

Readbook: Zuckerberg is Blue, Peretz is Sorry, Bomb Chroniclers, Halo, and Hot Profs

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Michael A. Innes in Afghanistan, Afghanistan Study Group Report, Halo, Mark Zuckerberg, Marty Peretz, nuclear photographs, the bomb

WELCOME TO THE READBOOK, our daily trawl of content noteworthy, tl;dr, and below-the-fold. Posted early and updated throughout the day. Track updates via **Twitter** @EditorsCI. Get in touch via **email** at editors@currentintelligence.net.

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MORNING EDITION

Zuckerberg's blue. Jose Antonio Vargas, in *The New Yorker*: "Colors don't matter much to Zuckerberg; a few years ago, he took an online test and realized that he was red-green color-blind. Blue is Facebook's dominant color, because, as he said, 'blue is the richest color for me—I can see all of blue.'" Social media guru Anil Dash picks up on it: "As it turns out, the way we can all express ourselves on Facebook today is literally constrained by the limits of what Mark Zuckerberg can see. I've been in environments that were constrained in similar ways; The first time I entered the Harvard Club here in New York City to visit with a friend, I felt very acutely the implicit judgments of an environment where the fact that I don't have a college education was considered a relevant way to judge my identity. And though I use Facebook, I don't ever forget that it was conceived as a private club for members of the Ivy League as well."

Marty Peretz apologizes. A former friend and colleague, someone with whom I once had a nasty blow-up, would later remark, once we'd resolved sufficient differences to continue working together, that what had happened "was unfortunate". The delivery of those words wasn't genuine. They oozed arrogance and condescension about the entire affair, and what I took away from it was a profound sense of disrespect. Some of that came from body language, the ability to infer additional meaning from physical context - whether someone actually looks you in the eye when he's saying something; whether he's listening to your own comment, much less hearing what you have to say; tone of voice. There are myriad ways to read a conversation, and this one left me with the profound sense that I'd never again be able to trust my former friend and colleague. Take away those extra physical tells, and who's to say what words really mean? Peretz, following up on derogatory comments he made about Muslims, has now apologized: "I wrote that, but I do not believe that." Does he mean it? *Slate's* Jack Shafer doesn't think so, writing "Don't let Marty Peretz off the hook. He's hated Arabs for 20+ years."

The Afghanistan Study Group Report. Josh Foust savaged it. Justin Logan of the Cato Institute defended it. Read the report yourself and make up your own mind.

Bomb chroniclers. I shudder to think of the physical effects on the human body of photographing 6500 atomic tests.

Halo review. If you've every laid paws on an X-box, you know what that's about. Seth Schiesel, on "How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Halo."

Ick. From the department of serious journalism comes *Daily Beast's* gallery of "Hot Profs", almost all of whom are, in fact, convincingly attractive in their own ways. Scroll through to image 13 - the last one. Try not to gag.

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VIDEO

Ray Winstone has The Answer. *The Guardian* newspaper previewed this on its website a while back. Here it is again, now YouTube shareable. Video courtesy of John Hillcoat and Unkle.



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