

**THE TRAMP
WHO RULED
THE WORLD**
SUNDAY LIFE



FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

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UN'S DARKEST DAY

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TRAGEDY
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Go On

Hunt for Hussein turns into a nightmare

The savage attack on the UN has changed the agenda, signalling the end of any illusion that the occupation of Iraq might be working

BY JUSTIN HUGGLER

Baghdad – Bulldozers are still carefully sifting through the rubble of the Canal Hotel, the United Nations headquarters in Iraq, in case there are more bodies to find from this week's bombing. Those UN staff brave enough to stay on are working

members of Saddam Hussein's regime. Both Hussein's former vice-president, Taha Yassin Ramadan, and, more importantly, Al Hassan al-Majid, the man known as Chemical Ali, were captured.

That the news of their capture was overshadowed by the week's other events shows how successfully

headquarters in the hope of slowing the approach of another suicide bomb truck.

The evacuation of the British embassy signalled that the only safe place for a Westerner was behind the massive fortifications the Americans have built around military bases.

Paul Bremer, the American



Scant coverage given to slaying of dance icon

by **Adrienne Sichel**

It's not often that a choreographer gets to create his own epitaph.

When Mbuyiselwa Jackie Semela joyfully premiered *Entabeni - Jesus My Story* at the 2003 FNB Dance Umbrella in March, and then took it to the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown in July, he had no idea that it would be danced by his company at his memorial service.

All the signatures of Semela's creativity, spirituality and innovative approach to African dynamics and aesthetics are in this work for his Soweto Dance Theatre.

Tears flowed and emotions ran high at the Dance Factory on Wednesday for the 41-year-old contemporary African dance and community arts pioneer. He was gunned down by hijackers in front of his parents-in-law's house in Dube, Soweto, on August 14. His two-year-old daughter was abducted by the killers but later found in Diepkloof. His car was abandoned in Mofolo.

Disbelief and rage ricocheted around the country and the international dance world as the news of Semela's death reached performers and dancemakers he had trained as well as his partners in projects in the United States and Britain.

The South African media remained curiously silent about the crime and its renowned victim, who fought for non-racialism and has uplifted South African youth for the past 20 years. The cultural critic Mike van Graan dealt with this situation in his weekly electronic column *Cultural Weapon*.

His column outlines the huge attention given to President Thabo Mbeki, who escaped injury when a marquee collapsed on Women's Day; to the death of a soccer star Lesley Manyathela; and to the ritual slaughter of a chicken at the Baxter Theatre in Brett Bailey's *iMumbo Jumbo*.

Van Graan concludes: "A dancer will grace a stage no more. Jackie Semela is dead. One or two newspapers carry the story. This is one of

South Africa's leading dance personalities. A huge talent. But there is no public outrage. No statements by politicians. No mourning on television. The investigations will probably drag on and go nowhere. No heads will roll. For Jackie isn't the president. He's no soccer star. He's not even a chicken. He's only an artist.

"A week later there was still no public statement from the department of arts and culture, which tends to eulogise leading artists. Granted, [the department's] chief director Steven Sack, who was working with Semela on developing national carnival strategy for South Africa, was at the memorial service.

"Sack read a personal tribute promising that 'We will build a living monument to everything you lived and hoped for'. In a sense that living monument, in the form of the tangible legacy left by this dancer, choreographer, artistic director, teacher, educationist, activist, researcher, administrator and networker, is already in place.

"What needs to happen is that the National Arts Council, which funded the Soweto Dance Theatre, gets assistance to survive as a national heritage institution.

"In addition, Semela's teaching methodology, especially for children, his research of traditional and urban dance forms, and choreography need to be urgently documented and preserved. Will [the department] provide or facilitate these resources?

"What is in place is the African dance syllabus which he developed, with David April, for the Gauteng education department and the National School of the Arts, where he taught African dance since 1997."

Dancers produced by Semela include big names like Boyzie Cekwana, Mandla Mcunu and Moeketsie Koena.

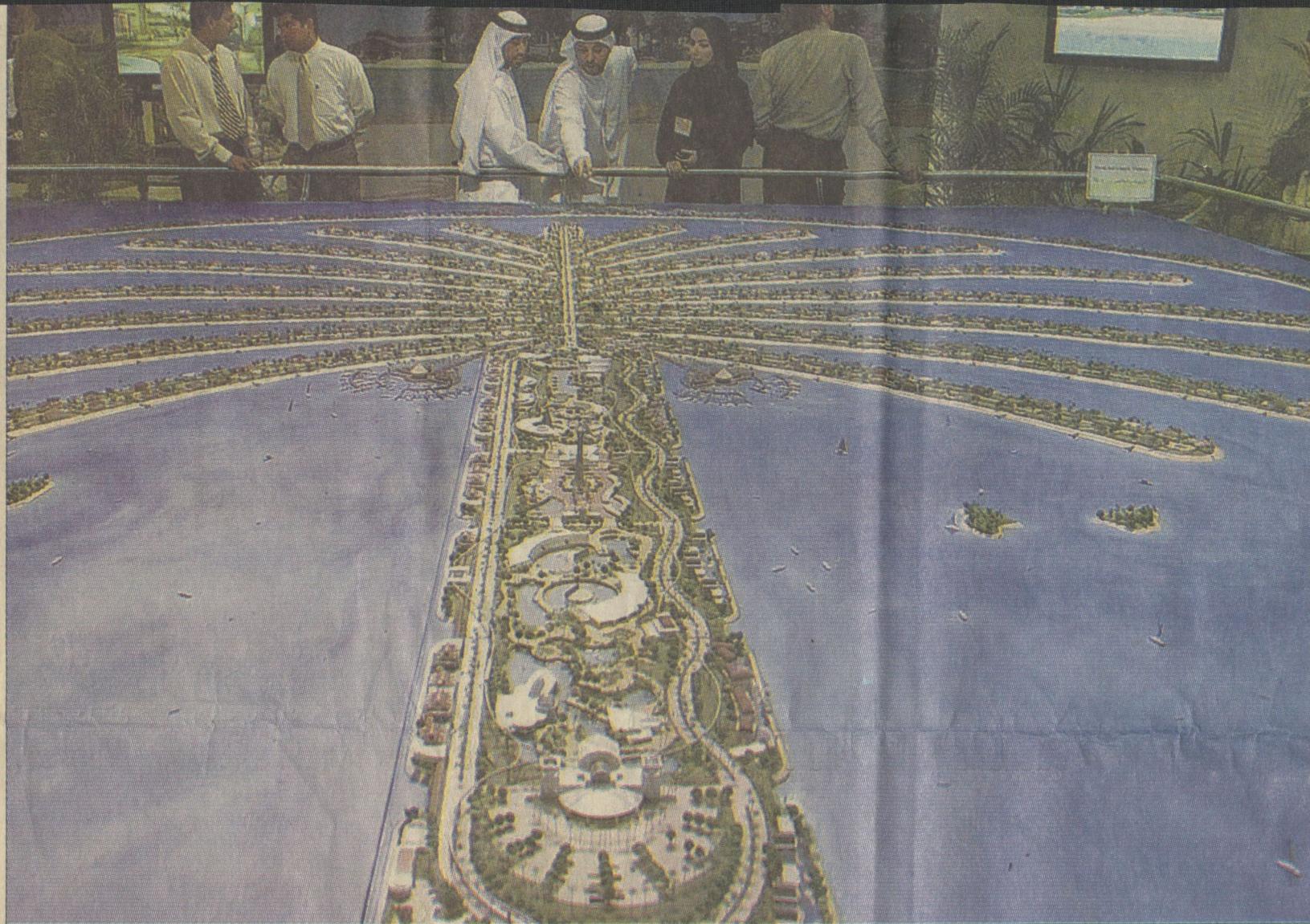
If there was one criticism of Semela, it was that he was passionately involved in too many projects here and abroad.

In retrospect, this hyperactivity proved to be a great blessing.



Jackie Semela in a 1996 performance of *Missa Luba*, which he choreographed

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN HOGG



A plan of The Palm, the world's largest man-made island, off the coast of Dubai. With oil reserves running out, new ways are being sought to generate capital. Expensive tourist resorts are seen as big money-spinners

PHOTOGRAPH: KAMRAN JEBRELLI, AP



Lure of glamour: David Beckham, Michael Owen, Joe Cole and David James are among members of the England soccer team who are believed to have been given huge discounts to buy into The Palm, giving it a huge PR boost and helping it to sell out

islands shaped like continents – and the world's first underwater hotel.

This programme of resort building is being pushed through by the Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, the autocratic, 54-year-old son of Dubai's current ruler.

Unlike its oil-rich neighbour Abu Dhabi, Dubai's oil reserves are run-

mental Research and Wildlife Development Agency revealed earlier this year that "habitat degradation" such as coastal building had helped cause "major declines" of local fish populations by exacerbating other environmental problems. It said total stocks of 20 local species, such as the two-bar sea bream and silver pomfret, had fallen by more than 80 per-

were nearly killed off by high sea temperatures – a phenomenon called "bleaching". Their recovery is in severe peril thanks to The Palms and The World, the scientists warn.

They admit, however, that these resorts will provide new homes for local sea life. Artificial reefs are being built to attract coral and fish and will simulate "famous dive destina-

"We have witnessed a tremendous blooming in the sea life surrounding the island, in particular in the area around the breakwater known as The Crescent. The protection and enhancement of both the marine and land environment is a key priority for Nakheel," it said.

But independent experts fear the oil noise and disturbance caused by

Sport of kings: the Dubai World Cup is the richest horserace in the world

The changing face of Dubai

THE PALMS

What is it? Two vast islands constructed off Dubai, each made up of 17 "palm tree fronds" surrounded by a reef up to 25km long. Each needs 120 million cubic metres of sand and rock. Will cost more than £2 billion to build.

What does it offer? Due to be finished by 2007, The Palms will have 100 luxury hotels, 4 000 villas, many with private beaches, and 5 000 apartments, plus shopping centres, aquariums, marinas, restaurants and health spas.

THE WORLD

What is it? A constructed archipelago of 200 islands with canals and lakes, 5km off the coast of Dubai, covering 25 square kilometres. Shaped like the Earth's continents.

What does it offer? Due to open in 2008, this elite residential and holiday resort is accessible only by sea or air. It will have private villas, hotels, watersports and restaurants.

HYDROPOLIS

What is it? Claimed to be the world's first underwater hotel. Shaped like a submarine, to be built 482km off the coast of Dubai near the Palm Jumeirah. Will cost £322 million.

What does it offer? More than 200 private suites on the seabed – under 20m of water – connected by a tunnel to the hotel's reception desk onshore. Will feature lightshows and marine life.

BURJ DUBAI

What is it? Predicted to be the world's tallest tower, the glass and steel Burj Dubai will be built near Dubai city for at least £730 million.

What does it offer? A "city within a city", 140 floors high, and including hotels, offices and apartments, plus a vast shopping mall at ground level. Design based on a six-petalled desert flower.

ARABIAN RANCHES

What is it? A resort close to Dubai city, covering 1 214 hectares, of