

Apologies, errors and omissions, justifications, corrections and Clarifications, retractions and refusals, denials and distinctions ●

May 15, 2011 Sunday

Because of an editing error, an article last Sunday about the quest for Osama bin Laden misstated the number of interviews that reporters had with him after Sept. 11, 2001. It was at least two, conducted by journalists from Pakistan and from Al Jazeera in the two months after the attacks; it was not the case that no reporters interviewed Bin Laden after the attacks.

Election round-up: “Ed Miliband calls on Lib Dem ministers to quit cabinet” (News) said that on 5 May the Liberal Democrats had lost 695 council seats and nine councils. They actually lost 842 council seats and 11 councils. In “Cameron won’t block vote on independence” (News) we said the Lib Dems in Scotland were reduced to four MSPs. Five, actually. “How Salmond’s Scottish revolution pushed Labour back across the border” (News) said the late Donald Dewar had claimed “devolution was the settled will of the Scottish people”. While Dewar argued that principle, it was the late Labour leader John Smith who coined the phrase. And our editorial “Salmond’s success” (Comment) referred in both head and text to the Scottish Assembly. We meant the Scottish Parliament. Apologies.

May 14, 2011 Saturday

An article on Wednesday about a report by a research group in Afghanistan that challenged the quality of information used by NATO forces to identify and kill suspected Taliban insurgents misstated the report’s conclusion concerning an Afghan man, identified by NATO as a Taliban insurgent, who was targeted and killed in a NATO attack in Takhar Province. The report concluded that NATO had used flawed intelligence and killed the wrong man, partly because his name had been used as an alias by a Taliban insurgent — not that the episode illustrated how shifting allegiances and identities among a number of players in Afghanistan make it “nearly impossible to make accurate judgments about them.”

A music review on Friday about the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Chorus’s performance of the oratorio “August 4, 1964,” at Carnegie Hall, misidentified the type of American vessel attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats on Aug. 2, 1964, an attack that was part of what became known as the Gulf of Tonkin incident, a subject of the oratorio. It was a destroyer, not a battleship. (While United States officials initially believed that two American destroyers were also attacked on Aug. 4, 1964, and President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered retaliatory bombing, many historians have since concluded that there was no second attack.)

In the list headed Elections: Scottish parliament, 7 May, page 32, Aberdeen Central should have been shown as a Scottish National Party win (from Labour), not as an SNP hold.

Regarding the Welsh assembly election outcome, comprising 40 constituency seats and a further 20 seats elected from five regions (each with 4 seats): a graphic was published without some final updates to certain regional outcomes. In the Mid and West Wales region, two seats were colour-coded blue for Conservative wins when they should have been red for Labour. In the South Wales West region, two seats were coloured green for Plaid Cymru when the outcome was actually two Tory wins, one Plaid and one Liberal Democrat. And on a list of individual constituency results, Llanelli should have been coded red for a Labour win, not green for Plaid Cymru.

An article on Page 50 this weekend about a do-it-yourself movement in the United States misidentifies an object made by the author, Anand Giridharadas, with the help of a 3-D printing machine. It was, basically, a nut, not a bolt.

An article in some editions on Friday about an auction of contemporary art at Phillips de Pury & Company in New York on Thursday night misstated the sale price of a 1973 Andy Warhol painting of Mao Zedong. It was \$3.5 million (\$4,002,500 including fees), not \$3.1 million (\$3.5 million including fees).

May 13, 2011 Friday

An article on Wednesday about problems in the microlending industry paraphrased incorrectly a quote by Vikram Akula, chairman of the Indian company SKS Microfinance. Mr. Akula said that loan repayments might go up in Andhra Pradesh state if the government there eased rules on new lending, not if it restricted such lending there.

An article Thursday about stepped-up federal inquiries into the possibility of insider trading through the use of so-called expert networks, which provide information to investors for a fee, misspelled part of the name of a law firm whose clients include companies that use such networks. It is Schulte Roth & Zabel, not Schultz Roth & Zabel.

May 12, 2011 Thursday

An interview with the new editor of Esquire magazine quoted him as saying: “I’m a total starfucker.” As this was a quote and central to the subject’s view of his own personality, this usage within the text did not breach the Guardian’s guidelines on the use of obscenities which say in part: use such words only when absolutely necessary to the facts of a piece, or to portray a character in an article. However, that quote was also used as a 46-point headline on the article, which was inappropriate and unnecessary. The editor’s guideline on the subject of bad language starts by stating: remember the reader, and respect demands that we should not casually use words that are likely to offend.

May 11, 2011 Wednesday

A slip of the tongue by an organiser of a walk in London to protest at remarks by a Canadian police officer — that women who want to stay safe on the streets “should avoid dressing like sluts” — led to the organiser being quoted in early editions as saying “Comments like these only serve to shame victims into violence”; that should have been “silence”. The article also incorrectly suggested that she was the sole organiser.

May 10, 2011 Tuesday

Noting that the cabinet must soon decide whether to accept recommendations from the advisory Committee

Corrections and Clarifications

is an ongoing publication, an edited compilation of daily revisions, retractions, re-wordings, distinctions and apologies to print news from September 2001 to the present. A reverse-chronological catalog of lapses in naming and classification, of tangled catch-phrases, patterns of mis-speech and inflection, connotation and enumeration.

Purely editorial credit to those who have provided the material for this publication by having seen fit to correct themselves, or having seen themselves fit to correct others; who have sought in some public way to offer apologies or clarifications – to redeem, reveal, revise, retract, or shift, to simultaneously claim, deny, and re-attribute blame and responsibility. Credit is due for these well-documented efforts to apologize for what is being done and for what has already been done, for continuing attempts to un-say what is said, un-mean what is meant.

Credit at a variety of levels to those seekers, processors, middle managers, and ultimate regulators of public information who take it upon themselves (or impose it upon others) to re-name, re-classify, disguise, de-fuse or be de-briefed; who find clever metaphors to obfuscate, euphemize and mystify; who disseminate information according to political structures coincident with particular economic interests, who consent to use language to dismiss, excuse, cushion, cover and obscure the consequences of actions and the submerged structures behind events. And ultimately who, regardless of stated intentions, occasionally reveal something, piece by piece, through slips in language and naming systems.

Perhaps what is conveyed unintentionally, and by repetitious mistakes, is more revealing, more historically identifiable, and substantially less conciliatory than it is meant to be. This is both fortunate and inevitable. With further acknowledgement to readers who regard these revisions and retractions with the same scepticism they have the originals.

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on Climate Change (CCC) about cutting greenhouse gas emissions, an article said that this statutory body foresaw nuclear reactors producing about 40% of the UK's energy mix by 2030. That should have been 40% of the mix of sources for UK electricity.

A column argued that President Nicolas Sarkozy of France was acting inconsistently in his stance towards Libya's regime on the one hand, and Libyans seeking to flee to France on the other. But a key word went missing in the following sentence about the French leader, which appeared in the paper without the word not: "The very Libyans he was so desperate to save (through military action) he was also desperate not to provide sanctuary for, if and when they fled".

May 9, 2011 Monday

A radiation reading from dirt collected in a schoolyard in Fukushima — and presented by protesting parents to government officials in Tokyo — was reported by the parents to be 38 microsieverts per hour, not 38 millisieverts as we reported it.

Speaking of the numerous homophobic attacks that are believed to go unreported, Peter Tatchell, gay-rights campaigner, was quoted as saying: "I myself have been attacked more than 300 times in the past 20 years. As a result, I suffer from permanent brain damage." He asks us to make clear that he linked his assertion about brain damage to an assault by neo-Nazis in Moscow, rather than to the attacks in general.

May 8, 2011 Sunday

A box headlined "Lone Mavericks" which accompanied an article titled "Is Donald Trump the most bizarre US presidential candidate ever?" (In Focus) referred to 1968 candidate George Wallace as governor of Georgia. He was governor of Alabama. It also said that Ross Perot (a candidate in 1992 and 1996) was an oilman, but he made his fortune in computer services.

The London Citizens' Living Wage Unit is based at City Hall, not, as we said, County Hall, which was the headquarters of the London County Council and later the Greater London Council but has not been a public building since 1986. It's now a hotel and leisure complex.

May 7, 2011 Saturday

An article on Friday about a special election for a Congressional seat in the suburbs of Buffalo that has been shaken up by a Republican plan to overhaul health care misidentified the federal program that would be turned into a grant program for states under one part of the plan. It is Medicaid, not Medicare.

The cover article this weekend, about the disappearance of Air France Flight 447 in 2009, makes several references to unrecovered data cylinders from the plane's black boxes. On May 1, after the article went to press, the cylinders were found on the floor of the South Atlantic Ocean and are expected to be analyzed in the coming week.

A correspondent wrote that reaction to Osama bin Laden's death and the likely succession of Ayman al-Zawahiri was muted in a Cairo suburb which "the fugitive physician called home until the mid-1990s". An editing error changed *physician* to *Bin Laden*. The latter was not a medical doctor and did not live in the Cairo area.

In our compilation from several sources of an account of the raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan, a reference to one of the dead was inadvertently omitted, making our assertion that the departing US soldiers left behind "four dead bodies" look questionable. The fourth was a unnamed man, possibly a guard or household helper.

An article Tuesday about strained relations between Syria and Hamas, the Palestinian group based in Syria, over the neutrality of Hamas in the anti-government uprising there, misstated the role in Hamas of a Syrian man, Abu Almajad, who was quoted as saying that Qatar would be happy if the group moved there. Mr. Almajad is a Hamas supporter, not a Hamas leader.

The headline on a news digest item on May 6 entitled "JP Morgan cleared of discrimination" wrongly suggested that Russell Chweidan had lost his case against the US investment bank. In fact, the Court of Appeal judges have reserved their ruling.

May 6, 2011 Friday

An article on Tuesday about the compound in Pakistan where Osama bin Laden was living before he was killed in an American raid omitted reporting credits in some copies. Ismail Khan contributed reporting from Peshawar, Pakistan, and Adam B. Ellick from New York.

A picture caption on Thursday with the Reuters Breakingviews column, about the initial offering of Renren, a Chinese social network, and the bailout of Portugal, misidentified the person pictured in some copies. He is Jose Socrates, the prime minister of Portugal, not Joseph Chen, the chief executive of Renren.

An article began by saying that results of a regular statistical survey showed that in April manufacturing output in the UK had fallen to a seven-month low. It should have said that the rate of manufacturing growth had fallen.

An article meant to name Osama bin Laden, but instead said: "Asked on Wednesday whether the team that killed Obama had come under fire, (Jay) Carney said the White House had gone to the limit in providing details and that any more would risk future operations".

Looking at some of the world's most wanted fugitives, a feature mentioned the Russian agent accused by British authorities of murdering journalist and former agent Alexander Litvinenko in London in 2006. But the piece should have said that the latter died of poisoning from polonium-210, not plutonium.

The Business Page report, "Exports jump 38% in 2010-11" (May 3, 2011), said oil imports went up by 167% to \$101.68 billion from \$87.13 billion. It should have been 16.7%.

May 5, 2011 Thursday

A picture on Tuesday with an article about the response of New Yorkers to the death of Osama bin Laden was published in error. As the caption indicated, it showed a ceremony in Manhattan that included a reading of the names of Holocaust victims; the event was not connected to Bin Laden's death.

An article on Wednesday about an agreement by BP to settle \$25 million in civil charges related to two oil spills from its pipeline network in Alaska misstated the origin of an order for proper maintenance of the pipelines that the company was accused of disobeying. It was issued by the federal Department of Transportation, not by a court or courts.

The Crime Scene column on April 30, about thefts in Starbucks around New York City, misstated the rank of a commanding officer in the New York Police Department, Mark DiPaolo, who said people feel a "comfort zone" in Starbucks. He is a deputy inspector, not a captain.

In Tuesday's editions, a headline with a story about congressional reaction to the killing of Osama bin Laden said "Quitman says 'Evil has met his maker.'" The quote in fact came from U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, a Republican who is from Quitman.

In a story May 4 about an attack on Sony Corp.'s PlayStation Network, AP erroneously reported that Sony knows who is responsible. In a letter to Congress, the company said it does not know who is responsible.

Listing assertions made by each side before today's UK referendum on the alternative vote system, we said: "AV is used for Scottish local councils, in Northern Ireland, and the Republic

of Ireland. US cities elect mayors by AV". What we should have said was: the Republic of Ireland uses AV in presidential elections and parliamentary byelections. At local level in the United Kingdom, AV is used in byelections for Scotland's and Northern Ireland's local councils. A handful of US cities use AV in local votes.

A compilation in Tuesday's edition of tweets from athletes and sports personalities reacting to Osama bin Laden's death incorrectly stated the origin of comments made by Mariano Rivera. The New York Yankees reliever's comment was made verbally, not tweeted.

May 4, 2011 Wednesday

A report in the Observatory column on Tuesday about the drinking technique of hummingbirds misstated the size of a hummingbird's tongue, using information provided by a University of Connecticut researcher. It is less than one millimeter thick, not less than one millimeter long.

The DealBook column on Tuesday, about Warren E. Buffett's handling of the resignation of a top lieutenant over questionable stock trading, misattributed a quotation. It was Mr. Buffett who said, "We can have all the records in the world and if somebody wants to trade outside them or something, you know, they're not going to tell us they're trading in their cousin's name." It was not his partner Charlie Munger.

An Op-Ed essay on Sunday, about the health effects of radiation, imprecisely described the accomplishments of the Manhattan Project. In producing an atomic bomb, the project used fission, which splits the atom, not fusion, the process that occurs in the sun when atoms fuse together.

A story headlined EU debates sanctions as Syria toll rises (29 April, page 24) mentioned that one idea being discussed by officials was suspension of an EU association agreement with Damascus. A reader queried this, noting that Syria has yet to sign the agreement. To clarify, the story was correct: one of the penalties being considered was indeed the freezing of progress on finalising the agreement, which Brussels had earlier cleared for signature on its side.

A big, map-centred graphic accompanied a feature looking at whether political upheavals in the Middle East and Maghreb will spread south in Africa. But when writing about Sudan the map text pointed to Niger.

May 3, 2011 Tuesday

A listing of military deaths in some editions on Monday misidentified the country where Pfc. Robert M. Friese was killed in combat. It is Iraq, not Afghanistan.

A picture caption on Monday with an article about the Mass in which Pope Benedict XVI beatified his predecessor, John Paul II, misstated the rank in the Roman Catholic hierarchy of two men arriving for the ceremony. They are bishops, not cardinals.

May 2, 2011 Monday

An article on Friday about the efforts of Chinese expatriates to organize a popular revolution in China via the Internet misspelled the given name of one activist, who said that drawing police officers to demonstration sites was a measure of success. He is Feng Congde, not Chongde.

A report in the World Briefing column on Thursday about a proposal by the Turkish government to build a canal connecting the Black Sea to the Marmara misstated the relative size of the canal. The proposed canal, which would be 28 to 30 miles long, would not be longer than the Panama Canal, which is about 50 miles long, or the Suez, which is about 101 miles long.

An article on Friday about the last elevator operators at New York City subway stations misstated the access to the 191st Street station in Upper Manhattan. It can be accessed by elevator from St. Nicholas Avenue and by a pedestrian tunnel from Broadway; the elevator is not the only access.

Writing about how hard it is to design structures to confine radioactive emissions from the likes of Chernobyl, or to store nuclear waste, an article mentioned Finland's Onkalo underground storage facility. But in making mention of a TV documentary on the latter, our article repeated the film's assertion that onkalo means "hiding place" in Finnish. A Finnish reader objected that this is neither the translation nor an everyday meaning of the word. Indeed, dictionaries translate it as "cavity"; this might also stretch to "cavern".

May 1, 2011 Sunday

The acrostic answers on April 17, for the acrostic puzzle of April 10, omitted the final two solutions. For letter V, with the clue "Distinctive features of the primitive reptilian archaeopteryx," the answer was "Feathers." For letter W, with the clue "Admit to being wrong," the answer was "Eat crow."

A report in some of Saturday's editions about the Army Corps of Engineers' flood-protection upgrades in St. Bernard Parish incorrectly said the corps' fifteen billion dollar project for the New Orleans region covers 350 miles of levees and floodwalls in five parishes. The project actually spans 120 miles of levees and floodwalls on the perimeter, turning some interior flood-control structures into a second line of defense.

A picture caption on April 17 with the continuation of an article about John Tanton, who helped start all three major national groups that are fighting to reduce immigration to the United States, misstated the mission of Numbers USA, a group founded by Roy Beck. It seeks to reduce legal and illegal immigration alike, not "to give voice to anger about illegal immigration."

An article last Sunday about an exhibition at ArtsWestchester's Arts Exchange comprising works that address the current economic climate, misstated, from a description by the exhibition's curator, the meaning of the title of a mixed-media installation by Kambui Olujimi. "The O'Woof Woof" is not "Southern black vernacular meaning 'something you ain't gonna get.'" It is a reference to the phrase "selling wolf tickets," which means making grand and threatening proclamations, none of which come to fruition.

April 29, 2011 Friday

Kate Middleton was said in a piece to be the likely future Queen of England. In an earlier edition, this also appeared: "Even George W Bush, who tried to portray himself as a homespun Texas rancher, would put on white tie and tails when banqueting with the Queen of England". But Elizabeth II is monarch of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

April 28, 2011 Thursday

A report on the Church of Scientology acquiring Monogram Studios in Hollywood mentioned that the site had formerly been in the possession of Allied Artists and produced, among others, the blockbuster *El Cid*. To clarify: Allied Artists released *El Cid* in the United States, but it was filmed in Spain with some studio scenes shot in Rome and postproduction at Pinewood Studios.

A report on China's plans for its future in space incorrectly stated that Russia's Mir space station "served between 1996 and 2001". In fact: Mir served for 15 years in orbit from 1986 to 2001, three times its planned lifetime.

The Rite and Reason column in the edition of April 19th stated the fact that some children are exempt from Irish class does mean that teachers must refrain from using Irish...in contexts other than direct teaching. It should have stated the fact that some children are exempt from Irish class does not mean...

April 27, 2011 Wednesday

In the news report, "Muslim rulers deliberately projected as intolerant: Katju" (April 19), there was a reference to the book, *History in the Service of Imperialism*, by D.N. Pande. It should have been B.N. Pande.

A mistake occurred while drafting the correction regarding the editorial, "The superbug effect" dated April 23, 2011. The correction referred to "the discovery of the New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase-1 (NDM-1) in 71 of 151 sewage samples." It should have been 51 of 171 sewage samples.

The news report, "Dhoni ranked higher than Obama in Time list" (April 23, 2011), referred to the magazine's list of 100 most influential people for the year 2010. It should have been 2011.

April 26, 2011 Tuesday

A report on the Welsh assembly election campaign made mention of Owain Glyndwr, famed Welsh leader of the late Middle Ages, but spelled him Glyndwyr. It also misnamed Iwan Huws, a first-time Plaid Cymru candidate running for Aberconwy, as Iwan Jones.

In a story about the new coat of arms commissioned by Kate Middleton's family, the term crest was used as a synonym for coat of arms. This was owing to an editing error. The crest is the symbol - often a beast or bird - that sits above the shield in a coat of arms.

In the Editorial Page article, "Rush in now, repent later" (April 25), a quotation in the third paragraph from the bottom was left unclosed. It should have read as: As the 16 leading nuclear... noted, "It appears that, in the siting and design of the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear plants, an unlikely combination of low-probability events (historic earthquake plus historic tsunami leading to loss of all electrical power) was not taken sufficiently into account."

April 23, 2011 Saturday

The editorial, "Repeal the sedition law" (April 22, 2011), referred to the sedition case registered against writer Arundhati Roy over a speech she made in Kashmir. It should have been on Kashmir.

The editorial, "PSLV notches up another success" (April 21, 2011), said India launched its first remote sensing satellite, IRS-1A, aboard a Russian rocket in 1988. Actually, IRS-1A was launched from the Soviet Cosmodrome at Baikonur.

April 21, 2011 Thursday

A story on the problems of the United States economy following the announcement that the Standard & Poor's ratings agency had issued a strong warning about the failure of the United States to tackle its budget deficit stated that the United States had very large budget deficits "which reached as high as 11%" in 2009. To clarify: the budget deficit reached as high as 11% of US GDP.

April 20, 2011 Wednesday

A report on the latest attack on Andres Serrano's controversial work *Piss Christ* inadvertently referred to the late US Republican Senator Jesse Helms as Jesse James.

The names of Hoan Kiem lake and Tran Hong Son were misspelt in some editions in an article on April 19.

A caption on a photograph illustrating a protest outside Dáil Éireann in the edition of April 9th said that the protest had been organised by the National Women's Council of Ireland. While the NWCi supported the protest and its members were in attendance, it was organised by Shell to Sea.

An article on the Opinion & Analysis page yesterday attributed male gender to the former prime minister of Finland, Ms Mari Kiviniemi.

It is the School of Oriental and African Studies that has created two new Israel studies posts, not the London School of Economics as a letter in the Education section stated yesterday.

April 17 2011 Sunday

A graphic that accompanied "Britain's changing ethnic map" (News) included figures for UK residents from immigrant communities, but suggested inaccurate growth rates between 2006 and 2011. For instance, it said that in 2006, 301,000 people from the Pakistani community were resident, compared with 578,000 today. The 2006 figure should have been 379,500, indicating a smaller growth rate.

Apologies to Magazine readers who found "Ma'am, do we have to invite Uncle Harald?" difficult to follow. A production error made text flow incorrectly across four pages. Norway's King Harald's grandfather was not King Carl, but King Haakon VII. He was Prince Carl of Denmark until he took the Norwegian throne in 1905 and changed his name to Haakon (a traditional Norwegian name for a king). And prime minister Neville Chamberlain, not Winston Churchill, declared war on Germany in 1939.

April 15, 2011 Friday

Honda, the carmaker, has temporarily reduced production at some of its North American plants as a result of supply disruptions from the Japanese earthquake, but it has not shut any down, as wrongly stated in an article on April 14.

The text of an article reported Barack Obama as proposing \$4tn in spending cuts. While this is the sum by which he hopes over time to cut the accumulated US federal debt - currently standing at \$14.3tn - about \$2tn out of that \$4tn is meant to come from

cuts to spending; the rest from other sources. Our article also referred to the \$14.3tn as the US deficit. The deficit is the annual shortfall between government spending and income. The US deficit for 2011, for instance, is projected at \$1.5tn. Whatever the final figure, it will, like past deficits, contribute to the overall pool that is the US federal debt.

April 14, 2011 Thursday

We were wrong to imply in our review of Manning Marable's book that the face of Malcolm X appeared on an Iranian stamp but never on an American one. In 1999 Malcolm X was the 22nd in the US Postal Service's "Black Heritage" series.

April 13, 2011 Wednesday

A story listed several people who may be eligible for redress under the terms of News International's fund to compensate people who have evidence their phones were illegally hacked by the News of the World. Among them was Mary-Ellen Field, described by our article as a former PA to the model Elle Macpherson. In fact, Mary-Ellen Field was head of intellectual property at Chiltern plc, a tax and business consultancy. In that capacity she advised Elle Macpherson on licensing and intellectual property rights.

April 12, 2011 Tuesday

RSA, the insurer, has set up a company in Dublin to provide internal reinsurance to its businesses. It is not moving its European general insurance operations to new headquarters in the Irish capital, as wrongly reported in an article on April 11.

A sentence in the Op-Ed article, "Merchants of death" (April 8, 2011), said: "There is no dispute that the ... caustic burning sensation caused by potassium [the third, heart-stopping agent administered] would be agonising in the absence of adequate anaesthesia." It is potassium chloride.

April 11, 2011 Monday

A report on African migrants trying to reach Italy referred, owing to an error in the editing, to a transfer to Italian mainland camps of "the 3,000 Tunisians to have reached Lampedusa since the collapse of the Tunisian government in January". To clarify: an estimated 22,000 north Africans have arrived on the Mediterranean island so far this year, mainly Tunisians. The 3,000 are part of this total.

A piece mentioned Poland's upcoming EU presidency term in January 2012; that should have been July.

April 10, 2011 Sunday

Marks & Spencer clothing dip adds to high street gloom" said Domino's Pizza had suffered a first-quarter sales drop of more than 10%. This fall only

applied to outlets in the Republic of Ireland. In the UK, the chain's like-for-like sales were up by 5.5%.

April 9, 2011 Saturday

In his proposal for "charter cities" as a solution to the problem of poverty, Paul Romer suggested the idea of France and Norway running a city state in Mauritania, not Mauritius as wrongly stated in Tim Harford's Undercover Economist column on April 2.

April 8, 2011 Friday

A columnist writing about an exhibition being staged by the Wellcome Trust called *Dirt: the Filthy Reality of Everyday Life*, incorrectly referred to an antisemitic poster in the exhibition being shown in "pre-war Poland". In fact the poster was printed and circulated by the Nazis in German-occupied Poland in 1941.

A report on the initiative in northern France to grow vines on coal-mining waste tips referred to these sites as "slag heaps" throughout. To clarify: in English, slag is the mostly contaminated waste product of the iron- and steel-making process that would be inimical to agriculture. Coal mining waste or spoil tips are, on the other hand, composed of fairly benign carboniferous sedimentary rocks that could be suitable for viticulture. In addition, 2013 is the expected production date for the first bottles from this project, not 2012 as we had it.

April 7, 2011 Thursday

A short feature on Mohamed Al Fayed's installing a statue of Michael Jackson at Fulham Football Club inadvertently located the ground at non-existent Craven Road. That should have been Craven Cottage (No one wants to be defeated – 5 April, page 2).

April 10 2011 – "ON Friday our parent company News International issued an important statement regarding voicemail interception at the News of the World between 2004 to 2006.

It said that following an extensive internal investigation, it had decided to make an unreserved apology and admission of liability in certain civil cases that meet specific criteria. That apology is set out below. The company will also be establishing a compensation scheme to deal with justifiable claims fairly and efficiently.

"This will begin the process of bringing these cases to a fair resolution with damages appropriate to the extent of the intrusion," the statement said.

"We will, however, continue to contest cases that we believe are without merit or where we are not responsible. That said, past behaviour at the News of the World in relation to voicemail interception is a matter of genuine regret. It is now apparent that our previous inquiries failed to uncover important evidence and we acknowledge our actions were not sufficiently robust."

News International pointed out that it was our discovery and voluntary disclosure of new evidence in January that led to the reopening of an investigation by the Metropolitan Police. The News of the World is also cooperating fully with a review being conducted by the Press Complaints Commission. The statement concluded: "News International's commitment to our readers and our pride in our award-winning journalism remains undiminished."

April 6, 2011 Wednesday

A big picture spread (5 April, page 18-19) showcased photos of daily life in Warsaw, part of our current New Europe series, which this week is highlighting Poland. One picture showed Jewish visitors praying near a synagogue in a district called Osiedle Za Żelazna Brama, which we translated as "Behind the Iron Curtain", suggesting some cold-war link. In fact, żelazna brama harks much farther back, to a long-ago park gate.

April 5, 2011 Tuesday

Writing of the policeman killed by a car bomb in Omagh, a commentary described the present-day police service which the young Roman Catholic constable, Ronan Kerr, chose to join as a symbol of reconciliation. But it mistakenly named this as the RUC (the former Royal Ulster Constabulary) instead of the PSNI (the Police Service of Northern Ireland, in operation since 2001). Meanwhile, a leader on the killing said that the mainland, too, remained under some threat. The Guardian style guide counsels against using mainland to refer to Great Britain in reports about Northern Ireland.

April 4, 2011 Monday

The picture accompanying an article about a contemporary art exhibition in Karachi was wrongly captioned as Abdullah Syed's Flying Rug of Drones. The work shown was Placebo For My Warriors 1 by Faiza Butt.

Belize is not a island, as we described it in a Diary item (1 April, page 35). It is on the mainland of Central America, bordered by Mexico and Guatemala.

April 3, 2011 Sunday

Our New York Times supplement (20 March) included a story on the

destructive power of the Japanese tsunami headed: "From a wave into a weapon". The original included figures in imperial measures which were, alas, converted in New York into incorrect metric figures for the Observer. This and other editing errors led to the piece suggesting that both 150 kilograms of water and a cubic metre of water both weighed 771 kilograms. The original NYT piece made the simple point that a cubic yard of water weighs about 1,700 lbs (771 kilograms).

April 2, 2011 Saturday

Vladimir Remek was the 87th person to go into space, not the 77th as stated in a Magazine article on Saturday.

April 1, 2011 Friday

An article about the Gravelines nuclear power plant in northern France said it had become the first in the world to produce more than one terawatt-hour of electricity. That should have been one petawatt-hour, equal to 1,000bn kWh. A petawatt is 1,000 terawatts.

A financial analysis referred to Greece, Italy and Portugal being hammered deeper into crisis by their European partners. That should have been Greece, Ireland and Portugal.

March 31, 2011 Thursday

A front page article, reporting on the nuclear crisis in Japan, said readings at the plant had reached "8,217 microsieverts per hour—described by broadcaster NHK as equivalent to eight times the radiation a person would usually experience in a year" and in a second story in the same issue—15 March—we said that monitoring posts near the power station had "recorded radiation levels at 680 microsieverts per hour yesterday, a dose roughly equivalent to four months of natural background radiation". In both cases we compared a rate of dose with an amount of dose, which one reader suggested is not a like-for-like comparison and therefore meaningless. To clarify (we hope): NHK meant that a person who spends one hour in an area where the radiation level is 8,217 microsieverts per hour receives eight times the dose they would usually experience in a year. Our figure of 680 microsieverts over an hour is the dose a person might roughly be expected to receive at the end of four months due to natural background radiation.

March 30, 2011 Wednesday

Metalor, the Swiss gold refiner, says it has not received gold for smelting from Vietnam as wrongly stated in an article on March 29.

A graphic, showing how £20bn worth of NHS savings will be shared out, which accompanies a public spending cuts feature in today's Society section, incorrectly gives the figures in millions when they should be billions.

A report on front-page news stories in Spain as part of the New Europe series mistakenly referred to police arresting Eta members during a previous ceasefire in 2008. That should have been 2006.

March 28, 2011 Monday

A report about Elizabeth Taylor's funeral in Los Angeles said it ended speculation that she might be buried in Wales, alongside her former husband Richard Burton. Although Burton and Taylor had made plans when they were married to be buried together in Pontrhydyfen in south Wales, he was buried in the Swiss village of Celigny, near Geneva.

Bahrain is directly to the east of Saudi Arabia, rather than on its northern border, where we placed it in a report.

March 27, 2011 Sunday

Palin uses Delhi visit to fuel speculation" said US politician Sarah Palin had "revealed a deep ignorance of international affairs, famously saying that Russia could be seen from Alaska". She was correct: Russia and Alaska are divided by the Bering Strait, which contains two islands, Big Diomedede, in Russian territory, and Little Diomedede, part of the US. These islands are less than three miles apart and are visible to each other in clear weather.

March 26, 2011 Saturday

An advertisement feature promoting a video examining the nature of land ownership in Ethiopia wrongly stated that 13 million people needed food aid in the country. In fact there are 2.8 million people who need food aid and further 6 million people who are covered by a safety-net scheme that covers incidences of temporary food shortage.

March 25, 2011 Friday

In our article, 'Arms dealer's wife donated £300,000 to Conservative Party', (24 February 2011) we referred to Mr Makhzoumi as an arms dealer.

Mr Makhzoumi was involved in the sale of second hand military equipment from the British to the Lebanese government in 1995 but has asked us to point out that his role was merely to introduce the Lebanese authorities to the UK Ministry of Defence and that he received no benefit from this deal. While Jonathan Aitken brought libel proceedings over the reporting of (among other things) his involvement with this deal, his subsequent conviction for perjury arose from matters unrelated to Mr Makhzoumi who was not accused of any misconduct, and it was incorrect for our picture caption to suggest otherwise.

The expansion of NATO was given as North Atlantic Treaty Alliance in the third paragraph of a report "Cracks in Libya coalition" (International, March 23, 2011). It should have been North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

The European court of human rights was incorrectly described as a European Union institution in a headline. The European court of human rights, based in Strasbourg, operates under the provisions of the Council of Europe, not the EU, as has been noted several times in this column.

The Greater London authority appeared as the Greater London assembly in an article about the effect of visa restrictions on arts organisations. The Greater London authority comprises the mayor, who runs it, and the London assembly, which holds the mayor to account.

March 24, 2011 Thursday

Mikhail Baryshnikov and Vaslav Nijinsky were not "given to the world" by the Bolshoi theatre company as we stated in an article examining the upheaval at the theatre over the departure of Gennady Yanin, a deputy director of the ballet company. The ballet stars' careers began and flowered with the Mariinsky company.

4:17PM BST 11 April 2011

Mr Cameron described the university as "disgraceful" over statistics indicating that only one black British undergraduate won a place in 2009. The Prime Minister made the comment as he attended a PM Direct event in North Yorkshire with his wife, Samantha.

But Oxford University immediately hit back at Mr Cameron for quoting what it dismissed as "incorrect" figures. A spokeswoman for the university said the figure – which first emerged in a Freedom of Information request last year – only referred to UK undergraduates of black Caribbean origin starting courses in 2009/10. There were an additional 26 students who said they were of black origin, and another 14 of mixed black descent.

The spokeswoman said: "The figure quoted by the Prime Minister is incorrect and highly misleading – it only refers to UK undergraduates of black Caribbean origin for a single year of entry, when in fact that year Oxford admitted 41 UK undergraduates with black backgrounds.

"In that year a full 22% of Oxford's total student population came from ethnic minority backgrounds." The Oxford University spokeswoman later added that the institution has been in touch with Downing Street to ask them to correct the figures quoted by Mr Cameron.

A report on environmental pressure groups calling on governments to abandon new nuclear power stations and large waste dump projects referred to tremors in India ranging up to 6.3 on the Richter scale. Seismologists no longer use this scale, we should have said magnitude 6.3. To clarify: the "Richter scale", the logarithmic magnitude scale, was defined in 1935 to measure earthquakes in California. It does not, however, work for large earthquakes (greater than magnitude 7) or ones where the epicentre is further than 600km from the point of measurement. It was superseded in 1979 by the more uniformly applicable moment magnitude (Mw) scale.

Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa is the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain and not the Emir as mentioned in the Editorial "Bahrainis betrayed" (March 18). Also Bahrain is the US Fifth Fleet base and not Sixth Fleet as given in the 2nd paragraph of the same editorial.

March 23, 2011 Wednesday

Federal law already prohibits banks in the US from tying availability or terms of credit to the purchase of other products and services, contrary to a suggestion in an article on March 21 on new accounting proposals to force banks to disclose when they give clients below-market rate loans.

An interview with Marine Le Pen suffered a substantial editing failure that led to nearly twenty lines of text relating to her views of the Front National's approach to anti-semitism and Islamophobia appearing twice in the last two columns of the article.

In a story reporting on the new role of Andy Coulson, the former News of the World editor and No 10 communications director, we incorrectly stated that the agency Euro RSCG was responsible for a Conservative party advertising campaign that showed a photograph of David Cameron "which was first thought to have been airbrushed but actually showed Cameron's naturally smooth skin". It was created by a different agency.

March 22, 2011 Tuesday

In the news report, "U.N. Women's scheme for widows" (March 9), the abbreviation, CEDAW, was expanded as Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. It should have been the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

A feature looking at the background to the murders committed by Stephen Griffiths, the self-styled "Crossbow Cannibal", referred to Bradford as having once been dominated by cotton

mills. West Yorkshire's wealthy cities were renowned for their woollen mills in the 18th and 19th centuries. The area known for cotton mills was Lancashire, on the other side of the Pennines.

We wish to clarify that comments attributed to Japanese government spokesman Noriyuki Shikata on the front page of the South China Morning Post on March 18, were not meant to imply any endorsement of foreigners or Japanese fleeing Tokyo owing to the nuclear crisis. The quotes were intended to show that the Japanese government insisted there was no need for anyone to leave Tokyo or Japan, beyond the 20-kilometre evacuation zone surrounding the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

March 21, 2011 Monday

A subheading and a story incorrectly stated that BMW "is the only manufacturer that has decided to design an electric car from scratch ...rather than converting existing conventional cars". Another maker developing an electric car from the ground up is Tesla.

March 19, 2011 Saturday

A photographic feature about the human faces behind long-established, but disappearing, British traditions should have been credited to Zed Nelson/Institute.

The editorial published on Monday wrongly stated that 134 people were arrested during the anti-budget protest on March 6. The number of people arrested was 113, including four who were aged 18 or below.

An article about cuts by Merseyside's five local authorities said that Liverpool's city council had tried to shield such areas as child protection and adult social care services, but that this had meant "dramatic cuts to 'discretionary' services, those that the council does not by law have to provide", including libraries, among other things. What we should have said was that these big cuts were in areas which the council deems not to be among its core services. Provision of a decent library service is a statutory responsibility—though that does not preclude library closures.

March 18, 2011 Friday

A piece rightly noted that Edward Heath's (Conservative) government struggled with the price impact of factors including the 1973-74 Arab oil embargo, and went on to say "this fed into an inflation rate that hit more than 25%". To clarify, inflation hit the mid-teens under Heath; it was under Harold Wilson's (Labour) government that the various factors at work fed into a peak of just over 24%.

An article looked at some of the possibilities that could flow from the government's planned changes to the health service. It said that one private health firm, IHP, was in talks with three GP consortiums to set up a company that would treat patients at 95% of the NHS cost. This putative saving, amounting to £40 per patient, would, our piece said, be booked as profit. What it should have said was that any such sum would be classed as earnings (of which, after costs were deducted, some portion could be booked as profit). We should also make clear that these figures were a rough calculation by the reporter, speculating on future financial outcomes, and not to be read as figures emanating from, or endorsed by, IHP.

March 17, 2011 Thursday

Senator Lou Correa is a Democrat and not a Republican as we had him in a report of moves to pass a bill in the California state assembly that would allow representatives to Congress in Washington and state politicians the right to carry hidden guns while in the state, on the grounds of self-defence.

A report on the Bank of Japan's injection of record sums into the Japanese economy to limit the financial devastation wreaked by the recent earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power crisis wrongly gave an estimate of the global insurance bill of £31.7bn from Lloyd's of London. To clarify: Lloyd's has released no such estimate. The source was AIR Worldwide, and the figure was \$35bn or approximately £22bn.

March 16, 2011 Wednesday

The report headlined "Milk activist a taboo topic at NPC session" on page A6 yesterday should have said Hong Kong's Peter Wong Man-kong was criticising fellow delegates who endorsed the annual work reports of the Supreme People's Court and Supreme People's Procuratorate as well as a petition in support of tainted-milk activist Zhao Lianhai. Wong's point was that those who believed Zhao was treated unjustly should not have endorsed the work reports.

A story examining the links between universities and the Libyan regime stated that the School of Oriental and African Studies (Soas) taught Mutassim Gaddafi, one of the sons of Libya's leader, for one week in 2006 and four years later "announced a lucrative deal with a Libyan university". Soas has asked us to point out that academic links with al-Fateh University began in 2002 and that Mutassim Gaddafi played no part in establishing the academic collaboration that led to the funding, worth £188,024, of an MSc in finance in 2010 at Soas.



28 January 2011 NEWSCORE - A news program on China Central Television (CCTV) was under fire Friday for trying to pass off a scene from the iconic 1980s flick "Top Gun" as a Chinese military training exercise.

One internet user, going by the name of "Liu Yi," spotted the striking similarities in the newscast last week, according to the Ministry of Tofu, a Chinese news aggregation site.

In the broadcast, a J-10 fighter is shown "hitting" an F-5 with a missile. But the target, as it splinters and explodes in the air, looks identical to the fictional F-5 Tom Cruise brought down while piloting his F-14 in the Hollywood movie.

The video has been removed from the "Xinwen lianbo" Web site.

An article tried to assess the accumulated family wealth of Libya's leader, Muammar Gaddafi, and how some of it had been spent, both on physical and political assets. Tim Niblock, a professor specialising in Middle Eastern politics at the University of Exeter, was reported as mentioning that Gaddafi is thought to have given money in the 1990s to the Zaghawa, a tribe dwelling in Darfur, Sudan, and in Chad. Some Zaghawa, he was quoted as suggesting, might be among the various African mercenaries being used by the Gaddafi regime in the current Libyan conflict. Tim Niblock has asked us to make clear that he has no evidence that members of the Zaghawa are involved in the present conflict.

March 15, 2011 Tuesday

A headline and a story reporting on evidence given by Chris Patten, who has been nominated as the next chairman of the BBC, to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport select committee incorrectly quoted him as saying that he "hardly ever watches television". In fact Lord Patten said: "I take slight exception to the argument that I hardly watch television, it is true you don't find me in front of Eastenders." In addition there was a reference to this incorrect quote by a columnist who suggested that "Lord Patten may not watch much television".

A feature highlighting the possibility of an 11-day holiday around the time of the royal wedding and bank holidays, requiring just three days off work — suggested a trip to Rhodes for Greek Orthodox Easter, but went on to say that this year Greek Orthodox Easter coincides with "Christian Easter". The Greek Orthodox church is Christian;

we meant to compare its date with that of "western" Christianity's Easter this year.

March 14, 2011 Monday

An article meant to say that the Bush administration claimed that Saddam Hussein had been trying to buy uranium for enrichment in Niger, not trying to buy enriched uranium there.

March 12, 2011 Saturday

An article in last Wednesday's edition concerning the Guantánamo prison camp said that the USS Cole was sunk by a terrorist attack. While 17 sailors were killed and the ship was badly damaged, it was not sunk.

March 11, 2011 Friday

A headline and article in last Saturday's edition on Alaskan photographer Corey Arnold quoted him as stating that he believed the European Union Common Fisheries Policy was attempting to wipe out coastal communities. Mr Arnold says he believes current European Union fisheries policy threatens the livelihood of coastal communities but he does not believe the policy-makers have malicious intent.

March 10, 2011 Thursday

Our special report on the future of food (February 26) said an African Development Bank programme aimed to cut waste by 3% a year over seven years. That should have been 3% over seven years. A Cornell University project aims to cut the cost of genetic identification to \$30 per million DNA markers, not per million genes. And *Bacillus thuringiensis* makes maize resistant to some pests, not to herbicides.

March 9, 2011 Wednesday

An article recounted the misfortunes of an apparent SAS/MI6 delegation when it popped in near Benghazi on a sort of outreach mission. But our headline introduced an added indignity, saying the men were tied up by their captors. Something like this had indeed been reported in other media, but not in our correspondent's story.

An article about a fatal shooting in rural France, stemming from arguments over rights to spring water, drew comparisons with the 1986 film of Marcel Pagnol's book *Jean de Florette*. Our piece said that Jean left Paris for the countryside, and that the neighbours diverted the spring from his vineyard. Jean came from Crespin, not Paris, and raised rabbits on his farm, not a vineyard.

March 8, 2011 Tuesday

A leader comment gave the name of Egypt's new prime minister as Ahmed Shafiq. That should have been Essam Sharaf.

March 7, 2011 Monday

A report on the recent tour of Arab states by the prime minister and representatives of UK arms makers said that the government had approved 1,155 arms export licences for Kuwait since 2003, worth a total of £102.3m; the figures were attributed to Campaign Against Arms Trade. CAAT gave the number of licences approved for Kuwait in 2006 as 790. But this was a mistranscription from Foreign Office figures, which gave 79 as the tally approved for Kuwait in 2006; this would mean a total of 444 arms export licences approved for Kuwait since 2003. However, the overall total of £102.3m was correct.

March 3, 2011 Thursday

The news report, "In a first, Sena medal for female Army officer" (February 26), said the medal was awarded to the officer for rescuing her colleagues during the attack on the Indian Embassy in Baghdad last year. It should have been the Indian Embassy in Kabul.

March 2, 2011 Wednesday

Yesterday's report, "HSBC cuts profitability target; shares plunge", on page B1 stated, incorrectly, that HSBC chief executive Stuart Gulliver earned US \$9.53 billion last year. The actual figure was US \$9.53 million.

March 1, 2011 Tuesday

A report described the Tripoli regime's effort to take delivery of a large consignment of Libyan bank notes—ready for shipment from a storage place in England, but then blocked by a UK export control order. Our piece said that Libya had sent an aeroplane to collect the money from Marsden airport. That should have been Kent international airport at Manston ●