

# Well that didn't work – Iran getting the bomb too



**Timothy Friesen**  
*On the flip side*

This just in from the files of “Well That Didn't Work” – the Iranians are now the next on the list to get the bomb. And after crying wolf in Iraq, the global villagers are now a little less than keen to help the Americans do anything about it.

The announcement comes on the heels of North Korea's first successful nuclear test, and only a few years after Pakistan and India's tandem bomb testing of their own.

It's becoming clear that the rich world's policy of keeping massive stockpiles of nuclear weapons to themselves, while telling poor countries that they will be labelled rogue nations if they try to build their own, is a little flawed.

Go figure. I know I'm a little prone to jonesing for what the Jones' got, especially when what they got could blow me off the face of the planet and there really isn't much I could do in response.

Perhaps a more reasonable solution would be to ban the bomb entirely, once and for all.

That way, nuclear inspectors would be free to roam every corner of the globe looking for nuclear ne'er-do-wells.

Countries charged with harbouring

nuclear ambitions could no longer hide behind the veiled grievance that other nations have one, so why shouldn't they have one too.

Of course, the big problem here is that there is always the problem that someone could still develop a nuclear bomb on the sly and hold the world hostage.

Fortunately this isn't exactly a big problem for us here in Winnipeg.

Glorious Dictator – “If I don't receive \$100 billion in a Swiss bank account by midnight, I will destroy that cold, buggy prairie city in the middle of your country.”

Dead air.

Negotiator – “I'm sorry, was that it? I missed my daughter's hockey finals for that?”

But since the Cold War is over, and the whole idea of nation versus nation nuclear war has become little more than a bad nightmare, this appears to be the only good reason to still hold onto nuclear technology.

It's all a little too much out of a bad James Bond novel.

In other words, we all still live on the brink of nuclear war every day, while nuclear nutbars around the globe continue to scramble to develop nuclear weapons of their own, all because we've all watched a little too much 007.

Imagine that.

# Rethink fines for not voting

To the editor:

Responding to the article, “Is it time here for the no-voting fine?”, Thursday, Nov. 9, I think there are a number of considerations to be addressed first.

I haven't looked at the Charter of Rights but that might have to be amended first. Should, for instance, a huge list of offenders be posted publicly?

Would the debt for those who wish to appeal the charge be added to the City's unpaid property taxes?

No mention was made of taxing apartment dwellers or those who work for months at out-of-province seasonal jobs. Then there are the shut-ins, institutionalized, and just-plain-sick but eligible voters.

So maybe instead it should be treated in a corporate manner: failure to make quorum or for a vote to be valid due to insufficient votes. At an AGM if nobody accepts a vacant position, the previous occupant sticks around until someone can be appointed.

Perhaps the penalty would be that the existing councillor stay in office if insufficient voters came out to reach a quorum.

At least we can assume that the few who voted made an informed decision – which might not be the case if we forced people to vote.

I would hate to think that my vote was offset by 100 people in my community that simply put a mark beside the alphabetically first name on the ballot. (Would we then expect Aaron Aardvark to throw his hat in the ring?)

Pete Williams  
Winnipeg

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