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High-tech help for repressive regimes?

Booming business of surveillance technology worries rights activists

BY SARI HORWITZ,
SHYAMANTHA ASOKAN
AND JULIE TATE

Northern Virginia technology entrepreneur Jerry Lucas hosted his first trade show for makers of surveillance gear at the McLean Hilton in May 2002. Thirty-five people attended.

Nine years later, Lucas holds five events annually around the world, drawing hundreds of vendors and thousands of potential buyers for an industry that he estimates sells \$5 billion of the latest tracking, monitoring and eavesdropping technology each year. Along the way, these events have earned an evocative nickname: the Wiretappers' Ball.

The products of what Lucas calls the "lawful intercept" industry are developed mainly in Western nations such as the United States but are sold all over the world with few restrictions. This burgeoning trade has alarmed human rights activists and privacy advocates, who call for greater regulation because the technology has ended up in the hands of repressive governments such as those of Syria, Iran and China.

"You need two things for a dictatorship to survive: propaganda and secret police," said Rep.

SURVEILLANCE CONTINUED ON A6

FBI outreach questioned

The ACLU sees a dark side to bureau's community monitoring. **A3**

In Clinton's Burma visit, U.S. extends a wary hand

BY WILLIAM WAN

NAYPYIDAW, BURMA — It was a moment President Obama has sought since his inauguration, when he pledged to reach out to despotic rulers who "are willing to unclench your fist."

In the three years since, his invitation has been ignored by Iran, North Korea and Syria.

Then came Thursday, when the leader of one of the most isolated and repressive regimes in the world — a government responsible for killing thousands in a quest to silence dissent — welcomed U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Burma has lurched unexpectedly toward reform in the past three months. Its move has coincided with a broader attempt by Obama to pivot his administration's foreign policy focus away from the Middle East, to counterbalance of China's rise in Asia.

The result was the first U.S. secretary of state ever to set foot in this constructed-from-scratch capital. And Clinton carried to her meeting with Burmese President Thein Sein a letter from

BURMA CONTINUED ON A11

To honor AIDS fight, a shade of red



DEAN HOFFMEYER/RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rebecca Flaig, left, and Ryan Jung were among those holding umbrellas in Richmond in recognition of World AIDS Day. The umbrellas formed a giant red ribbon, the symbol of HIV/AIDS awareness efforts. President Obama on Thursday said his administration will expand efforts to get life-extending drugs to those with HIV. Story, A14. ■ For more images from World AIDS Day events around the globe, go to washingtonpost.com/world.

Gingrich offers up a bundle of 'big ideas'

Parallel systems, firing of judges among plans that draw skepticism

BY DAVID A. FAHRENTHOLD

This is America under President Gingrich:

There are two Social Security systems — one old, one new, running side by side. There are two tax systems and two versions of Medicare. Immigration decisions are handled by citizen councils spread across the country.

And in the White House is a president who is eager to do battle with the judicial branch.

He can fire federal judges with whom he disagrees, and some new laws are written so that they cannot be reviewed by the courts.

These are all concepts of former House speaker Newt Gingrich (Ga.), the idea factory who is now a front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination. If implemented, they would add up to a government in the mold of Gingrich himself: ambitious, confrontational and complicated, with an expansive faith in the free market to solve society's problems.

"It's clear the country is talking to itself. And it's clear that across the country, people are saying, you know, 'I think we need Newt Gingrich,'" the candidate said Wednesday on Fox News Channel.

"We need somebody with very substantial big ideas."

A review of Gingrich's recent statements and debate arguments turns up more than 70 ideas, some substantial and others less so. They cover such topics as offshore drilling, Iran and child labor.

Some hew closely to conservative GOP orthodoxy. Others urge a vast overhaul of federal benefit programs, using a two-track approach that would allow people to choose between old and new ideas. And others envision a historic reshaping of the way the U.S.

Cain defends payments

The presidential candidate says he was helping Ginger White financially but his wife did not know about it. **A2**

government operates, largely by stripping the Supreme Court of its powers.

There are doubts about whether Gingrich's big ideas could work. If he followed through on his plans to defy the high court, Gingrich could plunge the country into a constitutional crisis by putting it on shaky legal ground.

Many conservative scholars worry that Gingrich's ideas may make already byzantine federal benefits programs even more complex.

"It's the kind of thing that sounds right, maybe, when you sit on your couch and hear it," said Steven Camarota, the research di-

GINGRICH CONTINUED ON A12



LINDA DAVIDSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

The softer side of law school

Kate Telis, from left, Eunice Chung and Julie Dewberry, law students at George Mason University, take a break with rescued puppies. It's not just fun and games — some law schools say pets help relieve stress during finals and beyond, an alternative to alcohol or other destructive habits. Story, B1.

SALLY JENKINS

When it comes to leadership, Tebow's an example to follow

In a real crisis, like say if an asteroid threatens to strike the planet, I want Tim Tebow as my leader. I don't want University of Maryland football coach Randy Edsall, with his faux-militaristic carping, or recently fired Washington Capitals coach Bruce Boudreau, with his abrupt shifts from friendly buddy talk to deafening profanity.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another," Tebow, the NFL quarterback, told his Denver Broncos teammates solemnly last week, quoting Proverbs. If anyone else said that, the room would have erupted into hooting laughter. When Tebow said it, people believed in him.

People didn't believe in Boudreau and Edsall, for all of their shouting. Yet they believe in a Scripture-spouting kid with a hitch in his arm. Why? Possibly because Tebow grasps something about leadership that Boudreau

and Edsall have yet to learn: It's not about domination but about persuasion. Someone who tries to force others to do his bidding isn't a leader; he's a warlord. Leadership only works when other people find you credible and grant you their cooperation.

In the past few weeks, area coaches have given clinics in failed leadership. The Washington Capitals staged a virtual work stoppage on the ice under Boudreau. The Maryland football team quit so badly on Edsall, they lost seven consecutive games by double digits. And the Washington Redskins lost six in a row thanks in part to Mike Shanahan's misjudgment that the happy-talk of quarterback John Beck was leadership — only it turns out they trust Beck's fellow signal-caller Rex Grossman more, even when he throws interceptions.

JENKINS CONTINUED ON A13

INSIDE

WEEKEND »

Leesburg's allure

About an hour west of Washington, this quaint, historic town of about 42,000 has plenty to offer.

STYLE

Pakistan's mystery man

A hedge fund manager says he was working with the since-outed ambassador to the U.S. to thwart a military coup. **C1**



BUSINESS

The high cost of high unemployment

When jobless benefits expire at the end of the year, lawmakers may retool the insurance program. **A15**

A faded Black Friday

Sales figures for the big shopping day may not be as encouraging as they appeared, experts say. **A15**

THE WORLD

Islamists gain clout in Egyptian vote

The success of the Muslim Brotherhood and an ultraconservative Salafist party signals a shift. **A10**

Old business in Libya

An effort to repatriate the remains of 13 U.S. sailors buried in Tripoli since 1804 remains stalled. **A9**



« THE REGION

Old tradition, new tree

The spruce that has served as the National Christmas Tree was blown over in February, so its replacement was lighted. **B1**

THE NATION

Al-Qaeda kidnap claim

Ayman al-Zawahiri says the group is holding an American aid worker who was abducted in Pakistan in August. **A10**

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