



WIKINEWS

PRINT EDITION

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Top Stories

Bush calls for US offshore oil exploration

US President Bush has called for offshore oil exploration, something that has long been prohibited. Democrats and environmentalists object.

Over 50 dead after Iraq bombing

According to local police, a bombing in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad killed 51 people on Tuesday. The car bomb exploded near a bus stop in the Hurriya area, which is mainly populated with Shia Muslims. 75 people were also wounded by the attack.

Boston Celtics win 17th NBA championship

After 22 years of waiting, the Boston Celtics have won their 17th National Basketball Association championship, adding to the 16 that already hang from the rafters of the TD Banknorth Garden and before that, the old Boston Garden.

Mozilla sets record for most software downloads in 24 hours

Mozilla's new browser Firefox 3.0 has been downloaded over 8 million times in 24 hours. The Mozilla Foundation has encouraged users worldwide to download their latest browser in an attempt to enter the Guinness Book of World Records, with what is referred to as Download Day 2008. The target of five million downloads was reached long

Top Stories

before the 24 hour period was over.

Wikipedia Current Events

The Parliament of the UK ratifies the Treaty of Lisbon.

- The United States and China agree to negotiate an investment treaty and to cooperate more closely on energy security and global pollution.
- The European Parliament passes legislation to allow undocumented aliens to be held in detention centres for up to 18 months and banned from European Union territory for five years.
- Mexico reaches an agreement with industry groups to fix the prices of 150 food items as a result of accelerating inflation.
- Sudan and former southern rebels start deploying joint forces in the troubled Abyei region as part of an agreement.
- Russian prosecutors charge three men in the murder of journalist Anna Politkovskaya.
- China and Japan agree to joint development of the Chunxiao gas field in a disputed area of the East China Sea.
- Relatives of Srebrenica massacre victims open a case in a Dutch court against the United Nations and the Netherlands for the failure of the Dutchbat force to prevent the killings.
- The Gujjar community of the

Wikipedia Current Events

Indian state of Rajasthan achieves a compromise recognition as a special category of Other Backward Class in the state's affirmative action program, comparable to the status of Banjaras and Rabaris.

•American golfer Tiger Woods will miss the rest of the golf season to have additional surgery on his left knee.

Blue Coat and AT&T take parts of FOSI for Internet Security

Recently in Sunnyvale, CA, Blue Coat Systems and AT&T are confirmed to join the Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI), an international non-profit organization dedicated to identifying and promoting best practices, tools and methods for online safety.

"A safety online experience should be established. Kids often spend most time on Internet surfing, but [their] parents often ignored critical awareness on risks of the Internet. To decrease risks, we encourages parents to notice on children's Internet activity and educate them about the risks they face online to protect themselves."
—Brent Olson, Assistant Vice President of Public Policy of AT&T.

Apart from AT&T, Blue Coat recently announced "K9 Web Protection" software and promoted "Community Outreach Program" for parents to strengthen Internet security on kids. In addition, Laurie Coffin, Director of Marketing

Communications at Blue Coat, was confirmed to join FOSI's board of directors to assist in governing FOSI's strategic direction and initiatives.

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The 24 hour download session ended at 18:16 UTC on June 18th, one hour later than the original time of 17:00. This delay is due to technical problems which included the servers being overwhelmed. For a while after the specified launch time, the Firefox website linked to a download for Firefox 2.

Over 2.88 million of the downloads were from the European Union, 2.56 million from the United States, while only two of the downloads were from Chad, and one from the Falkland Islands. North Korea, Svalbard and Jan Mayen, Guinea-bissau, Western Sahara, Comoros, Solomon Islands, Central African Republic, Liberia and French Guiana all had no downloads.

The unofficial, unaudited final number of downloads during the 24 hour marathon was 8,320,331. This figure still needs to be checked by the Guinness Book of Records for validity.

If the unofficial figure is accurate, almost 100 copies of the

application were downloaded every second.

John Lilly, the CEO of Mozilla commented on the release of Firefox 3. "We're really proud of Firefox 3 and it just shows what a committed, energized global community can do when they work together," he said.

Boston Celtics win 17th NBA championship

Los Angeles Lakers
92 131 Boston Celtics

After 22 years of waiting, the Boston Celtics have won their 17th National Basketball Association championship, adding to the 16 that already hang from the rafters of the TD Banknorth Garden and before that, the old Boston Garden.

The Celtics won the game 131 to 92 and won the series with 4 wins over their old rivals, the Los Angeles Lakers' 2. The game was highlighted by Ray Allen's seven 3-pointers, tying the NBA Finals single game record, as well as the Celtics 18 steals, easily a single game record also. Paul Pierce has been chosen series MVP.

The season is noted for the biggest single-season turnaround in NBA history as the last Celtics season was considered to be one of the worst in franchise history.

Residents fear environmental hazard on site of partially collapsed building in Buffalo, New York

Buffalo, New York – Residents in Buffalo, New York fear that demolishing a nearly 200-year-old livery and stable which partially collapsed on Wednesday June 11, could cause an environmental hazard.

Wikinews has learned that according property records with the city, the stable was converted into a gasoline station and auto repair shop in 1950, and is designated as a body shop. During that time at least four fuel storage tanks were installed on the property. Two are listed as 550 square feet while the other two are 2,000 square feet. All of the tanks are designated as a TK4, which New York State says is used for "below ground horizontal bulk fuel storage." The cost of installing a tank of that nature according to the state, at that time, included the tank itself, "excavation and backfill," but did not include "the piping, ballast, or hold-down slab orring."

Property reports give the tanks a 'construction code' of a "C - Average", meaning the tanks were not designed to last for a significant period of time. That rating has residents concerned that the tanks could pose an environmental hazard if they are not properly taken care of.

Wikinews has not been able to determine if the tanks have been removed or if they were emptied when the gas station closed sometime in the 1980's. Wikinews has also contacted the city of Buffalo for a comment regarding the tanks, but has yet to receive a response.

The building was scheduled for emergency demolition on Thursday June 12, but was stopped by police after residents raised concerns for the safety of those living around the building. According to New York law, since the city ordered the demolition, they are required to perform an 'Environmental Impact Assessment' or SEQR when a project or demolition has the possibility of posing an

environmental hazard.

According to New York law, a SEQR should be performed "to incorporate the consideration of environmental factors into the existing planning, review and decision-making processes of state, regional and local government agencies at the earliest possible time. To accomplish this goal, SEQR requires that all agencies determine whether the actions they directly undertake, fund or approve may have a significant impact on the environment, and, if it is determined that the action may have a significant adverse impact, prepare or request an environmental impact statement."

The law states, "SEQR requires the sponsoring or approving governmental body to identify and mitigate the significant environmental impacts of the activity it is proposing or permitting." It also states that it is the duty of the governmental body in charge of a project to enforce the laws of the SEQR. It also states that agencies must give "appropriate weight with social and economic considerations" when undergoing major projects.

The law also allows citizens to enforce the regulation stating, "citizens or groups who can demonstrate that they may be harmed by this failure [SEQR], may take legal action against the agency" or governmental body behind such a project. The court system in New York has been known to "consistently" rule in favor of plaintiffs who file lawsuits against agencies who do not perform a SEQR. Residents won a restraining order to stop demolition after State Supreme Court Justice Judge John. F. O'Donnell signed a temporary

injunction. Residents are concerned demolition crews moved too fast, and are not doing enough to protect them and their surrounding properties. They are also concerned that the city did not consider all the options or risks before ordering the building to be demolished.

On June 15, Judge Jerome C. Gorski ruled that the city can resume demolition, but "on a limited basis" only to remove fallen rubble that landed on properties, and to remove any loose bricks or material from the building, but not below its truss line. Because of the risk of further collapse, the workers are ordered "to use only hand tools." to remove the loose material and debris. Residents are attempting to save portions of the building's side walls and its facade. The demolition crew began to remove some materials, as ordered by the court on Tuesday, June 17.

Judge Gorski also ordered that the plaintiffs present their case in front of the State's Supreme Court in Rochester. The hearing took place on Monday morning on June 16 at 10:00 a.m. (eastern time), and the case is currently "being discussed," said an anonymous source close to the lawsuit to Wikinews.

Bob Freudenheim is the building's owner who has housing violations against him for neglecting the building. Residents state that Freudenheim should be "100% responsible" for his actions, and many are afraid that once the building is demolished, Freudenheim's charges of neglect will be abolished. According to WGRZ Channel 2 News, in the past three months, Freudenheim has received at least five housing code violations from the city. WGRZ

states that the orders, which they obtained, were to fix the building "to a safe condition."

Freudenheim gave the city permission to demolish the building on Thursday June 12 during an emergency Preservation Board meeting, because he would not be "rehabilitating the building anytime soon." Freudenheim, along with his wife Nina, were part-owners of the Hotel Lenox at 140 North Street in Buffalo and were advocates to stop the Elmwood Village Hotel from being built on the corners of Forest and Elmwood Avenues in 2006 and 2007, which Wikinews extensively covered. They also financially supported a lawsuit in an attempt to stop the hotel from being built. Though it is not known exactly how long Freudenheim has owned the stable, Wikinews has learned that he was the owner while fighting to stop the hotel from being built.

Freudenheim has not released a statement, and Wikinews has not been able to contact him regarding the issue.

Wikinews interviews Finnish 'Rock 'N' Troll' band Kivimetsän Druidi

Kivimetsän Druidi is a Finnish female-fronted band formed in 2002 whose music is a fusion of symphonic, fantasy and folk metal, which the band's website dubs 'Rock 'N' Troll'.

Brothers Joni and Antti Koskinen formed the band in Kouvola with Joni playing guitar and growling while Antti played keyboard and sings backing vocals. They joined up with a female lead vocalist, lead and bass guitarists and a drummer. The brothers write the songs between them, with Antti doing the main body and Joni

writing the lyrics.

Together the band recorded and released three demos and an EP, all released independently, across 2002-6. Across October and November 2007 they gained international attention by supporting well-known Finnish folk metal band Korpiklaani across a large European tour.

On June 6 this year Kivimetsän Druidi was announced to have been signed to Century Media Records in a global deal. The band have now entered Noice Camp studio in Turku to record their debut, with a planned release date in October. This summer the only performances will be at a handful of festivals while the band works on their new album, but after that is released a major tour will follow to support it. The band say they are "extremely pleased" with the deal.

Wikinews was able to discuss these events and what the future holds for the band with the Koskinen brothers and female vocalist Leeni-Maria Hovila, who also writes the vocal melodies in an exclusive interview, which is published below for the first time.

Interview

Antti and Joni Koskinen

What drove you to form up the band?

Joni: We had been playing music something like one year before we came up with the idea to start doing fantasy metal. Moonsorrow's second album "Voimasta ja Kunniasta" ("Of Strength and Honour") was the one we were heavily listening that time and we wanted to play something similar to them. At first it was just a two-man-project of ours, but soon we got opportunity to take part in to local band contest and we decided

to form a real band.

Antti: We were jamming with my brother Joni in our parents garage and played some folkish stuff after getting inspired on Moonsorrow's album "Voimasta ja Kunniasta". Then we accidentally composed main idea of our first song "Viimeinen Peikkokuningas" (The Last Trollking).

We made more songs and after a few months there came an opportunity take part of local garagebandcontest. We wanted to join in, but didn't have enough members, so we called to some of our friends and that's when it all started.

The name, Kivimetsän Druidi, how did you decide upon that?

Joni: Heh, you could say that it's quite unusual name for a metal band. Back then when we made our first song and downloaded it to the Finnish mp3-site we needed a name for our project. I was in sort of a hurry and Antti asked me what he should put there. I was writing a fantasy novel at that time and this, even a bit silly name just popped out in my head. We decided to change it afterwards, but... eh... here we are. ☺ In English "Kivimetsän Druidi" would mean "Druid of the Stoneforest." Antti: After composing and recording the first song we decided to upload it to mikseri.net (Finnish site where people can upload their own songs) and we, of course, needed name for the project. Joni just shouted "Kivimetsän Druidi" (The Druid of The Stoneforest) as a joke. I laughed and added it. We were supposed to change it later, but here we are.

What sort of things do you sing about?

Joni: The lyrics of our first songs are stories from the imaginary fantasy world I created for the novel back then, but as our music has "evolved" so has our lyrics.

The most recent songs are about

battles, honour and one's final faith. I've still tried to keep the fantasy aspect in those lyrics, though.

With music sung mainly in Finnish, do you worry that some international fans may be put off?

Joni: I think it doesn't really matter at all that we sing mainly in Finnish. Nowadays there's more and more bands that choose to sing with their native language instead of English and it seems that many of those bands are getting more and more popular. Finnish is quite mystical and fascinating language, so I guess some foreign people like it even more that we sing in Finnish. We are proud that we are granted this opportunity to make our language more known outside Finland.

Antti: No, not at all. We have noticed that international fans, especially in Central Europe really enjoy Finnish language. They have said that it sounds really atmospheric and reminds them of Tolkiens elf-language. So it's not any problem at all, I think!

Will there be more music with lyrics in English or another language in light of your new worldwide deal, or are you sticking to your native language?

Joni: I think we'll keep Finnish as our main language, but there will be more songs in English in the future. I'd say maybe seven out of ten songs will have lyrics in Finnish and the rest would be in English then. It really depends pretty much of my mood. If I feel like writing in English I write in English and vice versa. Sometimes there's periods when the poetrical river for Finnish is all dry and I'm forced to write the lyrics in English, hah hah. I think that was the main reason I wrote the first English lyrics. ☺

Antti: In the future we will make songs both in English and Finnish.

Folk metal has exploded in popularity over the last decade, with Turisas, Finntroll and Korpiklaani among others rising to prominence. What do you have to offer that other bands don't?

Joni: The most visible difference compared to these bands you mentioned is that we have a female singer. Then what makes us different compared to all these female fronted metal bands which are quite many as well these days?

Well, we are heavy and will be even more heavier in the future. We are not in to this pop-metal thing and we like to keep our music as heavy as possible. Back in to your original question, we play fantasy metal, in which we combine different styles of metal into a mix that's never heard before. Sure, some of our songs may sound like something that's made already, but you can find such songs from every band. We combine black and thrash metal with folk and celtic melodies and spice it all up with epic and symphonic atmosphere. Then we add beautiful female vocals, destructive growls and mystical Finnish language. There you have a genre called Kivimetsän Druidi.

Antti: Well these bands have each quite straight own style and line what they do, but we like to include many different things in our music, but still keep the folk thing in it. For example mixing blackmetal riffs, blastbeat and banjo is not a problem for us.. :) That's why we call our music fantasymetal. We also have a classically trained female singer in the band.

Speaking of Korpiklaani, you did a major tour with them recently. What was that like as an experience?

Joni: It was an amazing experience and we can't thank Klaani guys enough for granting that opportunity for us. It was

indispensable possibility to see what's it like out there on the "big fields." I can honestly say that it made us grow up as a band and we saw that people really like what we are doing. There was not one gig where people didn't welcome us warmly.

Antti: It was totally awesome. It was really a dream come true! 100% best moments of my life! We all got really much experience and progressed as musicians. Will there be international re-releases of your previous independant stuff? Would you like to see that?

Joni: Haven't thought about that really yet, but now that I think of it I'm not so sure if that's a good idea. Sure, some fans would love to get their hands on our earlier stuff, but... I think I'd like those recordings to remain as our past and there's no need to re-release them.

Antti: In my opinion they will stay as they are. Demos and eps! The future collectors' treasures!

Will the new album be all new material, or will there be some of your previous stuff there as well?

Joni: As you might have noticed we went into studio in the beginning of June. That is the main reason why there will be quite many of our previous songs on the album, but also some new material. Personally I prefer it that way because writing seven new songs in one month wouldn't give out the picture what we really are at the moment.

Antti: There will be new material, of course and also some old songs! What can we expect from the new album?

Joni: As mentioned before you can expect some new stuff and some old stuff. All of them are – of course – rerecorded and sang by our new vocalist, Leeni-Maria. Some songs are a bit modified too, but if you're an old fan you can

expect the album sound the Kivimetsän Druidi you know. For new fans and listeners then: Well, I think I described our music earlier already, but mention something here, there will be crushing riffs, beautiful and melodical paths, something darker than night and of course lots of fun.

Antti: Three words: Symphonic, brutal and folkish.

A common complaint is about illegal downloading "killing" the indutry. What's your opinion on that?

Joni: I don't think that way at all. Those people who download a lot, would they buy a CD if they couldn't download it? I think they wouldn't. It's one way of making the band popular and known to more people. We trust that true fans, who really like the music, will buy the CD even if they've first downloaded it.

Antti: It's two sided thing. Many people download perhaps one album from the band illegally first. Listens it trough and gets exited. Then they buy the original album and tell their friends about it and they may do the same thing. Then there are people who download all their music and never buy albums from the stores. So I wouldn't immediately say that it kills industry because there are millions of people who want their music with original cd and booklets. What advice would you give to anyone looking to get into the music industry?

Joni: Always remember to believe in yourself and what you're doing. If you don't have faith in yourself, no one will notice you. Keep going after set backs and stay true to your chosen style as long as it feels good for yourself. Use all the possible opportunities you're given and seek out the ways to make the band known to many. Oh, and always remember to have fun. ☺

Antti: Just do the thing you do and believe in and do not rush with it! Patience will be rewarded. Listen to advices, but don't be blind! Who are your influences as an artist?

Joni: As for the many others of my age Metallica was the kick that I needed to start playing guitar. Since then I've adored Hetfield and I guess you could say he's my idol. For my music writing then, I guess the music of the bands like Metallica, Slayer, Megadeth, Iron Maiden, Ensiferum, Moonsorrow, Turisas and Finntroll have huge affect on it.

Antti: Music of Moonsorrow, Ensiferum and Finntroll. That's my top 3. But I also listen to, for example, instrumental Celtic music.

Is there anything else you'd like to say to any fans reading this now?

Joni: Visit our website and our MySpace. We hope to see you all at gigs soon and always remember to Rock 'n' Troll!! Cheers!

Antti: When you'll hear our debut album your ears will drop!! We love ya!!

Leeni-Maria Hovila

You recently came to the band from Exsecratus in March. What was it like, entering a new, established band?

Leeni-Maria: This band works quite smoothly so there were not much practical matters but I was terrified they might not accept me. You've also sung for Swallow the Sun on the album "Hope". What was it like working with such a major band?

Leeni-Maria: I was thrilled of the chance, since I already was a fan when they contacted me. Other than that, it was like any other studio session, making up harmonies as we go, cursing Aleksis's little surprises in the keyboard tracks.

Why did you want to join

Kivimetsän Druidi?

Leeni-Maria: I am easy to arouse. :-D To tell you the truth, since first song ever that I heard was "Blacksmith" from the Myspace- site, I was slightly put off by the intro. My reaction might have been something along the line "oh dear, not this shit". But I was turned around as soon as the first verse. Also the guys impressed me much as devoted and sharp players who know their stuff well.

Is it difficult being the only woman in a men's band?

Leeni-Maria: Nnope. Being in a band is quite the same heaven and hell be there other women or not - thus have I seen with Exsecratus. It is all up to whether the people involved are mature individuals or not.

Although sometimes it feels as if some guys were a little shy of me- hope he doesn't mind me telling this, but our manager of affairs of Europe (didn't that sound cool!) almost swallowed his tongue when he happened to walk to the backstage in Leipzig while I was changing - I don't expect to get privacy and I don't need it, au contraire, I do need someone with keen fingers to do the lacing (though I wish the guys could make knots that can be opened as well).

So, no, it's not difficult for me. It seems difficult for other people. Female fronted metal bands have become very popular, but it's still a fairly new thing with folk metal. Do you think that's set to change?

Leeni-Maria: I think it is inevitable that it will. What would you say to convince someone unfamiliar with the band to buy your music?

Leeni-Maria: If you enjoy the genre, this is definitely a catch. Who are your influences as an artist?

Leeni-Maria: My teachers of singing, acting and dancing. Singer Dawn Upshaw, also Sarah Brightman - though I may have grown out of her work a little. :-\ Considering metal music, I admire greatly Floor Jansen's work in Invisible Circles. And since this is not just about the vocals, I must also mention the Tribal Fusion (dance form)tribal and dark fusion-style dancer Ariellah - she has the greatest educational DVDs. :-D

Is there anything else you'd like to say to any fans reading this now?

Leeni-Maria: Modest on the booze and high on the sweet lovin'- Rock'n Troll!

Wikipedia Current Events

Romanian villagers vote to re-elect a dead man as their mayor, to prevent his living rival winning.

- The High Court of South Africa extends affirmative action benefits of the Black Economic Empowerment program to members of the South African Chinese community.

- Six laptops containing information on about 20,000 patients are stolen from a London hospital.

- Afghan and Canadian forces begin an offensive against the Taliban in the Arghandab District of Kandahar.

- Israel agrees to a truce starting Thursday with the Hamas-led government in the Gaza Strip.

- Israel suggests peace talks with Lebanon to end the 60-year Israeli-Lebanese conflict.

Today in History

1850 – Louise of the Netherlands married Crown Prince Karl of Sweden-Norway.

1944 – World War II: The navies of the United States and Imperial Japan engaged each other off the Mariana Islands in the Philippine Sea.

1953 – Americans Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed as spies who passed U.S. nuclear weapons secrets to the Soviet Union.

1961 – Kuwait declared independence from the United Kingdom.

1978 – Garfield, created by American cartoonist Jim Davis, made its debut, eventually becoming one of the world's most widely syndicated comic strips.

2005 – Only six race cars competed in the United States Grand Prix at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Indiana after all the Michelin-shod entrants were withdrawn due to safety concerns.

June 19 is Juneteenth in some parts of the United States

Quote of the Day

The only real prison is fear, and the only real freedom is freedom from fear. ~ Aung San Suu Kyi

Word of the Day

hoary adj

1. White or gray with age.
2. (botany) Covered with short, dense, grayish white hairs.
3. (obsolete) Moldy; mossy; musty.

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