



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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ADULT STEM CELLS RESTORE FEELING IN PARAPLEGIC

September 28, 2005 WorldNetDaily reported: "In an apparent major breakthrough, scientists in Korea report using umbilical cord blood stem cells to restore feeling and mobility to a spinal-cord injury patient. The research, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Cytherapy*, centered on a woman had been a paraplegic 19 years due to an accident.

After an infusion of umbilical cord blood stem cells, stunning results were recorded: "The patient could move her hips and feel her hip skin on day 15 after transplantation. On day 25 after transplantation her feet responded to stimulation."

Umbilical cord cells are considered "adult stem cells," in contrast to embryonic stem cells, which have raised ethical concerns because a human embryo must be destroyed in order to harvest them. The report said motor activity was noticed on day 7, and she was able to maintain an upright position on day 13. Fifteen days after surgery, she began to elevate both lower legs about one centimeter. The study's abstract says not only did the patient regain feeling, but 41 days after stem cell transplantation, testing "also showed regeneration of the spinal cord at the injured site" and below it.

The scientists conclude the transplantation "could be a good treatment method" for paraplegic patients. Bioethics specialist Wesley J. Smith, writing in *Lifesite.com*, expressed enthusiasm about the apparent breakthrough, but also urged caution.

"We have to be cautious," said Smith, a senior fellow at the Seattle-based Discovery Institute and a special consultant to the Center for Bioethics and Culture. "One patient does not a treatment make..."

BRITAIN RULES OUT MILITARY STRIKES ON IRAN

September 28, 2005 VOAnews reported: "British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw says it is "inconceivable" that any military action will be taken against Iran over its nuclear program.

The United States has accused Tehran of using its nuclear program to develop atomic weapons, and President Bush has previously said all options are on the table to resolve the issue. But Mr. Straw told British radio Wednesday, that the use of military force is "not on the agenda." He also says Mr. Bush is taking a position advocated by "all United States presidents."



The International Atomic Energy Agency passed a resolution last Saturday accusing Iran of failing to comply with international nuclear safeguard agreements. The resolution puts Iran on notice that it could be referred to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions if it fails to cooperate fully with IAEA inspectors..."

ATTACK OF THE BIRD FLU: EXPERTS SAY PANDEMIC INEVITABLE

September 25, 2005 BostonHerald.com reported: "While the deadly Avian flu spreads through Asia, Bay State health officials - who have been "vigorously" planning for a flu pandemic for six years - doubt the state could ever be completely prepared for a full-blown attack.

"At some point, the pandemic is going to happen. We're prepared better today than we were last week. We can only prepare so far," said Dr. Alfred DeMaria, head of communicable disease control for the state Department of Public Health.

Two million people in Massachusetts alone could become ill in six to eight weeks if a flu pandemic hit, according to the state DPH. One million Bay Staters could need outpatient care; 16,800 could be hospitalized and nearly 5,000 could die.

Last century saw three flu pandemics - in 1918, 1957 and 1968. The flu killed half-a-million Americans in 1918. National and local flu experts say it's inevitable that a sweeping flu pandemic - a worldwide outbreak - occurs every 20 to 50 years.

The H5N1 strain has killed 64 people in Southeast Asia in two years. People have contracted the virus from birds. Health officials fear the virus eventually will spread from person to person, creating a worldwide outbreak that could kill millions. "It's not a matter of if, but when we might see another pandemic," said Tom Skinner of the federal Centers for Disease Control..."

CONGRESS WORRIED OVER WEAPONS FLOW INTO GAZA

September 25, 2005 Middle East Newsline reported: "The U.S. Congress has expressed concern over the massive flow of weapons from Egypt to the Palestinian Authority. Congressional sources said several leading House and Senate members have raised the

Palestinian weapons flow with the Bush administration. The sources said these congressional members have determined that Egypt failed to honor its commitment to seal the Sinai border with the Gaza Strip.

The issue was discussed on Sept. 21 during a hearing of the House International Relations subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia. Subcommittee chairman Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen expressed alarm over the Egyptian failure to secure its border despite the addition of 750 police commandos in early September.

"Vast amounts of assault rifles, explosives, and other weaponry has reportedly been smuggled across the Egyptian frontier into Gaza in the past few days, confirming fears regarding the inability, or willingness, of the Palestinians and Egyptians to provide security along that border," Ms. Ros-Lehtinen said.

IRAN SAID TO COOPERATE WITH S. AFRICA ON NUKES

September 25, 2005 Middle East Newline reported: "Iran was said to be cooperating with South Africa in the development of nuclear weapons.

Israeli intelligence sources said South African technical delegations have visited Teheran over the last 18 months in discussions concerning nuclear cooperation. The sources said the two countries have agreed to share information on nuclear issues that could include the production of enriched uranium.

"There are South African nuclear scientists who are shuttling between South Africa and Iran," an intelligence source said. "At the least, Pretoria is shutting its eyes."

In New York, South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma lobbied for Iran's nuclear program. On Sept. 21, Dlamini-Zuma met his British counterpart, Jack Straw, in a 30-minute discussion on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. South Africa has opposed a U.S.-led campaign to relay the Iran nuclear file to the Security Council..."

I WANT TO TEACH THE WORLD TO SURF, SAYS THE MAN WHO INVENTED THE \$100 LAPTOP



September 29, 2005 Independent Online reported: "One man in Boston has a plan that he hopes will bridge the world's gaping digital divide - and quickly. The visionary is Nicholas Negroponte, director of the Media Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his idea consists of a new kind of laptop computer that will cost just \$100 (£57) to buy.

It will also be a little different in design from the sleek machines some of us in the west have learned to love or covet. It will be foldable in different ways, encased in bump-proof rubber and will include a hand-crank to give it power in those corners of the globe where electricity supply is patchy.

The first prototype of the machine should be ready by November and Mr Negroponte - who was one of the first prophets of the internet before most of us understood the word - hopes to put them into production next year.

In fact, he expects to churn out about 15 million of them within one year, shipping most of them at first to children in Brazil, Egypt, Thailand and South Africa.

Describing the unusual design of his sub-laptop yesterday, Mr Negroponte insisted that it would "have to be absolutely indestructible". The mission is to create a tool that children almost anywhere can use and can easily carry between their classrooms and their homes. For that reason, for instance, the AC adaptor cable will double as a shoulder strap..."

U.S. ENVOY DENIES PLAN TO INVADE VENEZUELA

September 29, 2005 The AP reported: "The United States is not planning to invade Venezuela, the U.S. ambassador to Venezuela said Thursday, disputing claims by President Hugo Chavez. Chavez has said his government has documents showing Washington has a "Plan Balboa" to invade his oil-producing countrywide aircraft carriers and planes. He said Venezuela is preparing to repel any attack.

"No 'Plan Balboa' exists," Ambassador William Brownfield said. Brownfield told reporters that Spain, not the United States, had included Venezuela in a simulated military exercise titled "Operation Balboa" more than four years ago.

Relations between Washington and Caracas have been tense in recent months. Chavez has accused the United States of meddling, while Washington has criticized Chavez's decision to buy 100,000 Russian-made Kalashnikov assault rifles.

Chavez, an ally of Cuban President Fidel Castro, has accused the governments of President Bush and former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar of playing roles in a short-lived coup against him in 2002. Both governments denied it..."