



Top Stories

Five prostitutes found dead in U.K. brings fears of "Ipswich Ripper"

The bodies of five women in the United Kingdom have been found dead in or around the county of Suffolk in the east of England. The five women have been found dead within 10 days and authorities face an "unprecedented" murder investigation.

Rally organizer arrested in Caledonia, Ontario

Two men were arrested today by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) at a Caledonia rally at about 12:00 p.m. ET after entering the disputed land in Caledonia, Ontario.

Featured story

British computer scientist's new "nullity" idea provokes reaction from mathematicians

Reading university teacher Dr. James Anderson's claim that he has devised a number system that handles the "divide by zero" problem has been challenged by academics and bloggers, who have also criticised the BBC for its reporting on the claim.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Time names "You" – contributors to websites such as YouTube and Wikipedia – as its Person of the Year.
- Christopher R. Hill, US Chief negotiator in the six-party talks concerning North Korea's nuclear

Wikipedia Current Events

program, announces plans to meet with North Korea prior to the resumption of the talks on Monday.

- Palestinian National Authority President Mahmoud Abbas calls for early legislative elections to end the stalemate in creating a national unity government with the Hamas party.

Rally organizer arrested in Caledonia, Ontario

Two men were arrested today by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) at a Caledonia rally at about 12:00 p.m. ET after entering the disputed land in Caledonia, Ontario.

One was Gary McHale, a Richmond Hill, Ontario man who went to the occupied land in Caledonia, Ontario to have a rally against the ongoing aboriginal occupation. Mark Vandermaas of London, Ontario was also arrested. Vandermaas of London, Ontario was forced to the ground by police officers. The police ripped the flag out of his hand when he crossed the police line. The police arrested them after they crossed into the disputed territory waving Canadian flags. There were approximately 100 protesters rallying with McHale.

According to news reports, McHale intended to put the Canadian flag across the street from where the aboriginal flag was up.

"The OPP set up a line just about a hundred yards away from that site

and several people were able to cross that line. They got through a farmer's field on far left side of where I'm standing here," said CTV reporter Joel Bowey. "We're hearing that Mr. McHale got in the middle of the street and put a flag down there, and that's when he and the other man from London, Ont. were arrested. So far all we know is that those two men have been arrested and there are no other arrests at this point."

The OPP said the men were arrested for "breaking the peace" and noted that it is not a criminal offence.

"I've now said that Mr. McHale's plans were counterproductive and potentially dangerous to what we've been trying to do there, and that is to reach a peaceful settlement," said David Ramsay, Ontario's minister of aboriginal affairs. "I've twice now offered Mr. McHale the opportunity to protest at Queen's Park [the site of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario building]. In fact, I said I would sponsor his rally and set up a platform and a microphone, a PA system for him."

Mayor Marie Trainer of Haldimand County, where Caledonia sits in, said: "The next meeting or two will be wasted on frivolous stuff again instead of getting down to business." Trainer also says that he should not be entering the town and did not specify what side she is on or if she is not taking any side.

This was not the first time Gary McHale of Richmond Hill, Ontario, more than 100 kilometres from the occupation site, entered the disputed land. On October 15, 2006, McHale with approximately 400 participants rallied in Caledonia, but the OPP blocked the entrance to the occupied site.

"Our fight is not with the natives, we're just trying to be equal in a democratic Canada," said Christine McHale, wife of Gary McHale.

"When a native commits a serious crime or any crime, they stand by and watch the crime take place and will not do anything to stop the crime. When a resident does the simplest thing, even putting up a Canadian flag or drinking a coffee in a lawn chair across some magic line, they will send in scores of officers to arrest the person," said Gary McHale. "We have to take a stand and say to police forces that there is one set of laws for all citizens."

Police had warned them about crossing into the disputed land before.

"Police have one set of policies for natives and another set of policies for non-natives," he said before the rally. "It's against our Charter of Rights, that clearly says there's not to be any discriminations based on their religion, beliefs, race or their skin colour."

McHale has been long critical of the Ontario Provincial Police over the land claim saying that they treat aboriginals differently. McHale and his wife operate a website called Caledonia Wake Up Call.com, where they detail what they describe as police bias.

All executions suspended in Florida after error

Florida Governor Jeb Bush has halted signing all execution warrants in the state after a medical examiner revealed an error had occurred in a lethal injection recently.

Doctor William Hamilton, the medical examiner who performed the autopsy, has released a statement saying the execution of prisoner Angel Nieves Díaz, from Puerto Rico, took 34 minutes and required a second dose of lethal chemicals. This was caused by the error in that the needles were inserted straight through his veins and into the flesh in his arms, causing the chemicals to leak out.

The 34 minute time frame is twice as long as usual, however Dr. Hamilton refuses to comment whether Diaz died painfully. He stated "I am going to defer answers about pain and suffering until the autopsy is complete," noting that the results were preliminary.

However, Doctor J. Kent Garman, an emeritus professor of anesthesia at the Stanford School of Medicine, did comment on the possible pain endured, saying "[missing a vein when administering would cause] both psychological and physical discomfort, probably pretty severe."

Dr. Jonathan Groner, an Ohio surgeon who has studied and written extensively about lethal injection, also commented, saying Díaz's execution "amounts to death by torture."

Jeb Bush has established a commission to report on the state's lethal injection process after the circumstances of Diaz's

case, and he suspended the signing of any more death warrants until the commission panel completes its final report, scheduled in March 2007.

Only a matter of hours later, a federal judge ruled that the lethal injection system in California may violate the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution which prohibits "cruel and unusual punishment."

The chemicals used in Florida, California and 35 other US states are all slightly different, but follow a general formation, as follows:- The first is a barbiturate to force the inmate into a state of unconsciousness The second is a paralyzing agent that makes the inmate unable to speak, move or breathe The third is potassium chloride, which stops the heart of the inmate.

Camel sacrificed at major Turkish airport

What do you do when you manage to get rid of a problem that was bugging you for a while? Apparently, after finding out that he will not have to service a troublesome brand of British-made planes at the airport, Şükrü Can, the manager of Turkish Airlines maintenance service, decided to slaughter a camel right on the tarmac of Istanbul's Ataturk Airport...

Airport manager Vedat Muftuoglu was quoted to say:...

No one should do such a thing just because an airline has rid itself of some aircraft ...

Turkish minister of transportation Binali Yildirim has characterized the sacrifice an "example of

tactless behavior."

After the managerial staff at the airport heard about the incident, Can's sacrifice claimed his job.

Animal slaughter is not a rare incident in Turkey. Sheep and other animals are frequently slaughtered, especially during the Islamic Sacrifice Feast. However sacrificing a camel is highly unusual in Turkey, and not a common practice.

Gilchrist scores second fastest Test century

Adam Gilchrist has compiled the second fastest Test match century in history during the second innings of the third 2006-07 Ashes Test match against England at the WACA ground in Perth.

The Australian reached 100 runs in 57 balls, second only to West Indian Viv Richards. Richards scored his record century off 56 balls back in the 1985-86 series against England, in the Caribbean city of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

The now-third fastest century was off 67 balls by fellow Australian Jack Gregory against South Africa in Johannesburg 85 years ago.

Gilchrist reached his half-century off 40 deliveries, and then proceeded to quicken the scoring rate, including hitting English left-arm orthodox spinner Monty Panesar for 24 runs in one over - a record for the most runs scored in one over in an Ashes test.

With centuries from compatriots Michael Hussey, Michael Clarke, and large contributions from Matthew Hayden (92) and Ricky Ponting (75), Australia declared their innings late on day three at 5-527, a lead of 556.

England require 557 to win, or need to bat for two-and-a-bit days to salvage a draw; a win to Australia will give the Ashes back to Australia after they lost them in England during 2005.

HP France in trouble due to alleged monopolist behavior

HP, the world's largest information technology corporation, is in trouble in France due to alleged monopolist behavior.

In France and abroad, the corporation commonly bundles its PCs with Microsoft's Windows operating system, without giving the consumer any other choices, such as Linux or other similar products.

Union Fédérale des Consommateurs-Que Choisir, a French consumer group, along with two French retailers, sued HP, alleging that it was violating a French law that prohibits linking the functionality of a product to another product. The group insisted:

"that the consumers should be allowed to be able to buy "barebones" computers without any pre-installed software and / or operating systems, and that the consumers should be allowed make the choice of the software which they wish to install by buying them separately."

The legal affairs director of HP France responded by stating that a PC without Microsoft Windows is not a product because it does not work.

In the meantime, Microsoft is in trouble in Europe due to the anti-trust laws of the European Union. On July 12, 2006, EU announced a 280.5 million euro fine against Microsoft and threatened new

penalties of 3 million euros (\$3.82 million) a day beginning July 31.

Allegations New Zealand prison guards accept bribes from prisoners

The New Zealand Department of Corrections is currently investigating allegations at the Rimutaka prison in Wellington, New Zealand. The prison guards have allegedly accepted monetary bribes from prisoners in exchange for drugs and cellphones.

Two former officers, Ingrid and Mark Rijniers, have handed over a collection of documents on their encounters while working at Rimutaka prison. The pair, who were transferred from Holland, claim that Rimutaka prison is run by gang members who dominate the prison guards. They also claim that if the gang members don't get what they want they will intimidate and threaten the guards with their lives. However, Ingrid Rijniers is refusing to co-operate with the department because they refused to give her the money to return to Holland.

The New Zealand Corrections Department says it is taking these claims seriously but has not yet found sufficient evidence to back up the claims.

Simon Power, justice and corrections spokesman for the National party, said that the allegations are appalling and reflect heavily on the Corrections Department. Mr Powers said that Barry Matthews, chief executive of the Department of Corrections, does not know what is happening in his prisons. "That means the Minister, Damien O'Connor, will be equally clueless."

Twelve percent of 1,043 prisoners who were tested for drugs from

the start of this year until June, tested positive for drugs. Most of the drugs taken was marijuana while fourteen tested positive for "P". In addition, a teenage prisoner, Liam Ashley, was recently strangled to death in a prison van by a much older adult prisoner. Mr Power said that with all these new claims emerging, Mr O'Conner should resign as the minister of corrections.

Today in History

- 1862 - American Civil War: General Ulysses S. Grant issued General Order No. 11, expelling Jews from Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky.
- 1903 - Orville and Wilbur Wright aboard the Wright Flyer conducted the first successful flight of a powered fixed-wing aircraft.
- 1944 - Malmedy massacre: Waffen-SS troops under Joachim Peiper shot at about 150 unarmed prisoners of war with machine guns near Malmedy, Belgium.
- 1989 - The Simpsons made their debut as an animated series on the Fox television network.

December 17 is National Day in Bhutan (1907)

Quote of the Day

What renders man an imaginative and moral being is that in society he gives new aims to his life which could not have existed in solitude: the aims of friendship, religion, science, and art.
~ George Santayana

Word of the Day

- paddy; n
- 1. (From Malay padi): An irrigated or flooded field where rice is grown.

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