations about a number of discreet (i.e., unconnected) issues: the economy, the war in Afghanistan, Libya, the price of gas and so forth. Yes, of course, they might

allow for some connection, some underlying thread or bit of overlap. But this obscures the point, which is the same point that Bellow made in most of his novels. At root, all peoples are really cultures, which means literary-artistic-scientific heritages that evolve through the ages. And, just as important, all individuals are only deceptively individuals. Certainly, there are some who are real characters, but most people are simply functions of wherever they come from, and they don't even know it, and they are convinced in their own singularity and their separateness. It was Bellow's great task, among many others, to identify and clarify the meaning of this separateness. This can be amusing and even funny. (It's great fun to watch a brilliant writer dissect a bullheaded and misled, and mistaken, character.) And it can be deeply unsettling. (For more on this, see Bellow's novella *Seize The Day*.)

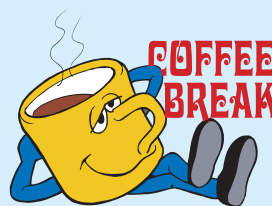
The point here is not that Bellow is right or wrong. He's simply a wonderful writer who is also very provocative. His provocation is subtle, vague, but sharp and, in the end, devastating — exactly what a sun-worshiper looking for a little depth might care for on a long summer afternoon. —PD



Dr. Savodnik's new role as Director of Education and Training is taking shape as he is recruiting experienced psychiatrists and planning crisp new workshops. The whole place is vibrating with powerful energy. He is developing a brand new curriculum and growing an eager new faculty. Feel free to contact us and find out how things have changed!

'Psychiatry':

- is derived from two Greek words
- was invented in a hilarious comedy by Moliere
- comes from the Turkish word for nuts
- was first used in a film starring Gregory Peck



ANSWER: A
 'Psychiatry' is derived from the Greek words for soul and physician. Moliere did write a superb comedy featuring a physician but not a psychiatrist. The word is not based on any Turkish term. Gregory Peck starred in two or three films featuring a psychiatrist, though the term did not originate in Hollywood. Beverly Hills, maybe.

The End of Bin Laden and the Way Forward

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people who make the decisions and appear in the video-taped messages that get broadcast on Al Jazeera may come and go — but the furious stirrings from which the movement first sprung have not gone away.

This is important to bear in mind now that a growing chorus of members of Congress are calling for the United States to withdraw from Afghanistan. Their rationale: Now that we've managed to knock off the head of the terrorist organization that waged war against America, it's time to go home.

It may indeed be time to go home. No matter where you stand on the war in Afghanistan, this much is indubitable: It has cost far more lives and wrought much more havoc than most Americans probably expected back in late 2001, when the country was still reeling from the shock of September 11. The United States had very good reason, back then, to attack the Taliban regime. A vast majority of Americans wanted action to be taken against a state that had provided critical support to the network of terrorists who killed nearly 3,000 innocent human beings.

But Americans probably did not anticipate where this war would lead. Or what we would do once we got there. So perhaps Bin Laden's death is as good a milestone as any to begin, in earnest, the military drawdown that the president said would start this summer (a drawdown that many officials seem to think won't actually happen).

That's a reasonable enough position. But we shouldn't kid ourselves. If we pull out now we will not have accomplished the twin goals we set for ourselves in 2001: Ridding Afghanistan of its terrorist, Islamist elements and establishing a friendlier, more open, more democratic society.

It may be the case that those goals were wildly optimistic to begin with, which is to say: Maybe we should have set the bar a little lower. But that was then, and now we're neck deep in a conflict that appears to have no end in sight. Now we have an opportunity (and a responsibility), with Bin Laden's death, to reassess not only what our goals are but what they should be. We should do this now, instead of simply forging ahead with the hope that the violence will ebb and the Karzai government will somehow turn into a serious, modern, representative state. It is not that, nor will it ever be. Maybe it will become better, more open, less corrupt, less chaotic. If we can impose a modicum of stability and preempt the sprouting of future terrorist cells, that will be a great thing, and we can say that the terrible sacrifice in blood and lucre was for something. Right now, there is uncertainty about what it is for.

But that will not be what we set out to do. It will be something much smaller, more realistic.

The Navy commandos who tracked down Bin Laden, killed him and promptly buried him at sea have done the entire civilized world a great honor. They have strengthened America's resolve, and they have made it clear to madmen and terrorists everywhere that, in the end, they will be rooted out of their caves (or mansions) and brought to justice. They have cast a spotlight on the lie that America doesn't have the will to fight this war to the end. But that does not obscure the fundamental questions: What are we doing here? And why? And for how long? We should worry that no one in the White House has answered those questions. —PD

POP UPS LATEST LA TREND

The newest nightlife trend in California may be the one that's over before it even becomes a style. This is the concept of the "pop-up" bar — a fashionable, exclusive nightclub that practically closes before you can make it to the front of the line.

Paul Seigny and Andre Saraiva are the brains behind a new club this spring that temporarily takes up space just off Hollywood Boulevard. While this is the city's first official pop-up club, fleeting nightlife has already been a popular idea in the City of Angels, with pop up restaurants, bars, boutiques, and even art galleries becoming all the new rage.

These outlets are an interesting result of a lagging economy. Much of this temporary culture is housed in vacant and underutilized real estate, such as parking lots, existing restaurants closed on certain days or times, or even furniture showrooms. An added benefit of these pop-up ventures is that they allow chefs, bartenders, and artists a chance to try out new ideas on a limited basis before committing resources to a larger endeavor.

Still these venues don't come cheap. In addition to bringing the food, equipment, merchandise or art, owners also have to establish a payroll, worker's compensation policy, and insurance. Pop-ups might define trendy, but they are not free of the trappings of traditional businesses. — Sabrina L. Schaeffer

WAR BETWEEN CALIFORNIA AND TEXAS

The recent tension between California and Texas almost recalls images of the Mexican War, Manifest Destiny and westward expansion.

Well not exactly...

But Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom's recent trip to Texas didn't come without some controversy. It's become national news that Texas, through its laissez-faire economic policies, is increasingly drawing business away from the Golden State. In fact, Texas Governor Rick Perry has been described as taking "hunting trips" to California in an effort to recruit business to his state.

John Fund of the Wall Street Journal drew a comparison between the two states, pointing out, "Texas has added 165,000 jobs during the last three years while California has lost 1.2 million." Similarly he notes, "California's jobless rate is 12% compared to 8% in Texas."

Some California residents don't see this shift in business as much of a mystery. According to letters written to the Orange County Register, the business climate in California is a lot more rough-and-tumble than in the Lone Star state. In particular, readers pointed to higher taxes, greater environmental regulations, and higher worker's compensation fees (second only to those in Wisconsin) as a few of the reasons businesses are choosing to give up their ocean views.

Still California officials are pushing back on the notion of the "Texas Miracle," emphasizing that Texas is knee-deep in budget problems — a crisis they claim is proportionally just as bad as California's. And California Treasurer Bill Lockyer tried to take the shine off of Texas when he told the LA Times that "someone just turned the lights on in the bar, and the sexiest state doesn't look so pretty anymore." — Sabrina L. Schaeffer

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