



Top Stories

New York Governor Eliot Spitzer resigns



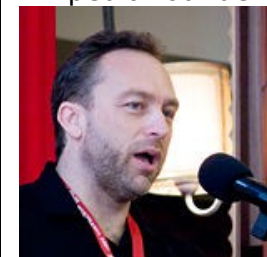
New York Governor Eliot Spitzer has announced that he has resigned, effective Monday. Spitzer was recently discovered to be involved in a prostitution ring.

Church of Scientology denied injunction against Anonymous

The Church of Scientology's second petition for an injunction against online protest group Anonymous was denied by Judge Douglas Baird. The other petition, filed Tuesday, was denied yesterday by Judge Linda Allan. The injunction sought to prevent members of Anonymous from coming within 500 feet of Church of Scientology buildings.

Jimmy Wales accused of editing for donations

Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales has been accused of editing pages in the encyclopedia in return for a donation to the Wikimedia Foundation. In an article published Tuesday, the Sydney Morning Herald reported that former Novell computer



Credit: EvgenyGenkin

Top Stories

scientist Jeff Merkey alleged Wales had made edits to his article on his behalf, in exchange for a donation to the Wikimedia Foundation. The news hit the website Slashdot later Tuesday, where the incident was dubbed "DonorGate".

Wikinews interviews novelist Jeremy Robinson

Wikinews held an exclusive interview with bestselling American thriller author Jeremy Robinson. He spoke with us about the years of hard work it took to get published, the book deal he just signed with St. Martin's Press and his upcoming novels.

Wikipedia Current Events

Chad's President Idriss Déby and Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir meet in Senegal and sign the Dakar agreement, a peace deal ending five years of hostilities.

- The Canadian House of Commons extends the Canadian military mission in Afghanistan until 2011
- The body of Mar Paulos Faraj Rahho, the Chaldean Catholic archbishop of Mosul who was kidnapped in Iraq on February 29, is found in a shallow grave close to the city.
- The price of gold reaches 1000 US dollars per troy ounce for the first time.
- Serbian President Boris Tadić disbands parliament and calls an early general election for May 11.

Wikipedia Current Events

- US Democratic Party presidential primaries, 2008: Geraldine Ferraro resigns from the Clinton campaign after making comments that "if Obama was a white man, he would not be in this position."
- The U.S. dollar, after repeatedly testing 100 yen in Asian dealings and early European action, breaks through to touch 99.75, its lowest level since November 1995.
- Melbourne, Adelaide and Hobart experience some of their warmest weather of record for this season as result of an Australian autumn heatwave.
- Leaders of the European Union meet in Brussels, Belgium with climate change and energy security dominating the agenda.

German actor Erwin Geschonneck dies at 101

Erwin Geschonneck, German actor died Wednesday. He was 101. His biggest success occurred in the German Democratic Republic, where he was considered one of the most famous actors of the time.

He was born on December 27, 1906 in Bartenstein, Germany. In 1938, he was arrested in Prague and was imprisoned in several concentration camps. In 1945, Geschonneck was evacuated from the concentration camp Neuengamme on the boat Cap Arcona, which was subsequently attacked by the RAF and sunk. He

was one of the few prisoners who survived.

Immediately following the war, Geschonneck acted in theaters in Hamburg, Germany, and made his film debut in 1947 in *In jenen Tagen*.

His last movie, made in 1995 for the German television network ARD, was *"Matulla und Busch"*, where he played alongside veteran actor Fred Delmare. Geschonneck's son, Matti Geschonneck, directed.

Church of Scientology denied injunction against Anonymous

The Church of Scientology's second petition for an injunction against online protest group Anonymous was denied by Judge Douglas Baird. The first petition, filed Tuesday, against Anonymous was denied yesterday by Judge Linda Allan. The injunction sought to prevent members of Anonymous from coming within 500 feet of Church of Scientology buildings. At time of publishing, the Church has not responded to a request for comment.

In his ruling, Judge Douglas Baird of Pinellas County, Florida wrote: "This Petition has been filed against twenty-six individuals alleged to be associating as a group referred to as 'Anonymous'. The Petition contained no specific allegations of wrongdoing against the individuals named as Respondents, nor it is alleged that any of the said named Respondents are responsible for any threats, phone-calls, or specific wrongful acts sought to be enjoined. The Petition fails to allege that any of the Respondent have interfered with or have attempted to deprive the Petitioners of any cognizable right. Further, the Court finds that the

Petitioner's certification of notice is insufficient to justify the issuance of an injunction without notice to the Respondents."

Member of Anonymous' response Wikinews The last protest was peaceful, do you expect the 15th to be the same?

Member of Anonymous: Absolutely. There's no reason to believe the success of the 10 February protest won't carry over to this weekend's.

WN Do you believe the threats the Church mentioned in the injunction filing came from members of Anonymous?

Anon: No. They have a history of fabricating these things, and I have no reason to believe this is any different a situation.

WN How have Anonymous defended themselves in court?

Anon: Well, there's been no need for any kind of defense. The restraining order has been rejected by every judge the church has brought it before and furthermore, there's no reason to believe any of the names on their court filing even consider themselves Anonymous. They appear to be completely made-up by the Church of Scientology.

WN Do you view this as an attempt by the Church to stop peaceful protest against them?

Anon: Absolutely. They've used the courts to stop free speech before, they're doing it again. Public protest draws attention to the Church's human rights abuses, so they'll do anything to stop them.

Wikinews interviews novelist Jeremy Robinson

Wikinews held an exclusive interview with Jeremy Robinson, the bestselling American author

from Massachusetts who wrote the thrillers *The Didymus Contingency*, *Raising the Past* and *Antarktos Rising*.

Before deciding to take up the writing of fiction, Robinson was an artist and moviemaker. He says of his years before getting published, "I lived well under the poverty line.....so I could write."

Although his first book, *The Didymus Contingency*, was self-published, the following two were released through a small press. Recently, he signed a three book deal with St. Martin's Press, a major publisher. He said that he was "pretty excited" about this.

Robinson is currently at work on two other novels.

Interview

Wikinews: You've written three novels. Tell us about them.

Mr. Robinson: I've actually written six novels, three of which are published, and they're all very different from each other. Focusing on the three published books; my first novel *The Didymus Contingency* is a time travel thriller where the main characters go back in time, one of them to disprove the story of Jesus, the other to stop him. My second novel, *Raising the Past*, is a straight forward sci-fi, arctic thriller that launches into action when a team of scientists discovers an alien artifact clutched in the arms of a woman...whose frozen inside the belly of a preserved mammoth. The newest of the three published, and my favorite, is *Antarktos Rising*. This story starts off with a global catastrophe as the Earth's crust shifts moving the North Pole to North Dakota and Antarctica (Antarktos) to the equator. 2.6 billion people die in the first few chapters and the ravaged world

turns to Antarctica as a new promised land...but the continent has already been claimed by the Nephilim-bad guys straight out of the book of Genesis.

WN: What inspires you to write?

Mr. Robinson: I suppose I was born with an insatiable appetite for story telling. When I was younger I expressed this through art, and to an extent still do. I was an illustration major in college and began illustrating comics after college. But writing crept in and hooked me. It's a much satisfying way to flesh out a story and the world the characters live in-more than comics, more than movies (both of which I tried before making the final switch to novels). As far as day to day inspiration. I suppose I would say nature. The power and mysteriousness of it. Primarily the ocean. A day on the ocean can power a month of writing.

WN: What sets your books apart from the rest how are they different, unique?

Mr. Robinson: I would say my ability to tackle heavy, sometimes even controversial topics in a fun way. Didymus tackles the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Antarktos covers creationism vs. evolution, a genetic cause for Noah's flood and the account of the Nephilim in Genesis. But because I'm not writing with the intent of convert people to any idea, philosophy or religion (because I don't necessarily agree with the viewpoints of my characters-they're their own people) they don't read as being preachy or antagonistic. So I'm able to handle religious topics in mainstream thrillers that are otherwise relegated to Christian fiction-meaning they're written for Christians. I chose to write this way because I can handle topics

and concepts that are exciting while concentrating on making the pace breakneck, the plot twisting and the characters enjoyable. I don't get bogged down by trying to prove a personal point of view. In my upcoming series I do the same thing, but with mythology as opposed to Biblical topics...which leads to the next question.

WN: Will you be writing another novel soon?

Mr. Robinson: I am currently writing two novels (my seventh and eighth). The first, *ACHE*, deals with the subject of hell, but I'm keeping the story under wraps. Don't want to kill the surprise. The second novel I'm working on now, *ROUSE*, is the first book in a three book series that I've just signed on with St. Martins Press to write! This deal was actually just announced today, so I'm pretty excited. The series follows a team of Delta Force operatives known as the Chess Team: King, Queen, Knight, Rook, Bishop and their handler Deep Blue. In book one they battle a terrorist-friendly biopharmaceutical company working on human limb regeneration, whose experiments unleash the pinnacle of physical regeneration-the ancient creature known as the Hydra. This is James Rollins meets Matthew Reilly. Should be a ton of fun. The first book comes out Spring/Summer 2009.

WN: Is there any advice you can give some of the authors reading this who are struggling with their writing?

Mr. Robinson: There is a lot of stereotypical advice for this question. Some say write a page a day. Some say to have someone other than your mother critique your work. It's all good advice. But my experience has taught me that a ridiculous amount of

commitment can make big things happen. When I wrote my first fiction it was abysmal. Absolute garbage. That was ten years ago. Here's what I did in the past ten years to get to my St. Martin's deal. Wrote six novels. Wrote twenty-something short stories. Wrote thirteen screenplays. Interned at an agency. Self-published the first edition of *Didymus Contingency*. Went with a small press for the next two. Rewrote the majority of all the previous writing several times. That's really an insane amount of work, the majority of it not making me a dime. I lived well under the poverty line for years so I could write. The point is, do not expect to write a novel, sell and hit the NY Times bestseller list. It's more likely you'll spend the next ten years trying...and that's if you spend 30 - 40 hours a week on your writing like I have. Could take fifteen years. But if you want it. If you really want it and can't imagine doing anything, you'll enjoy the process...though perhaps not the Ramen Noodles. My only other advice is to become a master at marketing and self-promotion. Publishers are really looking for authors who know how to build an audience and kick start word-of-mouth.

H5N1 Avian Flu virus has mutated, study says

Researchers involved in a study at the University of Wisconsin have discovered that the H5N1 Avian Flu virus has mutated into a strain that may make humans more vulnerable to the disease.

Prior to the study, it was known that the virus could only thrive or live in a body which have temperatures of 106°F (41°C). A human's normal body temperature is 98.6°F (37°C). This difference in the temperatures of bodies makes

the virus less likely to infect a human, but the recent study suggests the virus has adapted to survive in bodies with temperatures lower than 106°F.

"We have identified a specific change that could make bird flu grow in the upper respiratory tract of humans," said Yoshihiro Kawaoka, the researcher in charge of the study.

Kawaoka also stated that the "viruses that are circulating in Africa and Europe are the ones closest to becoming a human virus," but also stated that the H5N1 virus must undergo several mutations before it can infect a human, who can then spread the virus to other humans.

"Clearly there are more mutations that are needed. We don't know how many mutations are needed for them to become pandemic strains," added Kawaoka.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that despite the study, influenza viruses are constantly mutating from season to season, but that the H5N1 virus is not anymore deadly to humans than before the study.

"Mutations occur in influenza viruses. Separately from that, the (bird flu) virus continues to be deadly. But there is no new jump in deadliness," said Gregory Hartl, a spokesman for the WHO.

Man breaches security at London's Heathrow Airport

At around 14:00 UTC today, a man climbed over the perimeter fence and made his way onto the North runway, 27R, at London's Heathrow Airport, the United Kingdom's largest airport. The man, who was carrying a rucksack, then attempted to run in

front of a plane on the runway, however it is believed that he was tackled to the ground by armed police before reaching the runway. He was then surrounded by police and around 20 emergency vehicles and explosive experts were called in to perform a controlled explosion on a rucksack. A Metropolitan Police spokeswoman told the press that "A man was arrested and is currently in custody." There have been no reported injuries, and nothing besides personal belongings were found in the rucksack.

Greenpeace and Plane Stupid have denied involvement with this latest security breach. It comes a day before the Queen is scheduled to open the new Heathrow Terminal 5 building, amid heightened security, which was said to be undergoing testing today, although it is not thought that this event was part of the official testing.

Slight delays were experienced as a result of the North runway being closed during the event, however it has now re-opened and the South runway remained open throughout the event.

The following statement was read by a BAA spokesperson on behalf of BAA Limited, which runs Heathrow: "Airport police swiftly apprehended a man near the northern runway of Heathrow this afternoon. The police arrested the man at about 2 p.m within the airport perimeter. The use of the northern runway was temporarily suspended while police dealt with the incident. The incident ended at about 15:50 when the northern runway came back into full use. The southern runway remained fully operational throughout the incident. Some short delays have occurred as a result, but we expect to return to normal later this

afternoon. Clearly this incident is a matter of some concern, and will be fully investigated in conjunction with the police."

On February 25, Greenpeace activists protesting against the planned third runway managed to access the runway and climb on top of a British Airways Airbus A320 which had just arrived from Manchester Airport. They unveiled a banner in protest of a new runway and were later arrested.

Atlas V successfully launches spy satellite

An Atlas V rocket has successfully launched a classified spy satellite for the United States National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). The satellite, currently known to the public as NRO L-28, or Launch 28, is believed by amateur enthusiasts to be a signals intelligence (SIGINT) spacecraft, known by the codename Trumpet. The Atlas V carrier rocket flew in the 411 configuration, with a 4 metre diameter fairing, one solid rocket motor, and a single-engine Centaur upper stage.

The rocket lifted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Space Launch Complex 3 East (SLC-3E), at 10:02 GMT (03:02 local time) this morning. Today's flight marks the thirteenth launch of the Atlas V, and the first Atlas V launch from Vandenberg. It is also the tenth orbital launch of 2008. The satellite entered a Molniya orbit, usually used by the NRO for SIGINT and communications satellites.

The launch was conducted by United Launch Alliance, a joint venture between Lockheed Martin, who designed and built the Atlas V, and Boeing, to provide EELV launches for the US Government. ULA president Michael Gass described the launch as "a proud

moment in our company's history". The launch had been delayed by two years, from early 2006, due to a number of factors.

In addition to its reconnaissance payload, the satellite is carrying two small experiments. SBIRS-HEO 2 and TWINS-B. SBIRS is a test article for a missile detection system, slated to launch late this year or early next, and TWINS is a NASA infrared astronomy experiment. They will remain attached to the satellite for the duration of its mission.

Following the separation of the payload fairing, around five minutes after launch, all information on the launch was withheld, however about an hour into the flight, the launch was confirmed to have been successful. ULA will conduct its next launch on Saturday, when a Delta II will orbit a GPS satellite. The next Atlas launch is scheduled for mid-April, with the ICO G1 communication satellite.

Couple assaulted, one killed in 'goth clothing' prompted attack

A case is currently being tried in England over the alleged assault of a 'Goth' couple, resulting in the death of the female victim. A fifteen-year-old youth, who was one of a gang of five, is charged with having kicked and stamped the 20-year-old woman to death in Stubby Lee Park, Bacup, Rossendale in Lancashire on the 11 August 2007.

The couple; Robert Maltby, an art student, 21 and Sophie Lancaster, 20; became engaged in an initially civil conversation with the drunken gang while walking in the park.

The attack began with a kick to the head of the male victim by the accused 15-year-old. the gang

then continued to kick and stamp on Robert Maltby while laughing and encouraging each other. As Miss Lancaster begged the gang to stop beating her boyfriend they turned on her.

Miss Lancaster sustained such extensive injuries that on the arrival of the paramedics they were unable to determine her gender. The couple were taken to hospital where both victims fell in to comas. Robert Maltby regained consciousness and survived his injuries but Sophie Lancaster died two weeks later.

The youth denies the charge but admits to causing grievous bodily harm with intent. Three other youths, two aged seventeen and one sixteen have been remanded in custody by Judge Anthony Russell QC after admitting to playing a part in the attack. They will face sentencing after the trial of the fifteen-year-old.

2008 Tour de Taiwan Stage 4: Intensive circulation at Taichung City

The Taichung City Stage of Tour de Taiwan 2008, approved by several executives since the first time set up in the Taichung Intercontinental Baseball Stadium last year, raced today around the Wen-shin Forest Park near Shiang-shang Road, Wen-shin Road, Da-duen 7th Street, and He-nan Road Sec. 4.

"We [the Taichung city Government] hope it become the international city because our city [Taichung] was approved as the most sportive city by Sports Affairs Council of Executive Yuan, this symbolized the city as a 3-in-1 city with sports, shine, and health. If some international games (sporting competition) can be held in this city, it will bring on the prosperity of sporting population

and achieve the target of "A city with Culture, Economy, and International". —Chia-chi Hsiao, Deputy Mayor of Taichung City.

It's a short-term circulation, however. But due to a few differences on land ranges, not every cyclist can keep the leading in a long-period. Finally, the "main group" with 90 participated cyclists passed the finish line, but Krzysztof Jezowski from Merida Europe narrowly touched the finish line first to win the stage champion.

After the race, Wikinews Reporter Rico Shen briefly questioned Jezowski about next 4 stages in Tour de Taiwan, he commented that he and his teammate will do several attempts to win the stage champions in next 4 stages to repay on anticipations by some cycling fans.

Australian Senator arrives at Parliament dressed as a beer bottle

Family First Senator Steve Fielding arrived at Parliament today, dressed as a beer bottle to raise awareness of a bill he intends to move in the Senate today. Senator Fielding will introduce a bill to establish a nationwide refund scheme for bottles and cans.

A similar scheme has operated in South Australia since 1977.

Family First wants a rebate of 10 cents per container, while the Australian Greens want 20 cents.

Speaking to reporters outside parliament dressed as a beer bottle, the Senator said the legislation would reduce litter by 25 per cent. "There's a message in this bottle."

"I am no longer trash, I'm cash."

"We should get the litter off the streets and off the creeks and into recycling - that's good for the environment and good for the community"

"It's a win-win and I can't understand why nationally we don't have a scheme," said Senator Fielding.

Senator Fielding said that recycling not only reduced litter, but also consumes less energy than making new containers from scratch. "Recycling a plastic bottle saves more than 80 per cent of the energy used to make a bottle from scratch and recycling aluminium cans uses just five per cent of the energy used making a can from scratch," said the Senator.

Senator Bob Brown, leader of the Greens said while there were environmental benefits from recycling, it would also create thousands of new jobs.

"This is a very good way of recycling and reducing energy because a lot of energy goes into making cans and bottles," Senator Brown told reporters.

"It will employ tens of thousands of people across Australia."

Assisted-suicide doctor Jack Kevorkian to run for US Congress

Dr. Jack Kevorkian, a prominent United States advocate for the right-to-die for terminally ill patients via physician-assisted suicide, stated on Wednesday that he intends to run for a seat in the United States House of Representatives.

"We need some honesty and sincerity instead of corrupt government in Washington," Dr.

Kevorkian said while announcing his bid to represent Michigan's 9th congressional district. He said more information about his candidacy would be forthcoming next week, but he will run without party affiliation.

This seat is currently held by Congressman Joe Knollenberg, a Republican who has been the incumbent since 1993. Democrat and former state senator Gary Peters is also contesting the seat.

Kevorkian told The Oakland Press of Pontiac, which broke the story, that his campaign was in a "formative stage". In order to be on the ballot, Kevorkian will need to collect 3,000 signatures by the middle of July.

"That will be very easy for Jack," said Ruth Holmes, a long-standing associate of Kevorkian. "Jack is in great spirits, and he intends to do this. He just hopes for some honesty in government," she said.

Mike Brownfield, the campaign manager for Knollenberg said it "doesn't affect Joe Knollenberg at all. He's going to keep getting things done for Oakland County's families."

Julie Petrick, spokesperson for the Peters campaign, said "anybody has the right to run" but this is "one of the top races in the country as far as viability and our ability to win here."

Oakland County prosecutor Dave Gorceyca, whose office got Kevorkian convicted of second-degree homicide in 1999, said, "To call attention to himself is standard protocol for Jack when he doesn't have the limelight focused on him. I would not consider his candidacy to be a legitimate one."

Kevorkian served eight years of a 10-to-25 year prison sentence. He was released in June of 2007 on parole due to good behavior.

Australian health workers to close intensive care units in Victoria next week

Members of Australia's Health Services Union (HSU) will go on strike in Victoria next week in a dispute over stalled wage and career structure negotiations. Over 5000 physiotherapists, speech pathologists and radiation therapists will walk off the job next week, effectively closing the state's 68 largest health services.

The strike will force the closure of intensive care units and emergency departments across the state.

It is feared the strike could continue into Easter.

National secretary of the HSU, Kathy Jackson said admissions would be crippled, while intensive care patients would have to be evacuated to New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia as hospitals will not be able to perform tests or administer treatment.

"When an ambulance shows up you can't admit a patient without an X-ray being available, you can't intubate them and you can't operate on them," she said.

"If something goes wrong in an ICU you need to be able to X-ray, use nuclear medicine or any diagnostic procedure," said Ms Jackson.

Ms Jackson said the HSU offered arbitration last year, but the state government refused. "They're not interested in settling disputes, they hope that we are just going

to go away."

"We're not going away, we've gone back and balloted the whole public health workforce in Victoria, those ballots were successful, 97 percent approval rating," she said.

The HSU is urging the government to commence serious negotiations to resolve the dispute before industrial action commenced.

The government has offered the union a 3.25 per cent pay increase, in line with other public sector workers but the union has demanded more, but stopped short of specifying a figure.

Victorian Premier John Brumby said the claim would be settled according to the government's wages policy. "The Government is always willing and wanting to sit down and negotiate with the relevant organisations . . . we have a wages policy based around an increase of 3.25 per cent and, above that, productivity offset," he told parliament.

The union claims it is also arguing against a lack of career structure, which has caused many professionals to leave the health service. Ms Jackson said wages and career structures in Victoria were behind other states.

Victorian Opposition Leader Ted Baillieu said he was not in support of the proposed strike and called on the government to meet with unions. "There could not be a more serious threat to our health system than has been announced today."

"We now have to do whatever is possible to stop this strike from proceeding," he said.

The opposition leader will meet

with the union at 11:30 AM today.

Victorian Hospitals Industry Association industrial relations services manager Simon Chant said hospitals were looking at the possible impact and warned that patients may have to be evacuated interstate if the strike goes ahead.

Jimmy Wales accused of editing for donations

Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales has been accused of editing pages in the encyclopedia in return for a donation to the Wikimedia Foundation. In an article published Tuesday, the Sydney Morning Herald reported that former Novell computer scientist Jeff Merkey alleged Wales had made edits to his article on his behalf, in exchange for a donation to the Wikimedia Foundation. The news hit the website Slashdot later Tuesday, where the incident was dubbed "DonorGate".

Merkey claims that he was told by Wales in 2006 that the Wikipedia article about him could be made more favorable in exchange for a donation. Merkey made a donation of USD\$5,000 to the Wikimedia Foundation, and Wales made edits to the Wikipedia article about Merkey around the same time. Merkey published his claims on a public Wikimedia mailing list and sent a statement to The Associated Press.

"Of course I would never offer, nor accept any offer, whereby a donation would buy someone special editorial treatment in the encyclopedia." —Jimmy Wales

In a response Wales called Merkey's statements "nonsense", saying "Of course I would never offer, nor accept any offer, whereby a donation would buy someone special editorial

treatment in the encyclopedia. I do routinely assist people with WP:BLP issues, and I do courtesies for many people. Donations have no bearing on that at all." WP:BLP refers to Wikipedia's policy regarding biographies of living persons on the encyclopedia.

After deleting the Wikipedia article about Merkey in 2006, Wales wrote to Wikipedia editors he had done so "because of the unpleasantness of it" and requested that they "be extra careful here to be courteous and assume good faith". After erasing the article, Wales placed the article under protection with editing access limited to established users. Merkey ceased his \$5,000.00 per year payments to the Wikimedia Foundation after reviewing what he called "evidence of diversion and mismanagement of the charities funds by Wales and the Wikimedia Board of Trustees".

"The Wikimedia Foundation, its staff and board members, and the users of Wikipedia itself hold the core principles of 'no conflict of interest' in the highest regard."
—Jay Walsh, Wikimedia Foundation

In a statement responding to a post about the incident on the site Techtree.com, Wikimedia Foundation's Head of Communications Jay Walsh addressed the Foundation's principles regarding conflict of interest: "The Wikimedia Foundation (the Foundation which operates and maintains Wikipedia and other free knowledge projects) has never solicited or accepted donations for the purposes of making edits or offering protection to Wikipedia articles. Nor has Jimmy Wales ever solicited or accepted donations for the Foundation in this capacity. These

allegations are completely false. ... Jimmy has been unfailingly ethical and frugal in the use of all Foundation funds. The Wikimedia Foundation, its staff and board members, and the users of Wikipedia itself hold the core principles of 'no conflict of interest' in the highest regard."

After leaving Novell amidst allegations of misappropriation of trade secrets, Merkey was sued by his former employer. He filed a harassment lawsuit against organizations including the website Slashdot in 2005. Merkey filed a suit against Delta Air Lines and Natural Selection Foods in 2006, claiming his son had become sick from E. coli contaminated spinach.

Merkey is banned from editing Wikipedia due to a ruling by Wikipedia's Arbitration Committee. The Wikipedia Signpost, Wikipedia's community-written and community-edited newspaper, reported that a Wikipedia user account used by Merkey was blocked in October 2005 for "Personal attacks, legal threats, harassment, disruption". Merkey was later allowed to come back to edit Wikipedia in May 2007 under a different account. As the result of a ruling by Wikipedia's Arbitration Committee in a July 2007 arbitration case, Merkey and two users who had harassed him on Wikipedia were banned from editing the encyclopedia for one year.

Last week Jimmy Wales faced accusations by former Wikimedia Foundation executive Danny Wool that he misused the non-profit organization's funds, and attempted to expense a visit to a Moscow massage parlor and high-priced bottles of wine. In an interview with CNET TV, Wikimedia Foundation Executive Director Sue

Gardner described Wool as "a disgruntled former employee" and called his claims "a whole bunch of unsubstantiated rumors and gossip". Wales's former girlfriend, journalist Rachel Marsden, recently leaked purported instant message transcripts with Wales, which implied Wales had used his influence to change the article about Marsden on Wikipedia. Wales ended his relationship with Marsden and made a public statement to that effect on Wikipedia, and in response Marsden opened an auction for some of Wales's clothing on eBay.

National Hockey League news

There were 6 games played in the National Hockey League on March 12, 2008.

Game summaries

Buffalo Sabres @ Pittsburgh Penguins

Tyler Kennedy put the Penguins ahead 3:30 into the first period. In the second period, Pittsburgh scored twice, first when Jeff Taffe scored his 5th of the season, then when Sergei Gonchar scored on a power play in the closing minutes of the period. In the third period, the Penguins got off to an early start when Petr Sykora scored a power play goal less than a minute into the period. Jochen Hecht put the Sabres on the board with his 18th of the season. Daniel Paille scored a short handed goal for Buffalo, bringing them within 2. Evgeni Malkin scored a power play goal for the penguins 8:56 into the third period. Just past the halfway point of the third, Chris Minard put the Penguins up by 4. The Sabres answered back 46 seconds later with Paille's second goal of the night. Kristopher Letang added a goal for Pittsburgh a few minutes later.

New York Islanders @ Florida Panthers

Bill Guerin broke a scoreless tie 28 seconds into the second period, giving the Islanders the only lead they would have for the game. Florida answered back less than a minute later, when Kamil Kreps scored to tie the game. Just over a minute into the third period, Stephen Weiss put the Panthers in the lead with his 12th goal of the season. Blake Comeau tied the score for the Islanders on a New York power play. Just 1:04 later, Karlis Skrastins scored an unassisted goal, retaking the lead for the Panthers. Brett McLean scored an empty net goal in the closing minute of the game, securing the victory for Florida. The Panthers have now won 5 straight, while the Islanders drop their 4th straight, and their 8th in 10 games.

Carolina Hurricanes @ Chicago Blackhawks

Erik Cole scored first in Carolina's three-goal first period. He scored a power play goal 8:57 into the period, assisted by Sergei Samsonov and Eric Staal. Matt Cullen was assisted by Staal in his 13th goal of the season just past the halfway point of the period. Staal scored a goal of his own with 7:15 left in the first, his third point of the night. Cam Ward made 25 saves for the Hurricanes. That's shutout number 4 on the season and 6 of his career for Ward, who is in his third season. It was also his fiftieth career win.

Toronto Maple Leafs @ Philadelphia Flyers

Ian White scored first for Toronto, giving them a 1-0 lead 3:55 into the game. Later in the first period, Pittsburgh tied the score when Jeff Carter scored an unassisted goal. The Maple Leafs retook the lead under 12 minutes into the period,

when Alexei Ponikarovsky scored his 16th of the season. Mike Knuble tied the score with a power play just over halfway through the second period, which was his 26th goal of the season. Toronto went back on top early in the third, Pavel Kubina's power play goal made it 3-2, which is how the score remained through the rest of the game. Vesa Toskala made 18 saves on 20 shots, and picked up his 29th win of the season.

Calgary Flames @ Washington Capitals

Washington struck first; Viktor Kozlov scored just 53 seconds into the game. Jarome Iginla tied the score with a power play goal with 45 seconds left in the opening period. Kristian Huselius gave the Flames their first lead of the game 8:57 into the second. The Capitals tied it up late in the period, when Alex Ovechkin scored his first of 2 power play goals on the night. He would score his second late in the third period, which would prove to be the game winner. Mike Green also earned assists on both Ovechkin goals. Olaf Kolzig made 24 saves on the night, earning his 24th win of the season. Washington has 11 games left on the regular season schedule, and Ovechkin, who now has 56 goals on the season, is on track to pick up his 60th before the season ends.

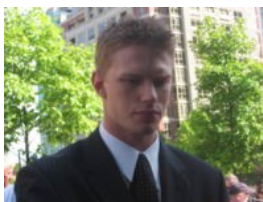
Vancouver Canucks @ Anaheim Ducks

Todd Marchant put the Ducks on the scoreboard first, his 8th of the season made it 1-0 just past the halfway point of the first period. Travis Moen scored a shorthanded goal to put the Ducks up by 2 a few minutes later. Rob Niedermayer scored to put Anaheim ahead by 3 in the first period, but Vancouver would get one just after that; Mason

Raymond put the Canucks on the board going into the first intermission. In the second period, Doug Weight scored a power play goal at 4:03, putting the Ducks back up by 3. Jonas Hiller made the start for Anaheim, picked up his 7th win of the season, and also assisted on the first goal of the game. Marchant assisted on the Moen shorthanded goal, making this his first multi-point game of the season.

Player of the Day

Today's Player of the Day is Eric



*Credit: Arnold C
(User: Buchanan-Hermit)*

Staal of the Carolina Hurricanes. Staal had 3 points on 2 assists and a goal. He assisted on the game winning goal, the first goal of the game, and scored the final goal of the game in Carolina's 3-0 shutout win over the Chicago Blackhawks.

Today in History

1590 – French Wars of Religion: Henry of Navarre and the Huguenots defeated the forces of the Catholic League under the Duc de Mayenne at the Battle of Ivry in Ivry, France.

1757 – British Royal Navy Admiral John Byng was court-martialled and executed by firing squad for breaching the Articles of War when he failed to "do his utmost" during the Battle of Minorca at the start of the Seven Years' War.

1794 – American inventor Eli Whitney patented the cotton gin.
1978 – Israeli-Lebanese conflict: The Israel Defense Forces began Operation Litani, invading and occupying southern Lebanon, and pushing Palestine Liberation Organization troops north up to the Litani River.

1991 – The "Birmingham Six", wrongly convicted of the 1974

Birmingham pub bombings in Birmingham, England, were released after sixteen years in prison.

March 14 is New Year's Day in the Sikh Nanakshahi calendar, White Day in Japan, Pi Day.

Quote of the Day

Today we must abandon competition and secure cooperation. This must be the central fact in all our considerations of international affairs; otherwise we face certain disaster. Past thinking and methods did not prevent world wars. Future thinking must prevent wars ... The stakes are immense, the task colossal, the time is short. But we may hope — we must hope — that man's own creation, man's own genius, will not destroy him. ~ Albert Einstein

Word of the Day

scoff v

1. To jeer; laugh at with contempt and derision.
2. (South Africa) To eat.

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