



Top Stories

Bill Gates to step down from daily roles by July 2008

Bill Gates is stepping down from Microsoft by July 2008 to dedicate more time working on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Rallies in Greece as Universities' strike continues

University students in Greece continue their opposition to a new law - which mainly has to do with the foundation of private universities in Greece - through organizing new rallies in Athens and Thessaloniki as well as through the occupancy of many University departments across the country."

Featured story

"Living fossil" found in Laos

A retired biologist from Florida State University has captured photos of a rodent in Laos which scientists thought was extinct for 11 million years.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Coalition forces in Afghanistan launch and execute Operation Mountain Thrust to drive Taliban forces out of the southern provinces of Afghanistan. The operation is the largest operation since the start of the Afghanistan war.
- The operation is the largest operation since the start of the Afghanistan war.
- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approves a new

Wikipedia Current Events

English translation for mass.

- Bill Gates, Chairman of the Microsoft Corporation announces he will step down from his daily duties in 2008. He wants to shift his daily life to his charity, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. His successors will be Microsoft Technical Officer Ray Ozzie (software architecturing) and Craig Mundie for researching and strategic affairs.
- U.S. President George W. Bush announces the establishment of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Monument, the largest Marine Protected Area in the world.
- The United States Army suffers its 2500th casualty in Iraq.
- The United Kingdom agrees to jail former Liberian president Charles Taylor if he is convicted, removing a key obstacle to a proposed trial to be held at The Hague under the auspices of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.
- A video of a U.S. Marine singing a song, entitled "Hadji Girl", about the killing of Iraqi civilians, sparks outrage after being widely distributed on the Internet. Amidst huge condemnation, Cpl Joshua Belile, issues an apology. A Marine spokesman, Lt. Col. Scott Fazekas, said that they were investigating.
- Clean up crews try to stop coal tar in the Dasha River entering the Wangkuai Reservoir supplying the city of Baoding in northern

Wikipedia Current Events

China.

- A bomb explodes in Kandahar killing 10 and wounding 15 people.
- A claymore mine suspected of being laid by the Tamil Tigers kills 58 people in Sri Lanka.

"Living fossil" found in Laos

A retired biologist from Florida State University has captured photos of a rodent in Laos which scientists thought was extinct for 11 million years. Science education professor emeritus, David Redfield and bird watcher, Uthai Treesucon, were able to catch the rodent, but only after failing to do so four times. They returned it to the wild after they took photos and a video of the rodent.

"We went to Laos specifically to find this animal. We were extremely fortunate in so many ways to be able to do this [the discovery]. We photographed it with stills and a movie camera. Then we took it back to its habitat and released it. It's easily one of the most gratifying experiences of my life, and I hope these pictures will help in some way to prevent the loss of this marvellous animal," said Redfield.

The rodent, whose scientific name is *Laonastes aenigmamus*, is called Laotian rock rat and known to local villagers as 'kha-nyou'. It belongs to the family Diatomyidae. It was photographed in Laos near the village of Doy, in May 2006. The

rodent resembles a tree shrew or a squirrel. It walks like a duck and has angled feet that allows it to climb trees. These are the first live photos of the rodent to be taken, but last year, researchers found bodies of the dead animal being sold at local meat markets. The rodent has since been named as a new species.

"These images are extremely important scientifically, showing as they do an animal (with) such markedly distinctive anatomical and functional attributes. This is a truly exciting discovery," said Mary Dawson, the curator at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, who confirmed the findings.

The rodent was able to be officially named after researchers compared bones from fossils of the rodent found in Asia, to bones of a recently found Laotian rock rat. Last summer, a fossil of the same rodent was found in China.

"Dr Redfield's sighting of the living animal is the first to be recorded scientifically. These are the first photographic images of the recently discovered 'living fossil' *Laonastes aenigmamus*," said Dawson.

FAA allows commercial spaceflights out of Oklahoma Spaceport

The FAA has issued a license for commercial spaceflight operations to the Oklahoma Space Industry Development Authority (OSIDA). The OSIDA will oversee the operations of "suborbital, reusable launch vehicles" out of the Clinton-Sherman Industrial Airpark spaceport in Burns Flat, Oklahoma. Testing at the spaceport is expected to begin sometime next year.

Bill Khourie, director of OSIDA said "This is a tremendous opportunity for Oklahoma. The benefits are just enormous as to what can branch out from this."

Rocketplane Kistler, an Oklahoma-based company, has started production of spacecraft and is working on the final steps of its license applications. Rocketplan Kistler plans on a "fairly extensive flight test program" in 2007 and commercial flights by 2008.

A Texas-based company has also expressed interest in the Oklahoma Spaceport.

Other United States spaceports include California Spaceport, Mojave Airport (California), Kodiak Launch Complex (Alaska), Spaceport Florida, and Virginia Spaceport. A spaceport is also planned in South New Mexico, the Southwest Regional Spaceport.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State investigating United Church of Christ Convention Deal

Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU) is investigating a deal between the Governor of Connecticut, the United Church of Christ (UCC) and the Hartford Civic Center to keep the UCC's biennial convention in Connecticut. The State of Connecticut is paying the \$100,000 fee for the use of the Hartford Civic Center.

The timing of the investigation coincides with another AU investigation of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education (NBCCE) convention being in held in Maryland this month. The State of Maryland budgeted a \$150,000 grant for the annual convention.

Rev. Barry Lynn, the Executive Director of Americans United, is also an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.

Sweden stun Paraguay two minutes from time in Group B

Sweden beat Paraguay with a last minute goal that sent the South Americans out of the World Cup in the Olympiastadion, Berlin, Thursday.

The result meant Sweden needed at least a draw in their next match with England to get into the knock-out phase ahead of Trinidad and Tobago.

The match was played at a fast pace as both teams wanted a win from the game. What it lacked in flair it made up for in enthralling passion. There were eight yellow cards in this cut and thrust encounter which Sweden edged on the shot counter 17:16.

In the end what decided the match was Sweden's speed and ability to get behind Paraguay's defence and shoot from inside the penalty area. Rarely did Paraguay do this. Sweden's captain and centre-back Olof Mellberg had a strong game and may be the reason Andreas Isaksson had only three saves.

Lars Lagerback's half-time decision to take off Zlatan Ibrahimovic for Marcus Allback also seemed to tilt the outcome of the game in Sweden's favour. The striker combined well with Freddie Ljungberg.

Allback frequently got in good attacking positions and stretched Paraguay's defence to breaking point. But for 43 minutes, after successive near misses it seemed like Paraguay would just contain the Sweden strikers.

On 59 minutes Allback ran clear of the Paraguay defence to receive a bouncing ball; he lobbed Aldo Bobadilla and ran around him for the tap in. Unfortunately for Sweden the thing that hit the net was Paraguay's Denis Caniza; who had run at full speed to clear the ball just before Allback got there.

Allback then had another chance, set up by Larson on the six-yard box. As he swiveled, with the defender behind him, the goal keeper guessed where he was going to shoot.

The pace of the game did not relent and the creative movement of the Swedish attacks began to leave Anibal Ruiz's Paraguayans behind. Freddie Ljungberg found more space down the left and was also able to roam across to the right.

When a long ball reached Allback to the left of goal the striker headed across goal. Ljungberg ran in from the right and headed it back across the goalkeeper; one bounce and in.

Bobadilla made 9 saves in the match but this one was a finger tip too far. Sweden after a disappointing scoreless match against Trinidad and Tobago hung on to their World Cup hopes.

Bill Gates to step down from daily roles by July 2008

Bill Gates will step down from his daily roles at Microsoft by July 2008. Gates, who founded the company, has been running it for three decades now. Gates plans to spend more time working on health and education at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Taking place immediately, Ray Ozzie, Chief Technical Officer, will assume the title of chief software

architect. Also happening immediately, Craig Mundie, Chief Technical Officer, will become chief research and strategy officer.

Gates said "Our business and technical leadership has never been stronger, and Microsoft is well-positioned for success in the years ahead. I feel very fortunate to have such great technical leaders like Ray and Craig at the company. I remain fully committed and full time at Microsoft through June 2008 and will be working side by side with Ray and Craig to ensure that a smooth transition occurs."

Gates also said he believes "the road ahead for Microsoft is as bright as ever."

England beat Trinidad and Tobago 2-0 in Group B

In a match fraught with nervous tension England won 2-0 against Trinidad and Tobago in Nuremburg, Thursday, from two goals in the last seven minutes of play.

England's win meant they were guaranteed a place in the knock-out round of the Fifa World Cup in Germany this year as they had taken six points from two games in Group B.

It was when Wayne Rooney and Aaron Lennon made an entrance as substitutes in the 58th minute that England kicked into gear. Lennon came on in place of England's fourth defender as Sven-Garan Eriksson told his men to go for the Socca Warrior's jugular.

Until that moment Trinidad and Tobago though not sealed-tight against England's attacks were more able to counter-attack due to

the English side's slow play and lack of movement.

The Caribbean side had looked especially strong on set plays and long balls floated towards England's goal.

England's goalkeeper Paul Robinson perhaps best showed his side's nerves: he missed three crosses. On two of these occasions Leo Beenhakker's side were inches from taking the lead. In the most dramatic of them, John Terry had to volley a ball off the goalline to stop England going into half-time a goal down to a Stern John header.

The Caribbean threat lessened with the substitutions as constant pressure meant Trinidad and Tobago attacker Cornel Glen when he did break was often unassisted. While England's threat increased with Rooney in the centre, and with Lennon and later substitute Stuart Downing who both tested the Socca Warriors from wide positions.

With 62 per cent of ball possession the story of England's game was simply the missed opportunities. Trinidad and Tobago was massively overpowered 23 shots to seven.

On 43 minutes Peter Crouch had the sort of miss that was so spectacular it may make highlight reels. Unmarked in the centre of the goal it might have been easier to get the ball on target than to skew the volley so far wide.

He was not the only culprit. Michael Owen, before he was substituted with Rooney, had missed two in more ordinary ways.

Lampard had peppered Shaka Hislop's goal with shots all game. Three on 74, 77, and 78 minutes -

but none troubled the West Ham keeper. The Fifa man of the match in the first England game may not want to remember this one.

On the 83 minute mark England captain David Beckham crossed to the 6' 7" Crouch at the far post. This time he rose confidently above Brent Sancho and powered a header into the top left corner. Trinidad and Tobago were finally solved.

For a side that had all game struggled to find the killer instinct Steven Gerrard's late goal was well received. On the edge of the penalty area he cut left and fired left-footed into the top left corner. The win now looked comfortable.

Major cell phone companies working on Linux-based platform for phones

Four major cell phone makers, Motorola, NEC, Panasonic, and Samsung, and two wireless providers, NTT DoCoMo and Vodafone, have announced they will work together to provide a Linux-based platform for cell phones. This move could threaten the dominance Symbian and Microsoft in the operating systems market for cell phones.

Peter Gorham, an independent market analyst, said "Linux is also rock solid, unlike some of the existing operating systems. It would mean no more taking your batteries out of your phone to get it to reboot. And this would make things a lot easier for application developers."

On the lack of U.S. provider's support in this alliance, Gorham said "I am surprised that there aren't any American carriers involved in this alliance, but they are probably skeptical about the longevity of these kinds of

alliances. But Motorola and Samsung have a vested interest in the success of this thing, in part because they have a large customer, Vodafone, involved."

This alliance is not the first effort to standardize on Linux for cell phones. Several groups are currently working on this, including Linux Phone Standard Forum, Open Source Development Lab, and Electronics Linux Forum.

According to Christy Wyatt, vice president of market development at Motorola, said this effort differs from other efforts because it will establish a common platform for all participating manufacturers.

Linux is already being utilized on some mobile devices. Motorola has already shipped five million of these including the Ming model for China and Rokr E2 music phone in Asia. The Rokr E2 will be available in Europe soon.

Rallies in Greece as Universities' strike continues

University students continue their opposition to a new law, proposed by the Greek government, through organizing new rallies in Athens and Thessaloniki as well as through the persistent occupancy of many departments in the two biggest Universities of Greece, the University of Athens and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Students are opposing the law proposed by the Minister of Education Marietta Yannakou which has to do with the foundation of private universities in Greece as well as other aspects of the academic organization.

The strike of the students has been backed by the Greek General Confederation of Labour(GSEE),

the Synaspismos and KKE-Communist parties, as well as by various Professors who oppose the specific governmental law. Today, students organize demonstrations in the two biggest cities of Greece. More specifically, students and University professors have gathered at Propylea in central Athens and march towards the Ministry of Education while in Thessalonika the demonstration has been focused outside the Ministry of Macedonia-Thrace.

During the previous week and more specifically during the demonstrations of last Thursday, the rallies had resulted to fights between anarchists and police in the centre of Athens; for that the Minister of Public Order had been accused for the violence that police forces exercised. However Greek police officials answered that anarchists who took part in the rallies caused heavy damages and provoked the police forces. Yesterday, a specific statement by Thanos Veremis, professor and Ministry of Education official, in which he characterized the protesters as roughs and eternal students(sic), caused much of irritation and agitation within the university students' movement.

Ecuador make short work of Costa Rica in Group A

Ecuador created chances freely and kept Costa Rica quiet for a 3-0 victory in the AOL Arena, Hamburg, Thursday.

The win for the South American team meant both Ecuador and Germany, each with six points from two games, progressed from Group A into the knock-out phase of the Fifa World Cup in Germany.

It was a comfortable match for Ecuador's Columbian coach Luis Suarez. He managed to rest three

key players - goal scorer Carlos Tenorio, provider Luis Valencia, and impressive centre-back Giovanni Espinoza, with substitutes before the game was out.

Ecuador played keep ball well and maintain a slow tempo while Alexandre Guimaraes's side did not look a team able to raise the pace of the game and sustain pressure on Christian Mora's goal.

The game-winner was scored after seven minutes of action. Valencia to the right of the penalty area whipped a ball across the goal. Tenorio, unmarked in front of Jose Porras, dipped his body and headed in.

Costa Rica and Ecuador both missed opportunities before half time: Douglas Sequeira was unmarked at the Ecuador far post but his header was mistimed and wide.

Then Edison Mendez and Agustin Delgado nearly combined for a carbon-copy of the first goal; but the striker, again running in unmarked in front of Porras, did stab at the ball and skewed it wide.

After he had another shot saved Degaldo's third attempt found the net. He shot hard from an angle inside the penalty area and beat Porras on his near post.

It was then Tenorio's substitute Kaviedes's turn to miss two then score one. A save from Porras, a header wide, and finally the striker connected for a beautiful far post volley, finishing off another Mendez cross.

Costa Rica were unlucky when a clever first time chip from Alvaro Saborio beat Mora only to hit a

post but they had not created the clear chances that Ecuador had at the other end.

The long shots from Carlos Hernandez and Mauricio Solis's tricky run were acts of individual play. No match for a solid-looking team who got its second consecutive World Cup shut out and will play Germany for the honour of Group A winner, on June 20.

War on terrorism memorial planned near Oklahoma Capitol

A memorial dedicated to Oklahomans killed in the war on terrorism is planned for just north of the Oklahoma Capitol. The memorial would be built next to the proposed Veterans Affairs Department building on the side of Lincoln Boulevard between NW 30 and NE 32.

The plans would also have statues and memorials honoring veterans south of the capital moved to the Veterans Affairs building.

The Veterans Affairs building is part of a \$196 million bond issue which will also pay for six other projects. If Oklahoma legislators could take up the measure as early as a special session this month and include it in the state's 2007 fiscal year. The measure is expected to be brought up next year if the bond issue is not acted on this year.

War On Terror Memorial Design Committee will oversee the task of seeking designs for the memorial. Because no state money has been set aside for the memorial, the committee would also raise money for its construction. Similar memorials around the country range in price of \$1 million to \$2.2 million.

Australian government to censor 3G mobile content

Helen Coonan, Australia's communications minister announced on Wednesday that the Howard government planned on introducing legislation into parliament restricting access to inappropriate or harmful material on so-called "emerging content services". The government considers 3G mobile communications and subscription-based Internet portals to be emerging content services.

Senator Coonan said in a statement that the government was supportive of new technology, but felt that the technology requires safeguards to ensure that children are not exposed to inappropriate content.

"The Government supports the development of innovative new communications services which provide access to the Internet, email, games, instant messaging, chat rooms, video clips and television programs," she said.

âHowever, these new content services may also potentially carry offensive or harmful content and we need to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place to protect children from exposure to content that might be harmful.â

Senator Coonan said the government intends to prohibit material rated X18+ and restrict access to other services based upon the subscriber's age and content classification. Speaking of the proposed legislation, the minister said âIt will extend the current safeguards that apply to content delivered over the Internet or television to be applied to content delivered over convergent devices,"

"This will include prohibition of content rated X18+ and above, requirements for consumer advice and age-restricting access to content suited only to adults."

The announcement comes as the government released a report into the effectiveness of the current regulatory framework and how it applies to new delivery methods.

The report, received by the government in April, found that the differences between television, print, radio and internet media would be blurred by devices such as 3G mobile phones and wireless internet access. It suggested that the government regulate based on the amount of control service providers have over content instead of via the method used to access it.

It also found that much of the content available via emerging content services was based upon that of other mediums, where censorship already takes place.

The report did however express concern about mobile chat services, claiming they could be used by pedophiles to target children. The report found it would be more difficult for parents to supervise their children's mobile chat behaviour as they would have access to the service from anywhere. The report said this could be countered by the fact that mobile users are easier to identify than users on the internet, making pedophiles less likely to use the service.

The report also suggested that internet access via mobile telephones be limited to customers over the age of 18, unless minors have permission from their parent or guardian. Under current

Australian law, a minor is unable to sign up for an account with an internet service provider, but is able to access WAP based internet services without restriction.

Australian PM should convert to Islam: Bashir

Abu Bakar Bashir, the alleged spiritual leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah militant islamic organisation gave an address on return to his school in Surakarta in Central Java where he urged Australian Prime Minister John Howard to convert to Islam.

Speaking outside his school (considered by many to be a terrorism finishing school), before thousands of students and onlookers, Bashir said "If John Howard wants to be safe and avoid going to hell, I suggest he convert to Islam."

Mr Bashir also urged Mr Howard, the United States and other "infidels" not to fight the Muslim world. "Maybe with God's permission they can kill us, but they certainly can't beat Islam," said Mr Bashir.

The Islamic cleric denied having links to JI or any other terrorist organisation saying that Western media had been "twisting his beliefs". He dismissed claims by the US and Australia that he is the spiritual leader of JI.

Mr Bashir said that the Islamic militants involved in the 2002 Bali Bombing has taken the wrong path, but stopped short of condemning their actions. "Their wrong step was to use a bomb as a weapon in a safe area," he said.

"Bombs are only to be used in conflict areas."

"In safe areas just preach, and we

don't need bombs like that."

New Zealand to get free-to-air digital television

The New Zealand government has announced that New Zealand is to get Free-to-air (FTA) digital television by the start of next year.

The broadcasters: TVNZ, CanWest, Māori Television, the TAB and Radio New Zealand have forged an alliance called FreeView which has leased satellite space for the digital television.

Digital television will mean viewers can receive a crisper picture, clearer radio signals, limited reception problems, and more channels.

It will require television viewers to buy a set top box, similar to the SKY Network Television decoder. Some viewers in some areas will need to buy a satellite dish as well. The approximated cost will be \$200 or, with a dish, \$400 (NZD), however there is no subscription costs, unlike Sky Television.

Mr Cavanagh, Radio New Zealand chief executive, says "it will be a [sic] hard to claw back the gains made by Sky, which has dominated the digital space."

New Zealand is one of the last developed countries to make the switch to digital. Analogue will be switched off between 2012 and 2016.

University of California, San Francisco inviting tobacco users to test new nicotine vaccine

Tobacco users are being invited by the University of California, San Francisco's Habit Abatement Clinic to test NicVax, a new vaccine being developed by Nabi

Biopharmaceuticals. Tobacco users may be test subjects under the condition that they are at least 18 years old and willing to commit to a one-year program of injections and follow-up visits. UCSF is one of nine testing centers.

When tobacco smoke is inhaled, the chemical nicotine enters the bloodstream. The blood affected by nicotine eventually enters the brain, triggering neuro-receptors to react and cause addiction. This vaccine would produce antibodies to identify the nicotine molecule and prevent it from reaching the brain. "With little or no nicotine reaching the brain, smoking is less rewarding. That gives the smoker a chance to change the behavioral and social factors that also influence smoking," said Victor Reus, MD, principal investigator for the study at UCSF.

The antibodies of the NicVax last up to 12 months within the human body. If a person tries to smoke months after beginning the vaccination, there would not be a typical soothing feeling.

Immigration Detainees on Hunger Strike in Oxford UK

One hundred and twenty detainees at an immigration removal centre in Oxford, UK, are on hunger strike. The protest started when some detainees refused breakfast on Wednesday 14th June 2006. A letter from the hunger strikers explaining why they are seeking to draw attention to their plight in this way has been reproduced in full below.

Those detained at the centre are mostly men who have sought asylum in the UK and whose asylum applications have been rejected. These people are then held without knowing how long they will be detained for - some

end up being held for many years while awaiting deportation.

The removal centre, known as Campsfield, or Campsfield House is approximately 5 miles north of Oxford and has been in operation since 1993. It was managed on behalf of the UK Government by Global Solutions Limited, until may 2006 when it was taken on by GEO UK, the centre has a capacity of 198. Only males are detained at Campsfield.

According to the campaign group Barbed Wire Britain Over 2,600 individuals, mostly asylum seekers, are detained indefinitely in the UK without trial and with no automatic right to bail.

There have been reports in the UK press of the state taking people to detention centres without notice, in the early hours of the morning using excessively heavy handed tactics, taking children out of schools and separating families.

Many UK people and politicians express their disgust at the way detainees are treated, yet it continues. Perhaps this action by the detainees themselves will further highlight their plight and result in more UK electors writing to their MPs and demanding improvements to the way in which rejected asylum seekers are treated.

"We are detainees at Campsfield removal centre in Oxford. Most of us have been here for a long while now. There are people who have been detained for up to two years and down to three months. We are cramped in here like animals. We are treated like animals and moved around different detention centres like animals. The immigration service have taken husbands from their families and

taken people who ran away from persecution in their various countries, and dumped everyone in here. Once you are put in here the immigration service forget you. There are detainees who have applied to go back to their own countries that are still being held here for months without any news about their cases, just so that the private security companies get more money. Detainees are asked to seek asylum and then refused. The immigration service also ask detainees to apply for bail. When you get a bail hearing date all of a sudden they serve you with removal papers that are not valid. There are many of these situations. In most cases the immigration service don't take you to your court hearings. And then they tell the judges you refused to turn up, just so the hearing goes ahead in your absence. Many detainees have been served with removal papers and travel documents but nothing happens on the removal day. Campsfield has become a slave house. We detainees are treated like slaves, to do odd jobs for officers. Detainees are handcuffed to see doctors or dentists in hospitals or clinic appointments. We have some racist security officers who make racist comments to detainees and go out of their way to make you feel like committing suicide. Detainees have to be at the point of death before they get to see the doctors. The food is not worth eating. Even dogs would refuse to eat what we eat. But we don't have a choice; every single day we eat the same food (the food we eat is rice, chicken, sandwiches, and left-over eggs)".

J.J. Redick arrested for drunken driving

J.J. Redick was arrested and charged with drunk driving early

Tuesday in Durham County, North Carolina and lost his driving privileges in North Carolina for 30 days. Redick was released on a \$1,000 bond shortly after being arrested.

According to the arresting officer Redick had "very glassy eyes, strong odor of alcohol coming from breath" and a blood-alcohol level of 0.11. The legal limit in North Carolina is 0.08.

In a statement released by Duke University, Redick apologized saying "I regret what happened last night, and want to apologize to my family and the Duke community for the incident."

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said "J.J. knows he made a mistake and regrets it. He represented the very best in college athletics and exhibited outstanding character at Duke the last four years. He is and will continue to be a credit to the Duke basketball family. As his friend and his coach, he has my total support."

J.J. Redick is expected to be taken in the first round of the NBA draft which takes place on June 28. How the incident hurts Redick in the draft is unclear.

Samples being taken from poultry farms in Eastern Oklahoma for lawsuits

Oklahoma officials resumed testing soil, water, and runoff from 20 eastern Oklahoma poultry farms for Attorney General Drew Edmondson's lawsuit against 14 poultry companies in Arkansas. The lawsuit alleges their operations have polluted Lake Tenkiller and Illinois River watershed.

The original order authorized soil samplers to enter the property

"one time". Edmondson then asked for a clarification for "one time". Federal Magistrate Sam Joyner said, in a supplemental order, "With regard to soil samples, Plaintiff (Oklahoma) is permitted to enter and leave the property, as necessary, beginning with the first date of entry and proceeding on subsequent contiguous days until the necessary soil samples are obtained."

Bev Saunders, spokesman for Poultry Partners, said farmer's resistance to testing was unlikely. Poultry Partners represents a group of about 400 farmers. She went on to say "We don't agree with this, but we do abide by the law."

United Church of Christ loses Puerto Rico Conference over GLBT issues

On June 10, 2006, the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico, also known as the "Puerto Rico Conference " a conference of the UCC, voted by a 3-1 margin to withdraw its affiliation with the UCC as a body, over discomfort about the UCC's stance on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues. Formed in 1931, this conference affiliated with the UCC following the denominations founding in 1957.

This vote to disaffiliate means most of the 68 previously affiliated congregations will become independent, although denominational officials expressed hope that several might continue affiliation, through other conferences or special arrangements.

In a speech, John Thomas, President of the UCC, called the vote to disaffiliate 'deeply painful.'

There are 68 congregations and 6000 members of the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico.

38 conferences remain in the United Church of Christ.

Today in History

1487 - The Battle of Stoke Field, the final battle of the Wars of the Roses, was fought.

1745 - During King George's War, British colonial forces led by William Pepperrell captured the French stronghold at Fortress Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island after a six-week siege.

1846 - Pius IX was elected pope, beginning the longest reign of all popes since the days of the apostles.

1963 - Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman in space.

1976 - Police in Soweto, South Africa opened fire on schoolchildren protesting against the imposition of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in township schools, triggering a series of nationwide demonstrations, strikes, riots and violence.

June 16 is Bloomsday in Dublin, Ireland; Youth Day in South Africa

Quote of the Day

"If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do, and how to do it."

~ Abraham Lincoln

Word of the Day

ubiquitous; *adj*

1. Being everywhere at once; omnipresent.
2. Seeming to appear everywhere at the same time.

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