



Top Stories

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Singer Kevin Aviance attacked outside Manhattan, N.Y. gay bar

Kevin Aviance, a 38-year-old gay male drag queen and singer, was attacked outside the "Phoenix," a gay bar in Manhattan, New York's East Village. Police say that he suffered head injuries, a broken jaw and bruises, but is in stable condition.

Featured story

Large meteorite strikes in Norway

A large meteorite struck in Norway slamming into the side of a mountain near the areas of Troms and Finnmark at about 2:05 a.m. on June 9, 2006. Scientists say the explosive force of the meteorite could have been "compared" to the "Hiroshima bomb."

Wikipedia Current Events

• U.S. President, George W. Bush, makes a surprise 5 hour visit to Iraq to meet with newly named

Wikipedia Current Events

Prime Minister of Iraq Nouri al-Maliki, President of Iraq Jalal Talibani, national political leaders and U.S. troops. The visit was kept a secret from al-Maliki until five minutes before they met.

•Israel retracts its apology over a Gaza beach explosion after citing evidence that the victims were killed by shrapnel from Palestinian land mine rather than artillery shell as stated by the Hamas-led Palestinian government.

•70,000 coalition forces begin a crackdown on insurgents in Baghdad, the Iraqi PM's office says.

•Two Israeli missiles hit a van carrying a Palestinian rocket-launching squad in Gaza with Grad 122 mm rockets. Two Islamic Jihad militants and seven civilians are killed, including two schoolchildren. Israeli Defense minister expresses sorrow, but not apology.

•At least 10 people are killed and 20 others are wounded in car bombing attacks in a popular market in Kirkuk, Iraq.

Rhode Island representative Patrick Kennedy pleads guilty to DUI

Representative of Rhode Island, Patrick Kennedy has pleaded guilty to driving while under the influence of prescription drugs after he was involved in an early morning car accident in May close to the United States capitol.

According to police, Kennedy said he was "headed to the Capitol to make a vote."

"I am pleading guilty to driving under the influence," Kennedy said to Magistrate Judge Aida Melendez, who presided over the case in the District of Columbia Superior Court.

Kennedy had charges of failure to exhibit a driving permit and reckless driving against him dropped in exchange for pleading guilty. Kennedy was also ordered to pay a \$250 donation to the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington and a \$100 donation to the Victims of Crime fund. Judge Melendez also ordered Kennedy to serve a 10-day jail sentence, but said if he followed the terms of his plea, then he won't have to serve the time. Kennedy is also on a one-year probation and must seek drug treatment.

"I've always said that I wanted to take full responsibility for my actions. Today in court, I suffered the consequences of my actions," said Kennedy during a press conference just outside the courthouse. "I look forward today to moving on to the next chapter in my life," he added.

Kennedy admitted to taking a sleeping pill called Ambien and also Phenergan, an anti-nausea prescription medication the morning of the accident, but said that he was not drunk.

Brazil trot to 1-0 win over Croatia in Group F

Brazil beat Croatia in the second Group match, in Berlin, Tuesday, but only by one goal.

Croatia had sat back and made it difficult but Brazil seemed to be in no great hurry to impress and were satisfied with the margin of victory.

Brazilian forward Ronaldo displayed a distinct lack of interest in the game. Carlos Alberto Parreira substituted the Real Madrid striker after just over an hour.

Second best to three Croatian defenders, with the experience of 181 caps between them, Ronaldo did not get a shot on goal until the second half.

The 72,000 fans in the Olympia Stadium saw the best of Brazil in the first half with Kaka and Ronaldinho bright in midfield. Lacking muscle from Ronaldo, Brazil were confined to long range shooting.

Roberto Carlos fired off a shot from 40 yards which was put over by Stipe Pletikosa; the Croatia keeper then, after 15 minutes of the match, tipped a Ronaldinho effort behind. Cafu also had a shot on target and another from Kaka went wide.

A successful long-range effort came from Kaka at 42 minutes. At the top of the semi circle he curled the ball with the inside of his left foot, the keeper's right hand not even close.

The World Cup champions of 2002 were tested in defence as the Croatians probed for an equaliser. But the team with red and white chequers did not use their 50 per

cent of possession to create many clear openings, nor did they capitalise on Brazilian errors.

On 59 minutes Brazil's defence had a lapse in concentration: a misplaced pass between the back three nearly allowed the quick Croatian substitute Ivica Olic a chance on goal. The advantage came to nothing as the defence recovered.

The best Croatian chance fell to Niko Kranjcar, minutes from the end. When the cross came into the box the midfielder was unmarked - but his header went far over the bar.

The Croatian manager, Zlatko Kranjcar might consider a one goal loss a good result against the reigning champions. Carlos Alberto Parreira might think by Brazil's high standards the game was a bad training session.

But the result was a win and was Brazil's eighth successive World Cup win, a tournament record.

Thousands of Floridians evacuate for Tropical Storm Alberto

Twenty thousand residents in the Gulf Coast of central Florida were ordered to evacuate Monday as Tropical Storm Alberto approaches the coast. Alberto, the first Atlantic tropical storm of this summer, had a maximum windspeed of 70 mph (110 km/h).

Florida Governor Jeb Bush declared a state of emergency, which allows him to call up National Guard troops to help with disaster efforts. "We're talking about powerful forces of nature," Bush said. "People need to take this seriously."

As of 11 a.m. CDT June 13 (1500

UTC), the center of Tropical Storm Alberto was located near latitude 29.8°N and longitude 83.8°W, or about 50 miles (80 km) southeast of Tallahassee, Florida. The storm was moving to the northeast at 9 mph (15 km/h), and had a minimum central pressure of 996 mbar (29.41 inHg). Windspeed was measured at 50 mph (85 km/h). The National Hurricane Center has issued a tropical storm warning for the Gulf coast of Florida between Bayport and the Indian Pass, and the Atlantic coast from South Santee River in South Carolina to Flagler Beach in Florida.

Alberto came ashore about 50 miles (85 km) southeast of Tallahassee, Florida at 12:30 p.m. CDT June 13 (1630 UTC), making it the earliest storm in 40 years to hit the United States, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. The earliest on record was Hurricane Alma which took a similar path and hit Florida's west coast on June 9, 1966.

Scientists say that in this year's hurricane season, 16 named storms could form, with six of them being major hurricanes. Last year's storm season was the most active on record, with 28 named storms and 15 hurricanes.

Icelandic PM Asgrimsson resigns

The Icelandic Prime Minister, Halldor Asgrimsson, announced his resignation on June 5 after the governing Progress Party suffered losses in recent local elections.

Asgrimsson's successor will be Minister of Foreign Affairs Geir Haarde. Haarde is leader of Asgrimsson's coalition partner, the conservative Independence Party.

Tropical Storm Alberto strikes Florida

Tropical Storm Alberto is on-going. One WikiNews associate on the ground in Florida provided this cover story from the front page of a local paper <http://media.tbo.com/ttt/images/pdfs/TribFront.pdf>.

Tropical Storm Alberto is currently over Florida. At present the West Florida Coast has flood warnings. The Weather Channel is providing clear live footage of the Tropical Storm as it progresses over Florida.

Businesses like Walmart are beginning to take the storm seriously. Walmart has approximately 80 affected retail units in the area.

17 shelters opened in 11 different counties according to the Weather Channel.

France draw with Switzerland in Group G

France and Switzerland drew 0-0 in their first match of the World Cup in Group G, Tuesday.

The derby between neighbour nations was expected to be a close affair and as it turned out this was the case, as a good defensive team cancelled out the more talented attacking one.

An unusual statistic from the game is that Switzerland edged ball possession. French star players Zinedine Zidane, Patrick Viera and Thierry Henry looked slow and indecisive and failed to dictate the game.

In the first half the French had the better chances with Thierry Henry getting in good positions. But it was the Swiss who came closest to scoring after 25 minutes.

From a set-play, Alexander Frei chipped the ball towards goal; the ball missed everyone and hit Fabian Barthez's left post. Lilian Thuram was first to the rebound.

Switzerland, while playing a strong defensive game, had more chances to get the ball into Barthez's net in the second half. Daniel Gygax's downward header from 5 yards brought a brilliant leg save from the French keeper.

For the French the second half continued as the first: Zidane was not as influential as the French might have wished, Viera was not aggressive and Henry did not show the creative flair he had done during the season for his club side, Arsenal.

An 84th minute substitute Vikash Dhorasoo, 10 yards out to the left of Pascal Zuberbuehler's goal, had the best French chance in the match but his shot skewed wide.

Philippe Senderos, the 21-year-old Swiss central defender, was arguably the best player on the pitch for Switzerland coach Koebi Kuhn. However; moments from the final whistle the Swiss might have had another hero.

A free kick to the left of Barthez's penalty area was whipped across goal for Swiss runners. But Swiss's first man Alexander Frei in an attempt to score with his hand deflected the ball wide of them all. The score remained a draw.

Raymond Domenech's French team might be disappointed with the result but arguably it could have been worse.

Computer-controlled prosthetic ankle patent awarded to Oklahoma City company

Martin Bionics, a company based out of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was awarded the patent to a computer-controlled ankle. The Oklahoma Center for the Advancement for Science and Technology funded \$573,000 towards the development of the device.

The computer-controlled ankle functions similar to how the brain controls a real human ankle. Although prosthetic ankles allowed for some basic performance, the technologies remained limited in where and how they may be used.

Vice president of research and development, Jay Martin, said "This design grants a greater sense of security and confidence to the amputee. Functioning at a higher level, walking with a smoother step and dressing without limits will provide the patient with greater self confidence."

Martin Bionics plans to have the ankle commercially available within the next two years.

Vaccine developed to fight Alzheimer's disease considered "promising"

A team headed by Yoh Matsumoto at the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute for Neuroscience in Japan has developed a DNA vaccine, with no side effects, to fight Alzheimer's disease and call the drug "promising." The vaccine, thus far, has only been tested on mice and is only in the experimental stages.

Tests are going to soon be done on monkeys and if that turns out successful then tests on humans could be done in perhaps three years, said lead researcher Yoh

Matsumoto of the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute for Neuroscience in Japan.

"This work represents a promising new line of vaccine development but more research would be needed to see if this could be replicated safely in humans," said Doctor Clive Holmes of the Alzheimer's Research Trust.

The vaccine is given by an injection and works by reducing the amount of certain amyloid proteins, which scientists believe are the cause of the illness. The study says that the amount of amyloid proteins in different areas of the brain was reduced, in some cases, up to 50%. In the lowest amounts, the protein was reduced 15.5%. In direct areas of the brain, such as the hippocampus and cerebral cortex, the reduction of the protein was 40-50%. Amyloid proteins, when over produced, are believed to cause the symptoms of the illness by forming masses in the brain, which spread. The vaccine involves injecting the mice with the protein and then the DNA vaccine. The vaccine codes itself to the protein, stopping the spread of the masses by not allowing the protein to reproduce.

"DNA vaccines are given by intramuscular injection, which stimulates the production of anti-amyloid-beta antibodies. In the early stage, we highly expect that DNA vaccination will prevent disease progression and, hopefully, normalize brain function," said Matsumoto.

However, Matsumoto also said that patients who are experiencing "advanced cases" of the illness will have "irreversible damage" even if they received the vaccine.

"In advanced cases, however, neuronal loss and brain atrophy are very severe and irreversible. So it may be difficult to obtain clinical improvement with DNA vaccination," said Matsumoto.

In 2003 18 of the 298 people testing the vaccine had symptoms of brain swelling and the trials were stopped. At least 6% of those testing the vaccine had an over-reaction, which caused swelling of the brain and some even suffered brain damage.

Researchers say the new development is "safe" but that it will be "years" before any real and extensive clinical tests of the vaccine begin.

"Any of these vaccines could prove safe and effective. But we are years away from seeing them widely used in clinical practice -- but perhaps as few as three years away," said chairman of the Alzheimer's Association's Medical and Scientific Advisory Council, Dr. Sam Gandy.

"The findings support the idea that a vaccine is our best hope for fighting this devastating disease for which there is currently no cure," said Doctor Susanne Sorensen, of the Alzheimer's Society.

Feminist gathering in Tehran violently disrupted by police

A feminist gathering in 7-tir square of Tehran, Iran was violently interrupted by the police. The protesters who demanded "the revocation of the discriminatory laws against women in Iran" were intending to have a non-violent gathering but were beaten up and arrested by the police forces.

The women who had gathered

were demanding equal rights with men and the right to divorce.

Korea Republic win 2-1 against Togo in Group G

Togo made the Korean Republic sweat, but two spectacular goals gave Dick Advocat's men the win in Group G, Tuesday.

In the first half the result looked like it might go Togo's way; the team, on its debut appearance at the World Cup, had the better of a slow game and went into the break 0-1 up.

Passes were at walking speed in the Commerzbank Arena, Frankfurt, as both sets of players seemed to struggle with the stifling heat. With the snow-roof closed for television conditions approached something like a sauna.

The goal for Otto Pfister's side was scored by Kader on 31 minutes. Between two defenders, Kader took a ball delivered from the right wing, which he deflected into the penalty area with his thigh. Kader ran on to the ball and fired low across the keeper; it went in off the right post.

Mohamed Kader arguably was Togo's outstanding player of the match and caused trouble for Korean Republic in the second half with his pacey runs.

But a second half substitution and a sending off favoured the 2002 tournament's semi-finalists to stage a come back.

The Korean Republic upped the speed of their short passing game and when midfielder Ji Sung Park, 30 yards from goal, turned and beat Jean-Paul Abalo a chance for the equaliser looked on.

The Togolese defender hacked down the surging winger Park, who plays his club football for Manchester United, was given a second booking and sent off. Issued by Graham Poll, this was the second red card of the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

The goal came direct from the freekick; on 54 minutes Chun Soo Lee used his right foot to send the ball with pace and bend beyond Kossi Agassa.

With the Korea Republic playing against 10 men the game opened up. But Togo, though it had just 36 per cent of ball possession in the game, was not a push over. The West African team mounted a number of dangerous counterattacks.

On 63 minutes the energetic Moustapha Salifou was in space on the edge of the area but could not keep his shot down.

Seven minutes later Dick Advocat's half time substitute, veteran Jung Hwan Ahn, added another Korean example to the textbook of how to shoot from long range. Wider to the right than Chun Soo Lee's the 30-year-old drove it over Agassa into the same right corner.

The Korea Republic came into the tournament on bad form, which included a 3-1 loss to Ghana. But to beat Togo Dick Advocat's side had to improve during the match, which might give them confidence against France and Switzerland, also in Group G.

Bank staff in India threaten strike

Members of the All India Bank Employees Association have threatened to go on nation-wide strikes to express their

unhappiness with the move to privatise banks, allowing foreign direct investment in the banking sector and outsourcing of services. The exact dates of the strike will be decided at the AIBEA national general council meeting to be held in Chennai on June 13 and 14. Speaking to press persons on Friday, C.H. Venkatachalam, secretary of the association, condemned the attempts to continuously `attack the financial and banking sector.'

The AIBEA was against the government's intention to privatise public sector banks and the disinvestment of shares up to 49 per cent. In the past decade, a number of private sector banks had folded and hence, in the best interests of the investor, banks should continue to remain in the public sector, he said. Merging public sector banks into five or six big banks in order to enable them become global institutions dealing with international trade and business was a `retrograde' idea, he charged. The total assets of all the 27 public sector banks in the country (less than U.S. \$300 billion) were well below the assets of any top global bank, he added.

Entertainment Software Association says new Oklahoma law unconstitutional, plans to sue

The Entertainment Software Association president Douglas Lowenstein confirmed speculations that his group is planning to file a lawsuit against the state of Oklahoma because of a new law, HB3004. Under this law, games that have "inappropriate violence" are added to a list of materials that are considered harmful to minors.

Lowenstein said that the ESA believes "HB3004 will restrict the

First Amendment rights of Oklahoma's citizens and intend to file suit in Oklahoma federal district court shortly, asking that the state's new video game law be overturned."

Similar laws have been found unconstitutional in St. Louis, Indianapolis, Washington, Illinois, and Michigan. A California video game law is currently being reviewed in federal court. Last week, a Minnesota law was passed fining minors \$25 for purchasing games rated "mature" or "adults only". Shortly afterwards, the ESA filed a lawsuit there.

Left parties in India protest fuel price hike

The Left parties, joined by regional forces like Samajwadi Party and Telugu Desam Party, today staged street protests to demand the roll back of the fuel price hike as the Communists said the UPA Government could not take their support for granted. Barring states ruled by the Left and Uttar Pradesh, where the ruling Samajwadi Party's workers stopped many trains and blocked highways at several places, the protests had little impact. Strikes by truckers against the price hike that coincided with the protests, however, affected transport services in Orissa, Tripura and Madhya Pradesh.

In Delhi, CPI(M) leaders Prakash Karat and Sitaram Yechury and CPI's A B Bardhan courted arrest at the Parliament Street police station with a large number of Left activists. Leaders from the Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Lok Dal and Janata Dal-Secular were also present. They said the protest was meant to mount pressure on the government to reverse its "anti-people" decision and the issue would be raised in the UPA-Left

Coordination Committee meeting on Wednesday.

In West Bengal, the ruling Left Front organised sit-ins before the offices of oil PSUs. Normal life in Kerala, another Left-ruled state, was paralysed by a dawn-to-dusk strike called by trade unions. Shops and business establishments remained closed while attendance in government offices was thin. Over 5,000 Left activists, including CPI Secretary D Raja, were taken into custody across Tamil Nadu when they tried to picket Central Government offices and roads.

ACT Civil Unions Act invalidated by Governor General

Australian Governor-General, Major-General Michael Jeffery has formally created an instrument declaring the Australian Capital Territory's Civil Unions Act, 2006 invalid. The instrument comes into effect from midnight tonight (AEST).

Wayne Berry, speaker of the ACT Legislative Assembly called on the Governor-General earlier today to deliver an address from the assembly about the ACT's Civil Unions Act. According to the Governor-General, Mr Berry was advised that the request would have to be referred to the federal government.

Major-General Jeffery said that he must refer the matter to the federal government for their consideration. After consideration, the government is required to advise him in the Federal Executive Council as to whether or not he should exercise his powers. The Governor-General denied having authority under the constitution to act without the advice of the Federal Executive

Council where there is a difference between the policies of the ACT and the federal government.

Under the Commonwealth Australian Capital Territory (Self Government Act) 1988, the Governor-General has the authority to disallow any act passed by the ACT government.

Australia's Attorney General Phillip Ruddock acknowledged that the Governor-General had conveyed the ACT government's request and despite the ACT government expressing that it would make some amendments to its act, the Federal Executive Council decided that it was more appropriate to disallow the act altogether.

Mr Ruddock said he, the minister of territories, and the Governor-General attended the Executive Council meeting.

Mr Ruddock said that the ACT government is welcome to discuss any further amendments with the government in the future, but made it clear that he would not accept any legislation allowing the marriage of same-sex couples even when given a different name.

Senator Kerry Nettle of the Australian Greens and the Australian Democrats have prepared a disallowance motion they will present on June 14. If passed, their motion would disallow Ruddock's move to quash the ACT's civil union law. "The Attorney General Phillip Ruddock has today trampled on the rights of the ACT in order to deny rights to same sex couples, but still we don't have any logical explanation as to why," Senator Kerry said in a Green Party media release. "The Greens are appalled at the lengths the Howard government will go to in order to deny basic rights to

fellow Australians on the basis of their sexuality."

The Attorney General attacked the Civil Unions Act, saying that it was "provocative" and was intended to make Civil Unions mirror marriage, an area where the federal government has legislative powers. Mr Ruddock said the government would defend any attempt by states or territories to "intrude" into areas under which the federal government has responsibility.

100 people were detained in Russia after police mistook rugby match as brawl

Over 100 people were detained by authorities in southern Russia when police mistook a game of rugby as a brawl. Police apparently received a tip off that a large crowd had gathered at an empty sports ground on the outskirts of the city on Sunday afternoon. Around 70 policeman arrived at the scene to find a large number of cars parked around the area, and what appeared to be a crowd that was watching two rival gangs fight each other.

The police stopped the event and around 100 people were detained until they learned that they were actually playing a game of rugby. Everyone was released within a few hours, but authorities were displeased that they had not informed them of the sporting event earlier. A spokesperson for the police said, "Given the difficult, troubled situation in the region, at a time when counter-terrorism actions are being actively conducted, citizens are obligated to inform [authorities] either verbally or in writing of their intentions."

Dallas beats Miami again in NBA Finals, leads series 2-0

The Dallas Mavericks beat the Miami Heat 99-85 in the second game of the NBA Finals and lead the series 2-0. The second game was solidly in Dallas' favor the entire time.

Miami star Shaquille O'Neal scored his career low in points for a playoff game and sat out the final 15 minutes. O'Neal declined to speak to reporters after the game and was handed a \$10,000 fine, as well as a \$25,000 fine for the team.

Miami head coach, Pat Riley, said "I've been in a lot of playoff games, and I've gotten beat by 40, 30, 25, won by 25 or 30. Doesn't make any difference. The whole thing is about the next game and trying to leave this one behind us. Maybe it will set a fire in us a little bit."

With Miami down 2-0 and showing no signs of life, a series comeback, even if the next 3 are at home, seems unlikely.

Today in History

- 1381 - King Richard II of England met the leaders of the Peasants' Revolt.
- 1777 - The Continental Congress adopted the stars and stripes design for the flag of the United States.
- 1822 - Charles Babbage proposed a difference engine in a paper to the Royal Astronomical Society.
- 1940 - Paris was occupied by Nazi Germany (see History of Paris).
- 1985 - TWA Flight 847 was hijacked by Hezbollah militants.
- June 14 is Liberation Day in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (1982)

Quote of the Day

"The longest day must have its close -- the gloomiest night will wear on to a morning. An eternal, inexorable lapse of moments is ever hurrying the day of the evil to an eternal night, and the night of the just to an eternal day." ~ Harriet Beecher Stowe

Word of the Day

erudite; adj

1. Learned, scholarly, with emphasis on knowledge gained from books.

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