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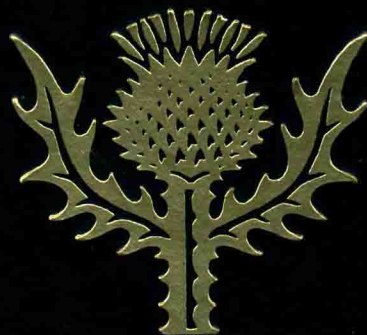
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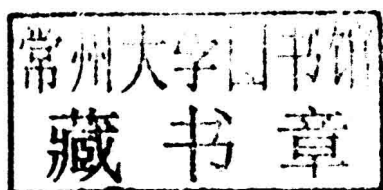


Events of
2014



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China Daily/Reuters/Landov

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Foreword

The year 2014 was marked by one crisis followed by another. The Ebola disease outbreak in Central Africa spread to the U.S. and other parts of the world as hospitals and health agencies struggled to implement procedures to stanch the contagion. U.S. border issues, which in the past had been limited mainly to the illegal entry of Mexican migrants, were exacerbated when Central Americans (mostly unaccompanied children from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador) surged across the southern U.S. border looking for a haven from their crime- and gang-ridden countries. Meanwhile, a raging civil war in Syria precipitated an exodus of millions of refugees, who, by fleeing into nearby countries, strained the resources of Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. That issue seemed small in comparison, however, with the rise of ISIL/ISIS, the Islamist insurgent group that was making serious inroads in Syria and northern Iraq and beheading hostages along the way in a show of defiance to the world. Western powers struggled to formulate a response after Russia forcibly annexed the autonomous republic of Crimea from Ukraine. In the U.S. citizens worried about the militarization of the police following several deadly shootings. In addition, the deaths of 16 Sherpas on Mt. Everest led to a complete halt to the 2014 climbing season on the world's highest peak. There were also pockets of optimism, especially at the Sochi (Russia) Olympic Winter Games, the FIFA World Cup, the opening of One World Trade Center in New York City, and the festivities surrounding the many notable anniversaries marked during the year, particularly the centennial of World War I and the 100-year anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal. On the technology/medical front, a number of items became more commonplace—Auto-Tune (a device to correct a singer's pitch), wearable technology, e-cigarettes, and legalized marijuana. All of these topics—and many more—are covered in Special Reports.

The entertainment industry suffered a number of major losses in 2014. These included actresses Lauren Bacall, Ruby Dee, Luise Rainer, Elaine Stritch, and Shirley Temple; actors James Garner, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Bob Hoskins, Mickey Rooney, and Robin Williams; directors Richard Attenborough and Mike Nichols; actor, director, and writer Harold Ramis; troubadour Pete Seeger; and comics Sid Caesar and Joan Rivers. Deaths in the literary realm included those of Colombian magic realism devotee Gabriel García Márquez, South African Nobel Prize winner Nadine Gordimer, American poet Maya Angelou, and Britain's "Queen of Crime" P.D. James. Fashion forces Eileen Ford and Oscar de la Renta also perished. These deaths and numerous others all appear in Obituaries.

The 2014 newsmakers profiled in Biographies include Mary Barra, the new CEO of General Motors; African American ballerina Misty Copeland; Academy Award winners Matthew McConaughey and Lupita Nyong'o; and TV personalities Jimmy Fallon, Sofia Vergara, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, and Neil Patrick Harris. Covered in sports are Olympic medal winners Sidney Crosby (Canadian ice hockey player), Kaillie Humphries (Canadian bobsleigh champion), Tina Maze (Slovenian Alpine skier), and Ireen Wüst (Dutch speed skater). Other sports figures include baseball superstar Derek Jeter, basketball wonder Kevin Durant, and football phenomenon Malcolm Smith.

The stories, the amazing people, and the events that captured the imagination of many during 2014 are all nestled in the pages of the 2015 *Britannica Book of the Year*. Revisit the highlights that made 2014 one of the most incredible years of the decade.

Karen Sparks
Director and Editor

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At the opening ceremonies (February 7) of the 2014 Sochi (Russia) Olympic Winter Games, giant helium inflatables provided the elements of Moscow's St. Basil's Cathedral as dancers entertained the audience at Fisht Olympic Stadium.

Michael Kappeler—picture-alliance/dpa/AP Images



January

I call on my children, especially the anti-balaka [Christian militias], to put down their arms and stop all the fighting.

Catherine Samba-Panza after her election as interim president of the Central African Republic, January 20

1 Latvia officially adopts the euro as its currency, becoming the 18th member of the euro zone and the first new member since Estonia joined in 2011.

In the U.S. the Affordable Care Act goes into effect, greatly increasing the number of Americans who have insurance coverage for health care.

2 A car bomb explodes in Haret Hreik, Leb., a residential suburb of Beirut that is populated largely by supporters of the Shi'ite militant group Hezbollah; at least four people are killed, and dozens more are injured.

Near Antarctica a helicopter from the Chinese icebreaking ship *Xue Long* picks up all 52 passengers from the Russian research vessel *Akademik Shokalskiy* and ferries them to the Australian icebreaker *Aurora Australis*; the *Akademik Shokalskiy* had become trapped in ice on Dec. 24, 2013, and icebreakers could not get close enough to free it.

3 Fighters affiliated with the Sunni extremist al-Qaeda group ISIL/ISIS destroy police headquarters in Fallujah, Iraq, and take over government buildings there; the extremists then declare that the territory is an independent state under their control.

South of Phnom Penh, Cambodian protesters supporting striking garment workers fight back against military efforts to break up the demonstrations, and military police respond by opening fire, killing at least four people and injuring others.

Supporters of the banned Muslim Brotherhood march in several cities in Egypt, which leads to clashes with riot police that leave at least 13 people dead.

4 Peace talks formally begin in Addis Ababa, Eth., between representatives of the government of South Sudan and representatives of the rebel forces in the country.

A Russian fishing trawler, the *Oleg Naydenov*, is seized by Senegal's military, which says that the vessel was fishing in Senegalese waters; Russia accuses the international environmental group Greenpeace of having encouraged Senegal's action.

5 Legislative elections in Bangladesh, which are boycotted by the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (whose leader, former prime minister Khaleda Zia, has been prevented from leaving her home for several days) and are attended by violence in which at least 19 people die, unsurprisingly result in an overwhelming win by the ruling Awami League; the turnout is exceptionally low.

6 Latvian Pres. Andris Berzins names Laimdota Straujuma prime minister.

Chinese authorities in Dongguan, Guangdong province, publicly destroy six tons of

ivory carvings and tusks, winning praise from environmentalists; the Chinese province is a major transshipment point for the illegal trade in ivory that is driving the growing crisis of elephant poaching.

Florida State University defeats Auburn University 34-31 in college football's Bowl Championship Series (BCS) title game in Pasadena, Calif., to win the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision championship; this contest is the final game of the BCS, which is to be replaced the following postseason by a four-team College Football Playoff.

7 After days of fierce fighting between members of Syria's rebel forces and fighters with the al-Qaeda-affiliated ISIL/ISIS, the leader of the Nusrah Front, which is also affiliated with al-Qaeda, proposes a cease-fire and the establishment of an Islamic court that would be empowered to judge disputes between the antigovernment factions.

In Ankara, Tur., some 350 police officers, many of high rank, are removed from their posts in what many observers believe to be part of the Turkish government's efforts to derail a wide-ranging corruption investigation against it.

8 NASA announces that it intends to continue operating the International Space Station (ISS) until at least 2024 rather than ending its mission in 2020, as previously planned; other space agencies involved in the ISS have not signed on to this plan.

A study is published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by researchers who studied bacteria in samples of intestines of people who died of cholera in 1849 and determined that the bacterium that causes the disease, which first caused a global pandemic in 1817, most likely came into being less than 5,000 years ago, much more recently than had been believed.

9 Ali Larayedh resigns as prime minister of Tunisia to make way for a caretaker government ahead of elections; that government is to be led by Mehdi Jomaa, minister of industry in Larayedh's government.

A suicide bomber detonates his explosives in Baghdad amid a group of Iraqi army recruits who were answering a government call for more troops to fight al-Qaeda militants in Iraq; at least 22 of the recruits are killed.

10 Under compulsion from regional leaders convened by Pres. Idriss Déby of Chad, Michel Djotodia resigns as president of the Central African Republic; he is replaced temporarily by

Alexandre Ferdinand Nguendet.

West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin bans the use of tap water in Charleston, the capital, and several surrounding counties after a toxic industrial chemical used in the processing of coal leaked into the Elk River near water-intake pipes; thousands of households are affected.

The U.S. Department of Labor reports that though the unemployment rate in December 2013 fell from 7% to 6.7%, the workforce shrank by 347,000 people, and the economy produced only 74,000 jobs, an unexpectedly dismal figure.

A U.S. federal judge rules that the Renoir painting *Paysage bords de Seine (On the Shore of the Seine)*, put up for auction in 2012 by a woman who said that she had purchased it in 2009 at a flea market, must be returned to the Baltimore (Md.) Museum of Art, from which it was stolen in 1951. (Photo below.)

11 Hassan al-Droui, Libya's deputy minister of industry, is killed by gunmen in Surt in the first assassination of a senior government official in the country since the 2011 overthrow of Muammar al-Qaddafi.

Ariel Sharon, a political giant in Israel who was serving as prime minister when he suffered a catastrophic stroke in January 2006, dies near Tel Aviv; he had been in a coma since the occurrence of the stroke.

12 Negotiators for the U.S., the U.K., France, Germany, Russia, and China complete an agreement with Iran that was reached in outline in November 2013 and entails a six-month freeze of Iran's nuclear program, to begin on January 20, in return for an easing of economic sanctions against Iran.

A ban on the export of raw mineral ore goes into effect in Indonesia.

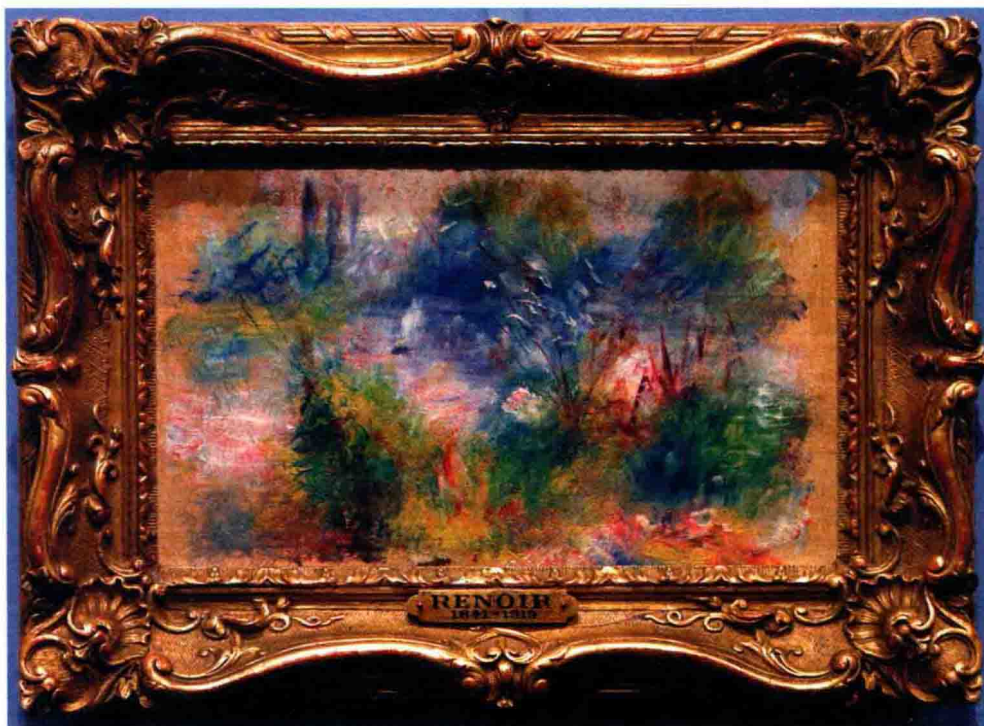
At the Golden Globe Awards ceremony in Beverly Hills, Calif., best picture honours are bestowed on *12 Years a Slave* and *American Hustle*; the best director trophy goes to Alfonso Cuarón for *Gravity*.

13 Antigovernment protesters in Thailand block major roads and intersections in Bangkok in a bid to shut down the capital and prevent elections scheduled for February 2 from taking place.

Car bombs leave at least 29 people dead in Shi'ite areas of northern Baghdad.

A Yemeni official reports that after several weeks of clashes, Houthi rebels and Salafi Islamist militants have agreed to a cease-fire.

Japanese distiller Suntory of Japan announces that it has made an agreement to acquire its American counterpart Beam Inc., maker of



Patrick Semansky/AP Images

Jim Beam and Maker's Mark bourbons.

A rare nearly extinct miniature water lily, *Nymphaea thermarum*, is reported to have been stolen from the Royal Botanic Gardens in London.

14 Mexican armed forces enter Michoacán state in an effort to disarm vigilante self-defense groups that have arisen to confront the violent Knights Templar drug gang; the vigilante groups resist.

The head of the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo says that some 8,000 members of various armed factions have surrendered in the past few months.

15 Early results from the two-day plebiscite on Egypt's revised constitution, which tilts toward the military, suggest that the document has been overwhelmingly approved.

At least eight car bombings and several shootings in Baghdad leave 64 people dead and many others injured.

The International Maritime Bureau reports that there were only 264 pirate attacks worldwide in 2013, the lowest level of piracy in six years.

The Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, a candlelit Jacobean-style theatre, officially opens in London next door to Shakespeare's Globe theatre; the inaugural production is John Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi*.

16 Nigerian Pres. Goodluck Jonathan replaces the leaders of all three mili-

tary services; a court had ruled that the previous leaders were appointed illegally.

The U.S.-based Carter Center reports that the incidence of Guinea worm disease, a scourge of rural areas in Africa and Asia, dropped to 148 cases in 2013; when the Carter Center began its campaign against the parasite in 1986, some 3.5 million people were infected annually.

17 A suicide bomber and gunmen attack the Taverna du Liban, a Lebanese restaurant popular with foreigners in Kabul; at least 21 people are killed.

The U.S. asks Myanmar (Burma) to look into reports that security forces and ethnic Rakhine Buddhist mobs have killed dozens of Rohingya Muslims in the past few days.

South Africa reports that 1,004 rhinoceroses in the country were killed by poachers in 2013, up from 668 in 2012.

18 The National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces agrees, after a vote boycotted by many members, to send a delegation to upcoming talks aimed at ending the civil war in Syria.

The Dakar Rally concludes in Valparaíso, Chile; the winners are Spanish driver Nani Roma in an All4 Racing Mini automobile, Spaniard Marc Coma on a KTM motorcycle, Russian driver Andrey Karginov in a Kamaz truck, and Chile's Ignacio Casale in a Raptor Yamaha ATV.

At Thoroughbred horse racing's 2013 Eclipse Awards presentation, Wise Dan is

for the second consecutive year named Horse of the Year.

19 A large rally in Kiev, Ukr., to protest new laws against opposition demonstrations results in clashes between stone-throwing protesters and riot police wielding clubs and blasting water cannons.

A bomb explodes in a vehicle transporting members of Pakistan's paramilitary Frontier Corps from a compound in Bannu to a site in North Waziristan; at least 20 of the troops are killed.

20 The Central African Republic's legislature chooses Catherine Samba-Panza, who led previous reconciliation attempts in the country, to serve as interim president.

The International Atomic Energy Agency says that its inspectors confirm that the production of 20%-enriched uranium has ceased in Iran in compliance with a temporary international agreement that has just gone into effect.

21 Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's government imposes emergency rule in and around Bangkok, though officials say that there is no plan to crack down on the antigovernment protests.

Internet sites become unavailable to nearly all users in China for several hours in what is thought to be the biggest-ever Internet outage; it is theorized that a misconfiguration in the state censorship apparatus may be to blame.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-

tration reports that 2013 tied with 2003 as the fourth warmest year globally since measurements began in 1880; NASA, which uses different temperature-compilation methods, measured 2013 as the seventh warmest, a record that ties with those set in 2006 and 2009.

22 At least three protesters die in the increasingly violent confrontation between antigovernment dissidents and police in Kiev, Ukr., while Ukrainian Pres. Viktor Yanukovich meets with three leaders of the opposition.

23 The government of South Sudan and representatives of the rebels led by former vice president Riek Machar sign an agreement for a cease-fire to begin in 24 hours; the agreement is reached after negotiations in Addis Ababa, Eth.

The head of UN peacekeeping operations reports to the UN Security Council that the number of people who fled fighting in the Darfur region of Sudan in 2013 surged to 400,000, an enormous increase over the number in the previous two years.

Argentina's currency, the peso, reaches a value of 8 pesos to the U.S. dollar after dropping 15% of its value in two days; prior to the slide it had traded at 6.5 pesos to the U.S. dollar.

24 A large car bomb explodes in front of the security headquarters in Cairo, killing four police officers and damaging not only several floors of the headquarters but also the front of the Museum of

Islamic Art on the other side of the street; three smaller bombings elsewhere in the city result in at least two more deaths.

Pres. Ali Ben Bongo Ondimba of Gabon appoints Daniel Ona Ondo prime minister; he takes office three days later.

25 In the face of growing protests, Ukrainian Pres. Viktor Yanukovich, in negotiations with opposition leaders, proposes a number of concessions, including the installation as prime minister of Fatherland party leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk and the offer of a high cabinet position to former professional boxer Vitali Klitschko; the proposal is rejected.

The government of the Philippines and representatives of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front conclude a peace agreement that will create an autonomous Muslim-dominated enclave in the southern Philippines; other Islamist insurgent groups are not part of the pact.

Hery Rajaonarimampianina takes office as president of Madagascar; two days later the country is readmitted to the African Union.

Li Na of China defeats Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia to win the Australian Open women's tennis championship; the following day Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland defeats Spaniard Rafael Nadal in the men's final to take his first Grand Slam title.

Top awards at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, go to *Whiplash*, *Rich Hill*, *Difret*, and *The Green Prince*.

26 Tunisia's National Constituent Assem-

bly overwhelmingly approves a new liberal constitution that was painstakingly negotiated to balance the interests of the various parties; it goes into effect the following day.

Dozens of gunmen riding in trucks and on motorcycles invade a busy market in the northeastern Nigerian village of Kawuri, shooting dead at least 45 people and then setting houses in the village on fire; it is believed that the attackers are Boko Haram militants.

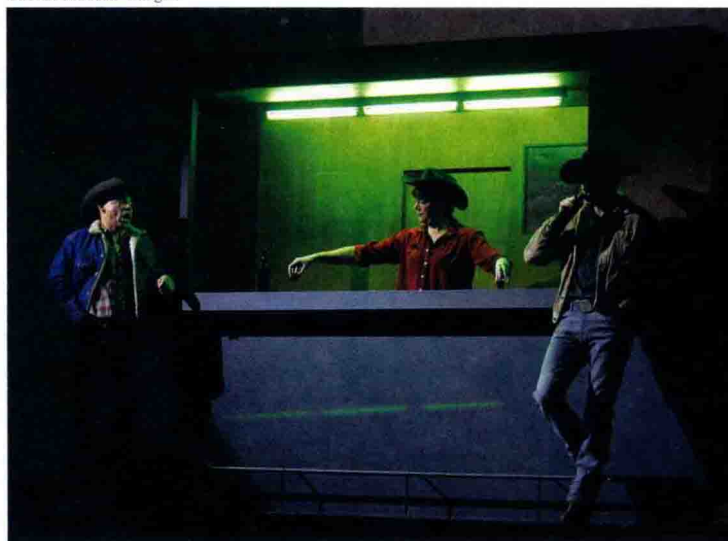
At the Grammy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, French electronic dance duo Daft Punk wins album of the year for *Random Access Memories* and record of the year for "Get Lucky" (featuring Pharrell Williams and Nile Rodgers); New Zealand singer-songwriter Lorde wins song of the year for "Royals," and the award for best new artist goes to American hip-hop duo Macklemore & Ryan Lewis.

At the New Year *basho* (grand sumo tournament) in Tokyo, *yokozuna* Hakuho defeats *ozeki* Kakuryu to win his 28th Emperor's Cup.

27 Ukrainian Pres. Viktor Yanukovich agrees to revoke new measures intended to restrict political dissent, and protesters withdraw from the Ministry of Justice building that they had taken control of the previous night; opposition leaders demand that new elections be scheduled.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons reports that a second shipment of chemical weapons has left Syria to be destroyed; it represents only a tiny portion of the materials that Syria pledged to remove from the country by the end of 2013.

Gabriel Pecot/AP Images



In the field of children's literature, the Newbery Medal is awarded to Kate DiCamillo for her novel *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures*, and Brian Floca wins the Caldecott Medal for his picture book *Locomotive*.

28 Mykola Azarov resigns as prime minister of Ukraine.

In his State of the Union address, U.S. Pres. Barack Obama promises to focus on initiatives that do not require the cooperation of Congress, including those that address income inequality and climate change.

Brokeback Mountain, an opera based on a short story of the same name by Annie Proulx with music by Charles Wuorinen and libretto by Proulx (see photo above), debuts at the Teatro Real in Madrid.

29 Russia suspends a \$15 billion aid package that it promised Ukraine in late 2013 after Ukrainian Pres. Viktor Yanukovich decided against signing an agreement with the European

Union that would have included financial aid.

Pres. Milos Zeman of the Czech Republic appoints a new government, headed by Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka of the Social Democratic Party.

The journals *Nature* and *Science* publish separate studies online comparing genes from a high-quality Neanderthal genome with those of modern humans; both studies conclude that most non-African humans have some Neanderthal genes, in particular those involved with skin and hair.

30 The president of Libya's interim legislature reports that an election for members of a constituent assembly is to be held on February 20.

31 The first round of peace talks for Syria ends without any sign of progress.

Eurostat reports that the euro zone's unemployment rate in December 2013 remained at 12% and that the rate of inflation fell to 0.7%.

February

This commences a new life for Ukraine. This is only a start.

Ukrainian protester Roman Dakus
after Ukraine's president fled the capital, February 22

1 Barrel bombs (barrels packed with explosives) dropped by Syria's military on rebel-held parts of Aleppo leave a reported 23 people dead, and a car bomb explodes in Lebanon near the Syrian border, killing 3.

Officials of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission declare that the body will double its spending on providing high-speed Internet connections in schools and libraries throughout the country.

2 Legislative elections take place in Thailand, but antigovernment protesters, who expect to lose at the polls, succeed in preventing voting in much of southern Thailand and in several districts in Bangkok, rendering the election incomplete.

It is reported that the U.S. and Libya, working together, have succeeded in destroying all the chemical weapons that Libya had amassed before the 2011 revolution; the final such weapon was destroyed on January 26.

In East Rutherford, N.J., the Seattle Seahawks demolish the favoured Denver Bron-

cos 43-8 to win the National Football League's Super Bowl XLVIII.

3 It is reported that the leadership of the international Islamist militant group al-Qaeda has disavowed any connection with the militant jihadist organization ISIL/ISIS, which has resisted cooperation with al-Qaeda.

King 'Abd Allah of Saudi Arabia decrees that any Saudi citizen who takes part in fighting in any other country will face a prison sentence of at least three years.

Janet Yellen takes office as head of the U.S. Federal Reserve; she replaces Ben Bernanke, who served in the position for eight years.

4 The investment company Morgan Stanley says that it has agreed to pay \$1.25 billion to the U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency to settle charges that it sold risky mortgage securities to mortgage backers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

U.S. federal regulators announce that they have issued fines against three oil

and gas companies for having labeled petroleum carried on trains as being less dangerous than it was.

5 London subway workers begin a 48-hour work stoppage to protest plans to cut the workforce, leaving millions of commuters to find other means of transportation.

The huge American drug-store chain CVS/Caremark announces that it intends to stop selling cigarettes and other tobacco products by October 1, saying that such sales are incompatible with its mission to improve the health of its customers.

6 Russian Pres. Vladimir Putin signs legislation merging the Supreme Arbitration Court, which has jurisdiction over business disputes, with the Supreme Court, the top criminal court; the legislation also gives Putin the responsibility for appointing state prosecutors in the country's regions.

Italian Pres. Giorgio Napolitano signs an emergency law making the unauthorized burning and disposal of garbage punishable by prison

sentences; it is intended to address damage caused by decades of illegal dumping in the region of Campania.

Jay Leno appears for the last time as the host of the late-night TV program *The Tonight Show* after 22 years (excluding his brief replacement as host by Conan O'Brien in 2009-10); comic Billy Crystal is Leno's final guest. (Photo right.)

7 Protests and rioting against government dysfunction and economic hard times take place in Sarajevo and other cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the fourth consecutive day.

A convoy of thousands of Muslims, who have been under attack by Christian militias, flees Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, for Chad under the protection of Chadian soldiers.

The U.S. Department of Labor reports that the unemployment rate in January ticked down to 6.6%, though the economy added only 113,000 nonfarm jobs.

The XXII Olympic Winter Games officially open in