

## Mark Steyn On The Weather

Do not be misled by memories of your youth when, on the Continent, wanting to describe someone as exceptionally dull, you remarked: "He is the type who would discuss the weather with you." In England this is an ever-interesting, even thrilling topic

said George Mikes in **How To Be An Alien**. As of today, there is a second place in which the weather is a fascinating and deep topic: the writing of **Mark Steyn**, in which the dark prophesies of **George Galloway**, the pissiors of the Paris Metro, the Afghan Winter and the Iraqi summer, French Bureaucracy and other nightmares of our time are compared with the humane efficiency of...

Read it and be enlightened.

Sat, 08/23/2003 - 22:42 | [permlink](#)

## What about France?

I read Mark Steyn's article *Iraq may be on the edge but France has hit rock bottom abyss* linked above. It has some interesting points and is eloquently written, but I have to admit I don't really understand the point made about the heat deaths in France. Or is there a point? It certainly is sad if so many people died of heat, but why would that mean there's something wrong in France?

I also wonder how significant these 10,000 deaths are and to what extent they are really heat related. Remember that in a country the size of France about 200,000 people die every Summer anyway of natural causes. And I'd also like to know whether these are mainly people that might have died anyway in a few months, or whether there are a lot of them who could have lived for years.

Does the author think the French are stupid not to buy air conditioners for their houses? Does the author somehow blame government for this? Does he believe it's governments responsibility to take of its citizens' temperature exposure rather than their own? Or does he just want to make a point about the inefficiency of the funeral services and the bad state of health care in France? If so, I would have liked to see his argument of the link between bad health care and the heat deaths, if there is any, if that

is his point anyway. I'm not saying there isn't any, I don't know

anything about this event, I'm just saying that if there is some point to be made, I would have been interested in that point.

Or is it only that he wishes to claim that the French don't care about their relatives dying, which I find hard to believe? My apologies, but I haven't been following the news about the heat deaths in France, so maybe that's why I'm missing something. I'm just curious to know what this is about.

## **Henry Sturman**

by **Henry Sturman** on Tue, 08/26/2003 - 09:55 | [reply](#)

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