

# INTERNATIONAL

## Smithsonian Creates New Hall

Kristen Gallagher, Staff Writer

In the March issue of Smithsonian Magazine, staff writer Abigail Tucker unveiled the David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins at the National Museum of Natural History. The Hall is set to open on March 17th of this year, on which day the museum will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Rick Potts, the anthropologist who serves as the director of the Human Origins Program, has worked with sculptor John Gurche at Baltimore's New Arts Foundry to create five bronze recreations of early humans. The goal was to "tell a less linear story," Potts says, "that challenges 'the inevitability of us'" with the construction and installation of the sculptures. The works will adorn, or rather augment, the new hall.

The first one you'll see as you walk in will be Homo Erectus. The sculpture represents a female who may have emerged 1.8 million years ago. An interesting aside about the gender of the hominid: Potts wanted to "contest the idea of males bringing home the bacon."

In the press release for the new hall, the Smithsonian announced the \$20.7 million hall will continue to be complemented by new programs in order to support the original initiative. That initiative, entitled "Human Origins:

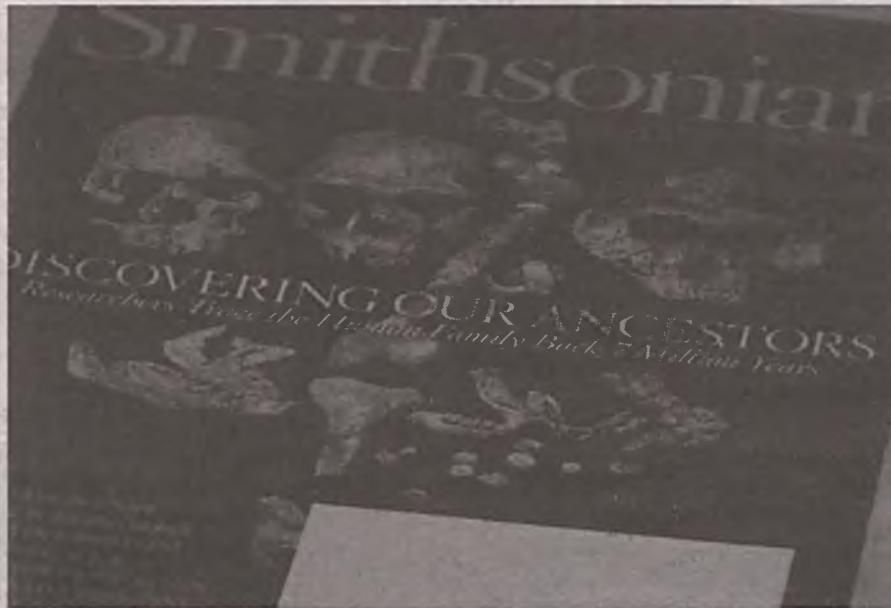


photo courtesy of Kristen Gallagher

What does it mean to be Human?" focuses on human evolution, the characteristics that define us, and how our ancestors adapted to the changing world. A new website will also be initiated to complement the project. The project entails the collaboration between over fifty organizations and seventy scientists. Viewers will get to interact with exhibits, see field sites, play with a 6-billion year old family tree, and see the faces of their ancestors.

The Smithsonian Institution formed the Museum of Natural History one hundred years ago, and perhaps it is only fitting that in a few days a new hall dedicated to our species will be unveiled. In recognition of Meredith's mission to "create a... community in which students learn from the past, prepare for the future, and grow in their understanding of self, others, and community," we can use this opportunity to learn more about ourselves and our history in order to forge a better future for our world.

## Hamas Leader killed in a Luxurious Dubai Hotel

Mariamawit Tadesse, Staff Writer

A senior Hamas official, Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, was killed on 20 January in his Dubai hotel room. Results from forensic test released by the police point out that the Hamas commander was drugged and then suffocated. Fingers are being pointed to Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service. Israel, on the other hand, responded that there was no evidence that it was behind the death.

Mahmoud al-Mabhouh was a Hamas operative who founded the organization's military wing. The article, "Why did Hamas Chief Mahmoud al-Mabhouh go to Dubai?" by Andy Walker in the BBC World News, mentions that Mr. Mabhouh was in Dubai for the sole purpose of buying weapons.

According to France24 News, a senior Dubai police officer described that the killers used the drug succinylcholine to sedate Mr. Mabhouh before they suffocated him. The article also mentions that the assassins used this method to make the death seem natural.

The Dubai police have identified twelve British, six Irish, four French, one German and three Australian passports linked to the murder. The "cloned" passports used have caused diplomatic row between the countries, with the exclusion of Germany and Israel. In the past, Mossad had used passports from Canada and New Zealand "for some nefarious uses" said the BBC's Middle East editor Jeremy Bowen. In addition to the

26 Western suspects, three Palestinians have been arrested.

Lt Gen Dahi Khalfan, Dubai's Chief police said he was "99% certain" that Israel was involved in the assassination. Israel's Foreign Minister told Army Radio "I don't know why we are assuming that Israel, or the Mossad, used those passports. There is no reason to think that it was the Israeli Mossad, and not some other intelligence service or country up to some mischief." Mr. Lieberman went on saying "Israel never responds, never confirms and never denies. There is no reason for Israel to change this policy." More investigation is being carried out on the suspects of the assassination.

## News at a Glance

gathered by Mengjie Zhang

- The Foreign Ministry said on Sunday (March 7th), with 90% of votes counted, that over 93% Icelanders voted to reject to pay off \$5 billion debt owed to United Kingdom and the Netherlands. However, Iceland's Finance Minister Steingrímur J. Sigfússon declared, "The nation cannot have this case like a nightmare, it must be solved."
- Violent attacks on election days did not stop Iraqis from voting for key parliamentary elections Sunday, March 7th 2010.
- According to BBC breaking news on Sunday night, "A big explosion has been heard in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore."
- According to Iranian state media, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, a ruse to allow invasion of Afghanistan two days before his official trip to Afghanistan.
- A survey done by the BBC World Service with more than 27000 adults across 26 countries suggests that 80% of people around world believe that access to the internet is a fundamental right.

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