

RATE OF OIL LEAK, STILL NOT CLEAR, PUTS DOUBT ON BP

ESTIMATES VARY WIDELY

Scientist Asserts That Cutting of Pipe Has Worsened Spill

By JUSTIN GILLIS
and HENRY FOUNTAIN

Starting day after day at images of oil billowing from an undersea well in the Gulf of Mexico, many Americans are struggling to make sense of the numbers.

On Monday, BP said the cap was now capturing 11,000 barrels of oil a day from the well. The official government estimate of the flow rate is 12,000 to 19,000 barrels a day, which means the new device should be capturing the bulk of the oil.

But is it? The immense undersea gusher of oil and gas, seen on live video feed, looks as big as it did last week, if not bigger, before the company sliced through the pipe known as a riser to install its new collection device.

At least one expert, Ira Leifer, who is part of a government team charged with estimating the flow rate, is convinced that the operation has made the leak worse, perhaps far worse than the 20 percent increase that government officials warned might occur when the riser was cut.

Dr. Leifer said in an interview on Monday that judging from the video, cutting the pipe may have led to a several-fold increase in the flow rate from the well.

"The well pipe clearly is fluxing way more than it did before," said Dr. Leifer, a researcher at the University of California, Santa Barbara. "By way more, I don't mean 20 percent, I mean multiple factors."

Asked about the flow rate at a news conference at the White House on Monday, Adm. Thad W. Allen, the Coast Guard commander in charge of the federal response to the spill, said that as BP captured more of the oil, the government should be able to offer better estimates of the flow undersea by tracking the flow to the surface.

"That is the big unknown that we're trying to hone in and get the exact numbers on," he said. "And we'll make those numbers known as we get them. We're not trying to low-ball it or high-ball it. It is what it is."

Speaking at a briefing in Houston on Monday, Kent Wells, a BP spokesman, said that the company was trying to low-ball it or high-ball it. It is what it is.

Siblings' Two Worlds Collide In War Over Chinese Art Trove

By WILLIAM GLABERSON

For decades, a shrewd Chinese émigré in New York with a puff of silver hair dominated the rarefied market for ancient Chinese art. Going by the anglicized name C. C. Wang, he sold centuries-old pieces for millions, including 60 works that went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and are sometimes shown in the C. C. Wang Family Gallery on the museum's second floor.

He had come to the United States from China in 1949, bringing with him his wife and his two youngest daughters. He left behind his oldest daughter as well as his only son, who languished for decades working in a television factory before finally making his way to New York in 1979 with his own family.

C. C. Wang died in 2003 at 96, still owning about 240 works yet



ANSA (REUTERS/ASSOCIATED PRESS)

A Bloody Day in Afghanistan

Outside Salavat, Afghanistan, an American medic helped a Canadian soldier hurt by an explosive device. Insurgents killed 10 NATO soldiers Monday, including seven Americans. Page A12.

Army Leak Suspect Is Turned In, by Ex-Hacker

By ELISABETH BUMILLER

WASHINGTON — It was only last month that a 22-year-old Army intelligence analyst in Iraq, Specialist Bradley Manning, reached out to a former computer hacker who apparently seemed like a kindred soul.

In a single intense week in late May, Specialist Manning and the former hacker, Adrian Lamo, traded instant messages about what Mr. Lamo described as Specialist Manning's personal troubles with the military.

But over the course of those exchanges, Mr. Lamo said in a telephone interview on Monday, Specialist Manning also took credit for leaking a classified, explosive video of an American helicopter attack in Baghdad that

killed 12 people dead, including two employees of the Reuters news agency, which the Web site WikiLeaks.org posted in April.

There was more: Specialist Manning also claimed he gave Wikileaks 260,000 classified United States diplomatic cables and video of a United States airstrike in Afghanistan that killed 97 civilians last year, Mr. Lamo said. "He was just grabbing information from where he could get it and trying to leak it."

So the former renegade, who in

2004 pleaded guilty to hacking into the internal computer system of The New York Times, did something he had not expected when Specialist Manning first contacted him: He turned him in.

On Monday, the Department of Defense announced that Specialist Manning, of Potomac, Md., had been arrested and was under investigation. A three-paragraph statement said that Specialist Manning, who is deployed with the Second Brigade, 10th Mountain

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Web of Shell Companies Veils Trade by Iran's Ships

Phantom Ownership and Name Changes Help Fleet Sidestep U.S. Sanctions

By JO BECKER

On Jan. 24, 2009, a rusting freighter flying a Hong Kong flag dropped anchor in the South African port of Durban. The stop was not on the ship's customary route, and it stayed only an hour, just long enough to pick up its clandestine cargo: a Bladerunner 51 speedboat that could be armed with torpedoes and used as a fast-attack craft in the Persian Gulf.

The name painted on the ship's side as it left Durban and made for the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas was the Diplomat, and its papers showed that it was owned by a company called Starry Shine Ltd. Both the name and provenance were of recent vintage. Six months earlier, the Diplomat had been the Iran Mufateh, part of a fleet owned by the state-owned Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines, known as Irsil.

Within months of the Durban episode, the United States government put out word that Irsil had renamed the ship and set up Starry Shine to evade American export controls aimed at preventing Iran from obtaining military technology like the Bladerunner 51.

By that time, though, the freighter had yet another name: the Amplify. Last spotted by an electronic tracking system this April in Karachi, Pakistan, the Amplify was under new management and had a mysterious new owner.

But only on paper. The Mufateh-Diplomat-Amplify is part of a great disappearing act, in which Irsil, under pressure from American and other sanctions, has been obscuring the true ownership of its vessels in a web of shell companies stretching across Europe and Asia, a New York Times examination of Irsil's actions shows.

Formed mostly after the United States blacklisted Irsil and all

Iran's Nuclear Effort

In briefings for foreign officials, the United States appears to be backing away from a 2007 assessment of Iran's program.

Article Page A11

Off Runway, Brazilian Beauty Goes Beyond Blond and Blue-Eyed

By ALEXEI BARRIONUEVO

RESTINGA SÉCA, Brazil — Before setting out in a pink S.U.V. to comb the schoolyards and shopping malls of southern Brazil, Allison Chornak studies books, maps and Web sites to understand how the towns were colonized and how European their residents might look today.

The goal, he and other model scouts say, is to find the right genetic cocktail of German and Italian ancestry, perhaps with some Russian or other Slavic blood thrown in. Such a mix, they say, helps produce the tall, thin girls with straight hair, fair skin and light eyes that Brazil exports to the runways of New York, Milan and Paris with stunning success.

Yet Brazil is not the same country it was in 1994, when Gisèle Bündchen, the world's top earning model, was discovered in a tiny town not far from here. Darker-skinned women have become more prominent in Brazilian society, challenging the notions of Brazilian beauty and success that Ms. Bündchen has come to represent here and abroad.

Tais Araújo just finished a run as the first black female lead in the coveted 8 p.m. soap opera



JOÃO PINA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Allison Chornak, a Brazilian model scout, photographed Eduarda Waholtz, 15, at her school in Paraisópolis, Brazil.

slot. Marina Silva, a former government minister born in the Amazon, is running for president. And over the past decade, the income of black Brazilians rose by about 40 percent, more than double the rate of whites, as the country's booming economy helped trim the inequality gap and create a more powerful black consumer class, said Marcelo Neri, an economist in Rio de Janeiro.

Even prosecutors have waded into the debate over what Brazilian society looks like — and how it should be represented. São Paulo Fashion Week, the nation's most important fashion event, has been forced by local prosecutors to ensure that at least 10 percent of its models are of African or indigenous descent.

Despite those shifts, more than half of Brazil's models continue to be found here among the tiny

farms of Rio Grande do Sul, a state that has only one-twentieth of the nation's population and was colonized predominantly by Germans and Italians.

Indeed, scouts say that more than 70 percent of the country's models come from three southern states that hardly reflect the multiethnic melting pot that is Brazil, where more than half the population is nonwhite.

On the pages of its magazines, Brazil's beauty spectrum is clearer. Nonwhite women, including celebrities of varying body types, are interspersed with white models. But on the runways, the proving ground for models hoping to go abroad, the diversity drops off precipitously. Prosecutors investigating discrimination complaints against São Paulo Fashion Week found that only 28 percent of the event's 1,128 models were black in early 2008.

The pattern creates a disconnect between what many Brazilians consider beautiful and the beauty they export overseas. While darker-skinned actresses like Juliana Paes and Camila Pitanga are considered among Brazil's sexiest, it is Ms. Bündchen and her fellow southerners who win fame abroad.

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2 Terrorism Suspects in Court

Two New Jersey men who have been accused of preparing to join an insurgent group in Somalia with Qaeda ties appeared in federal court in Newark. The judge appointed lawyers to represent them, and prosecutors hinted that they would oppose any bail. PAGE A21

INTERNATIONAL A4-12

North Korea Shuffles Cabinet

As its leader, Kim Jong-il, was watching, North Korea's rubber-stamp Parliament fired its prime minister and elevated his brother-in-law to the government's No. 2 post amid many changes. PAGE A4

NATIONAL A13-18

A Reporter's Abrupt End

Helen Thomas, 89, the combative White House reporter who has covered every president since John F. Kennedy, retired after an uproar over her comments about Jews and Palestine. PAGE A13



BUSINESS DAY B1-9

Home Lender Settles Charges

Countrywide will pay \$108 million to settle federal charges that it overcharged struggling homeowners. PAGE B1

SPORTS/TUESDAY B10-14

Baseball Hype Meets Reality

Pitcher Strasburg, perhaps the top stepping stone in decades, makes his debut Tuesday in Washington. PAGE B10

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A New Route to Outer Space

One company's ambitious plans for the first private space station. PAGE D1



ARTS C1-6

Met's New 'Ring' of Steel

The set for Wagner's "Ring" cycle, at roughly 45 tons, is so heavy that engineers feared the floor would not hold. So the Met is reinforcing the stage with three 65-foot steel girders. PAGE C1

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David Brooks

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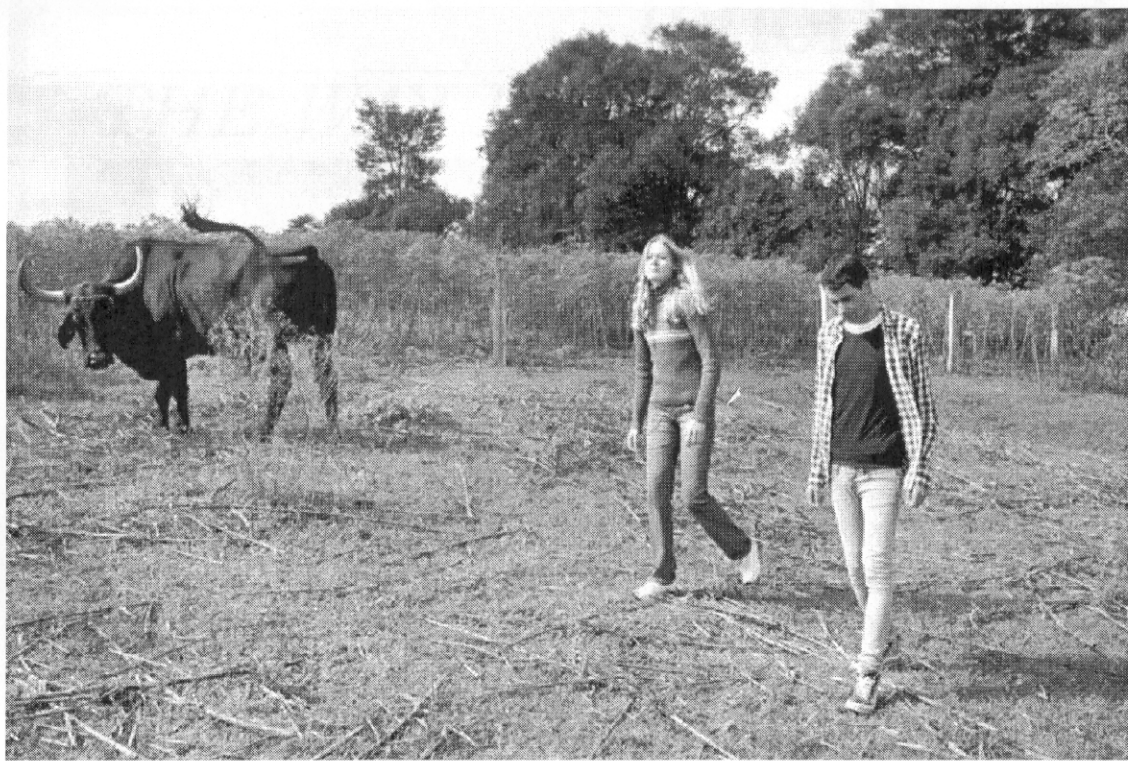
ONLINE

The Scariest Roads Anywhere

Video about the deadly roads of India, where the skyrocketing death toll — an average, 320 fatalities a day — is a result of poor road planning, inadequate law enforcement, a surge in trucks and cars and a flood of untrained drivers.

nytimes.com/world





PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOÃO PINA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Allison Chornak discovered Michele Meurer, 16, as she rode her bicycle to school. More photographs are at nytimes.com/world.

Off Runway, Brazilian Beauty Goes Beyond Blond

From Page A1

"I was always perplexed that Brazil was never able to export a Naomi Campbell, and it is definitely not because of a lack of pretty women," said Erika Palomino, a fashion consultant in São Paulo. "It is embarrassing."

Some scouts have begun tepid forays to less-white parts of Brazil. One Brazilian designer, Walter Rodrigues, recently opened Rio Fashion Week with 25 models, all of them black.

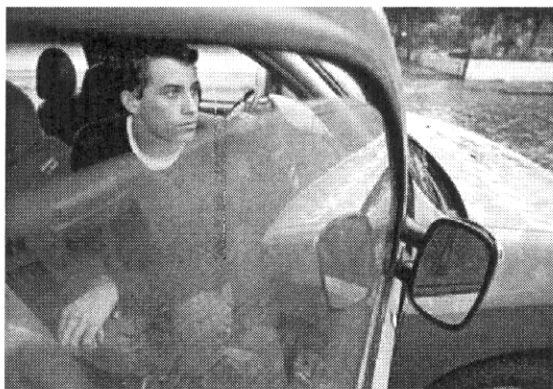
But here in the south scouts still spend most of their time hunting for the next Gisele, and offer few apologies for what they say sells.

Clóvis Pessoa studies facial traits that are successful on international runways and looks for towns in the south that mirror those genes.

"If a famous top model looks German with a Russian nose, I will do a scientific study and look for cities that were colonized by Germans and Russians in the south of Brazil in order to get a similar face down here," Mr. Pessoa said.

Dilson Stein, who discovered Ms. Bündchen when she was 13, called Rio Grande do Sul a treasure trove of model-worthy girls. A year before discovering Ms. Bündchen, whose parents are of German ancestry, he found 12-year-old Alessandra Ambrosio, now famous for her Victoria's Secret shoots.

Today, younger scouts like Mr. Chornak have taken up the mantle. With catlike quickness, he jumped from his chair and strode



Mr. Chornak waited for students to leave their high school in Restinga Sêca, Brazil, in Rio Grande do Sul State.

Models at home differ from those destined for runways abroad.

up behind a tall girl with a hooded sweatshirt. "Have you ever thought of being a model?" he asked a 13-year-old with light blue eyes and pimples.

The girl smiled, her metal braces glimmering.

Later, Mr. Chornak pulled up at a school where the director, Liliane Abrão Silva, showed off albums from school beauty contests. She allows scouts to visit during class breaks.

"Since I got to this school, five have left for São Paulo to become models," she said. "The girls who do not have money to go to university will have to stay here and

Myrna Domit contributed reporting.

he declared.

At another stop, Mr. Chornak staked out a school in Paraíso do Sul (population 8,000) with the tools of his trade: business cards, camera, measuring tape and a notebook.

The bell rang and students streamed out. Mr. Chornak stopped a tall, skinny blond girl. Within seconds he was fluffing her hair and taking her measurements, directing her to pose against the wall.

Mr. Chornak also drove to Venâncio Aires, where a billboard heralded "the land of the Fantastic Girl," alluding to a television show that featured a local girl.

At a small tobacco farm he visited Michele Meurer, a blue-eyed 16-year-old discovered while riding her bicycle to school. Timid and shy, she cried profusely the first time she went to São Paulo. The next time, she lasted six days before Mr. Chornak sent her home.

Her mother, who grew up speaking German, had never left the town until the São Paulo trip. They live in a four-room house with chickens and dogs. Michele keeps the freezer in her room for lack of space.

Mr. Chornak counsels Michele to use sunscreen while working in the fields and to watch her diet. Bursting with pride, her father enrolled her in English classes in case she went abroad.

"I want to give them a better life," Michele said tearfully of her parents.

Recently, she went to São Paulo again, where Mr. Chornak put her in a three-bedroom apartment with 11 other girls. Two weeks before São Paulo Fashion Week, Michele packed up and left.

"I am very disappointed that Michele gave up," Mr. Chornak said. "I invested a lot in her."



THE NEW YORK TIMES

Scouts say over 70 percent of models are from three states.

work in the fields."

The next morning, Mr. Chornak studied the girls returning with red lollipops from recess. "There is nothing special here,"

Other points of view on the Op-Ed page seven days a week. The New York Times