

"Love that the @nytimesmagazine has Robert Worth writing big features on Middle East. Great reads, impeccable timing." @AndrewKroll, 12:43 p.m., April 1, Twitter

LIBYA'S REVOLUTION

Graffiti have been the elemental memes of political speech, from the walls of Pompeii to the New York subways to the Berlin Wall, in all the oppressed countries of this world. So it is all the more surprising that the epithet hurled by the Libyan "freedom fighters" to their former leader, and which graces the outer walls of the Benghazi Katiba in the photograph by Franco Pagetti that opens Robert F. Worth's article, reads "el-Qaddafi walad al-Yahudiya," or "Qaddafi, born Jewish." In other words, Qaddafi the non-Muslim, the unclean. For a country that aspires to be democratic, old habits certainly die hard. It is a useful indication of the care to be taken in assuming that the so-called Arab Spring is a time of revolutionary social renewal. **CLAUDE I. SALEM, San Clemente, Calif., e-mail**



THE ACCIDENTAL ABOLITIONIST

Adam Goodheart's article ("The Shrug That Made History") did a wonderful job of explaining the significance of little-known Fort Monroe to the outcome of the Civil War. I hope that despite current economic problems, Congress will see a Fort Monroe National Park as an opportunity to memorialize and celebrate the most resonant theme of our history, the desire for a more perfect union. **H. SCOTT BUTLER, Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park Newport News, Va., e-mail**

The first slaves in the territory that we now call the United States

were not brought to Virginia in 1619. That happened 54 years earlier, when St. Augustine, Fla., was founded by Spain's Pedro Menéndez de Avilés on Sept. 8, 1565. Menéndez's agreement with King Philip II afforded him three years to import 500 African slaves. **JUDITH SERAPHIN, St. Augustine, Fla., e-mail**

Goodheart perpetuates a myth about Rosa Parks and the civil rights movement. Parks did not "decide" to sit down in the whites-only seats on the bus; it was not a whim of the moment for a tired working woman. She was an experienced and sophisticated civil rights activist. Her peaceful resistance that day was a tactic long planned by the Montgomery chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. for their assault on the segregation of the public bus service. **HELEN HILL UPDIKE, New York, e-mail**

STRIKEOUT

The most interesting connection among the pitching rotations in Nate Silver's "Vorpung Their Way Into the Pantheon" is that none of the teams won the World Series. In fact, only one of the teams even made it to the World Series. While

starting pitching is obviously very important, the other 21 members of the team largely determine the eventual winner. **JONATHAN JACOBS, Commack, N.Y., e-mail**

WHAT CODE-BREAKING SCOOP?

In his column "Secrecy in Shreds," Bill Keller writes that The Chicago Tribune published the fact that the United States had broken the Japanese code and that The Tribune could be successfully prosecuted for such publication. I beg to differ. The Tribune never mentioned that its story was based on broken codes. In order for a successful prosecution, the government would have had to prove that the story was published with guilty knowledge. I do not believe The Tribune had such knowledge.

In my view, no ordinary person would have deduced from what was in the article that it relied on information from broken codes. Only the government could clearly come to that conclusion. As is well known, the government attempted to prosecute The Chicago Tribune for this publication, but the grand jury it convened would not indict the newspaper.

JAMES C. GOODALE, New York, e-mail (Goodale is the former general counsel for The New York Times.)

UNCHARITABLE ADVICE

The Ethicist says that "taking donations that other people made and passing them off as your own" would show an uncharitable spirit. In North Carolina, we call it fraud. There is no difference between defrauding your employer for a charitable reason or for a selfish one. While Ariel Kaminer's analysis of how world tragedies can eclipse other genuine charitable efforts was enlightening, the real issue your correspondent raised was whether the noble purpose of enhancing contributions sanctions defrauding an employer. It does not.

FAR FROM MANHATTAN Charlotte, N.C., 7:02 p.m., April 2, nytimes.com

CORRECTION: An article on April 3 about this year's starting pitchers for the Philadelphia Phillies, which included comparisons with the greatest pitchers of all time, misstated the pitching arm of the Hall of Famer Carl Hubbell. It was his left, not his right.

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