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VOLUME 16 - NO. 195 September 2007

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Sultans of Satire hold sway in L.A.

by Vida Ghaffari



ELHAM JAZAB



MAX AMINI



PETER THE PERSIAN

Iran Times: The Sultans of Satire stand-up comedy show is performed the second Thursday of every month at the Laugh Factory in

Los Angeles, which is owned by Iranian-American Jamie Masada.

The Sultans' show started in 2005 and is now in its 17th edition.

This event is sponsored by the Levantine Cultural Center and was created by Jordan Elgrably, one of the founders and the artistic director of the center. The Sultans contain a strong lineup of diverse comics of Middle Eastern descent, including a trio of Iranian-Americans. Mike Batayeh, a Jordanian-American, who has acted in TV shows including "Sleeper Cell" and "Life," called the Los Angeles suburb of Glendale "the home of the Fighting Unibrows." Noel Elgrably, a stand-up comic who is also Jordan's younger brother, describes himself as a mix of "Arab, Latino, and Jewish," which he labels "the trifecta of minorities."

The wacky Iraqi came on stage with a full-on accent that was part of his schtick and explained, "I have to leave Iraq because of the violence, guns, murder, rap. So I moved to Detroit—but I'm moving back. It's much

safer there." Elham Jazab, Max Amini, and Peter the Persian were the three Iranian-Americans in this show. Jazab, the one female comic, got a lot of belly laughs during her set. The biggest laughter came when she said: "Persian girls don't like sex. We like to look sexy. We don't like to put out. We like to put on—Gucci, Pucci, hair spray, hair extension, lip liner, lip gloss, body spray." Amini ("Heroes," "Mind of Mencia") told the crowd, "I grew up in a Middle Eastern household where the whole house has Persian rugs everywhere. Even the computer mouse. So there are rugs everywhere, but you can't walk on them."

Peter the Persian was the final comic on stage. He calls himself a comedialogist due to his impressions of nationalities. Peter's bit ended with a riff on the British. "Do you know why Persians detest the English? Because the English got away with bloody murder because of their accent. Because no matter what they say, no matter how evil, disgusting, degenerate, it sounds dignified with an English accent. For example, 'I crapped so large that I shall require a

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Persian beauty is featured on reality television program

Iran Times: The TV show "The Real World," the granddaddy of reality television programs, has an Iranian-American beauty as one of the tenants in its just-started current season on MTV. The show began its 19th season this month.

The drill is the same every year. Seven unmarried young men and women are put up in a bachelor pad for four months while the cameras roll and record everything (well, almost everything). There are usually humorous moments, plus catfights and crude embarrassments for all the world to see. This season, the bachelor pad is on a beach in Sydney, Australia, and the seven housemates include 21-year-old Parisa Montazaran from Long Island, New York. The show airs Wednesdays at 10 p.m. (9 p.m. Central Time).

Parisa, a recent New York University grad, was attending what she thought was a sorority meeting but was actually a low-key casting session.

She said she had a dim view of "The Real World," which she described as "sensationalized about alcohol and sex." But after the casting staff invited her, she took a shine to the idea. "I realized a break would be really nice," she told the New York Daily News. "I thought, why not, it's four months of rent I don't have to pay in the city." The four-month filming session was held February to May. "It was very bizarre to be in environment where it was partying seven days a week. It's not normal



for me." But Parisa insists there is nothing that happened that could be embarrassing for her. The one bad moment she cites is phoning home after drinking too much. She's back on Long Island now living with her parents and trying to develop a singing and songwriting career, a goal she acknowledges does not go down well with her parents. MTV's publicity operation describes Parisa as the first Muslim to appear on the show in its 19 seasons. But dedicated viewers point out that Mohammad Bilal appeared in the 1994 season.

Sanctions work even better than U.S. thought!

American financial sanctions have turned out to be even tougher than the U.S. government thought. When Washington tried to make an exception to its own sanctions on North Korea, banks around the world balked.

The New York Times recently related the

odd story of how banks were so obedient to the sanctions that when the U.S. government itself asked them to make an exception, they refused for fear of future punishment or a bad reputation for doing so.

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National Aids Marathon

"The money we raise will provide vital AIDS services"

Hello, my name is Marc Tellez. I'll be running the Florence Marathon in Florence, Italy on November 25, 2007. That's right, 26.2 miles! I'll be dedicating my time over the next 4 months training with the "San Francisco AIDS Marathon Training Program", which raises money for the "SF AIDS Foundation", the leading provider of AIDS services in the Bay Area. The money we raise will allow the "San Francisco AIDS Foundation" to continue to provide vital AIDS services and support needle exchange program throughout the Bay to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. Proceeds will also fund the "Pangaea Fund", a new initiative to support vaccine preparedness and HIV Treatment access in the developing world. Despite my inexperience of running, I am very happy to take on this arduous physical challenge. I am very determined and committed to seeing that I successfully achieve my goal and with the support and contributions of you all, I believe I will. I feel this is an excellent way to give back to the community and to help in the fight to end AIDS. This is why I am committed to raise at least \$4,200 before February 25th, 2008, although I would like to raise even more. I'm asking for your support. Any donation you can make to help me meet my goal would be most appreciated! You can visit my AIDS Marathon web site at www.aidsmarathon.com to make a donation on my behalf. Please click on "Sponsor a runner", then select the location for San Francisco. My Participant number is 5142. Your donation is tax deductible. Many corporations have matching gift programs. Please check with your Human Resources Department to see if your company

"Make a difference in the fight against AIDS"

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