

George W Bush fends off shoes in new viral computer game

An Iraqi journalist's shoe-throwing attack on US President George W Bush has been immortalised in an online video game.

In the game, players take on the role of an armed secret service agent who has to shoot shoes out of the air. Players of Bush's Boot Camp take on the role of a gun-toting security agent, and must shoot shoes out of the air before they can hit the hapless president.

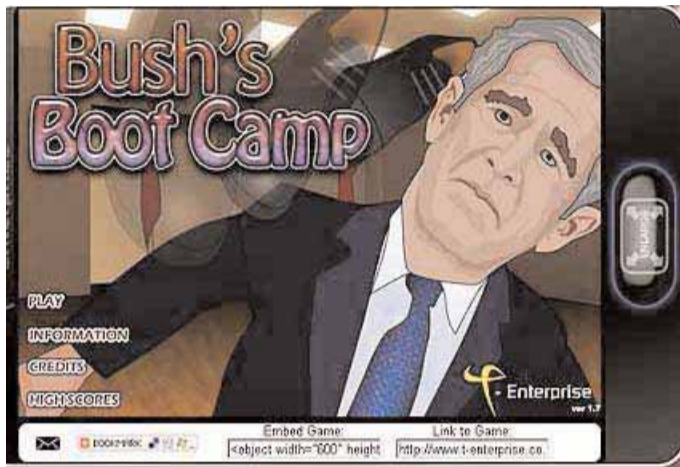
Television reporter Muntadar al-Zaidi was tackled to the ground by Secret Service personnel yesterday after he started to throw his shoes at George W Bush during a press conference in Iraq. The footwear missed the president, who ducked just in time, but Mr Zaidi was bundled from the room yelling: "This is a farewell kiss, you dog," at the President.

Footage of the attack has already been viewed more than half a million times on video-sharing site YouTube, and the viral computer game is proving popular with internet users.

"If you watch the video clip, the Secret Service don't move to protect the President until the second shoe has been thrown," said Sadi Chishti, managing director of T-Enterprise, the Glasgow-based company behind the computer game. "We're hoping the agents will use this game as a training aid for future footwear attacks on world leaders."

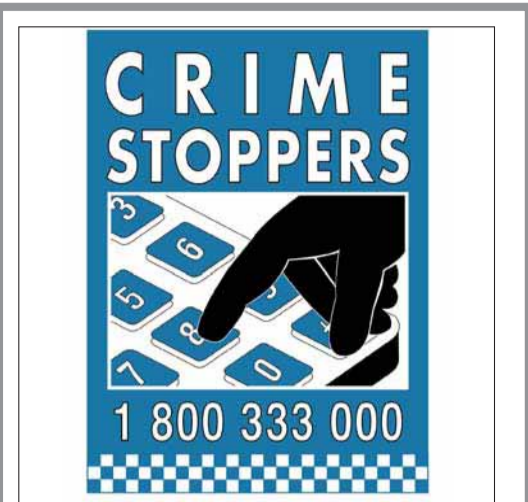
Players use their mouse to aim the crosshairs of their gun and fire their weapon. President Bush loses "health points" every time he is accidentally shot, or hit with a shoe, and the game ends when his health meter reaches zero.

For President Bush, who leaves office on Jan 20 when President-Elect Barack Obama is officially inaugurated, the shoe-throwing incident is the latest in a long line of gaffes, errors and unfortunate incidents that have marked his time in the White House.



Mr Bush famously choked on a pretzel while watching an NFL American Football match between the Miami Dolphins and Baltimore Ravens, and fell off a Segway electric scooter. He also observed a military display through a pair of binoculars that still had their lens cap on.

T-Enterprise has a track record for developing funny viral games based on newsworthy events. Shortly after the disastrous opening of Terminal 5 at Heathrow Airport in April, it launched a game in which players controlled a cartoon version of Willie Walsh, British Airway's chief executive, to collect baggage, scan it in the x-ray machine, and then load it on to the conveyor belt while avoiding rogue luggage trolleys. In March, it released a game in which players helped Heather Mills collect the £24.3 million settlement she won following her divorce from Sir Paul McCartney by throwing water around a courtroom, while in September, it pitted Alaskan polar bears against US vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin, in a game that criticised the Alaskan governor's environmental record.



Youth support Crime Stoppers Music Piracy Campaign

With over 180 submissions, the legendary host of Video Hits on Channel 10, "Fuzzy", is proud to be one of the judges of the Crime Stoppers Music Piracy Awareness competition.

Fuzzy, also known as Faustina Agolley, sat on the panel of judges to handpick Australia's best submissions. "If you want to continue to enjoy great music, you can do your bit by spreading the word that illegally downloaded music is not on," said Fuzzy.

The Crime Stoppers' school competition encouraged students to engage in a creative activity and gain an understanding of the effects of music piracy. Frank Hardcase, an animated investigative journalist, promoted the campaign via the website www.frankhardcase.com.au, to bust the myth that music piracy is a victimless crime. You can watch Frank Hardcase on YouTube:

<http://au.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXEaRzEpHBM>

Students aged 9 - 15 years from across Australia submitted original artistic works to Frank Hardcase as a short script, a poster, or a video/audio piece. "The quality of work from students was remarkable. We were impressed with their understanding of music piracy and its impact on musicians and artists," said Chairman of Crime Stoppers Australia, Mr Peter Price. The winning schools are Canterbury Primary School from VIC for their audio piece, Goldfields Baptist College in W.A for a short script and Secret Harbour in W.A with their anti-piracy CD.

Winning students will receive a \$500 Ticketek voucher, and schools also benefit with a \$1,000 grant.

In Australia, illegal file-sharing causes lost sales of around 200 million digital tracks per annum.1 Only half of all 14 to 24 year olds agree that illegal file sharing is stealing.

Beyond the Anglosphere

ABC Radio National



In the lead up to Australia Day, ABC Radio National presents Beyond the Anglosphere, a series about the power of stories to change the way we see ourselves as a nation. Beyond the Anglosphere features conversations with storytellers from diverse cultural backgrounds talking about their attempts to reflect our nation's changing identity in film, literature, theatre and television.

In this four-part series beginning January 19, guests talk about their inspirations and describe the many challenges they've faced getting heard.

Producer Jason Di Rosso is excited by the talent he's encountered while making the series. "I'd always felt there was a discrepancy between the Australia I saw outside my front door and the one represented in the bulk of television, literature and film," he said.

that there are now so many exciting voices, some have been battling away for years, while others are just finding their voice now. It's a very fertile time."

Beyond the Anglosphere's guests include:

Randa Abdel-Fattah – a novelist who deals with growing up Muslim of Arabic descent.

Dennis Koutoulogenis – a copywriter who believes advertising shouldn't fall back on stereotypes and clichés.

George Basha – writer and star of The Combination, a film about cross-cultural tensions in Sydney's west.

Jan Sardi – Oscar-nominated screenwriter of Shine who grew up in

the 'Italian village' of Carlton in the '50s and '60s.

Paul Fenech – performer, whose bawdy, in-your-face brand of multicultural comedy is unlike anything else on television.

Görkem Acaroglu – playwright and theatre director interested in globalisation and migration.

Alice Pung – her frank and sometimes comic memoir Unpolished Gem depicts growing up the daughter of Chinese-Cambodian refugees in suburban Melbourne.

Brian Castro – an eight novel veteran born in Hong Kong with Chinese-Portuguese-English heritage who is one of our most cosmopolitan writers.

Beyond the Anglosphere - ABC Radio National - January 19 - 22, 2009. 6pm EDST

Also available as a podcast after broadcast via <http://www.abc.net.au/rn>