



### Top Stories



#### US: North Korea helped Syria build reactor

In a briefing today, the US Congress was told that North Korea helped Syria build a nuclear reactor that was subsequently bombed by Israel. It could have consequences for the six-party talks with North Korea.

#### UK City Councillor suspended from party after expressing controversial views

A British City Councillor from the Liberal Democrat Party has been suspended from his party and may lose his position as a school governor after making controversial comments on, among other things, the subjects of drugs and prostitution.

#### Series of earthquakes strikes Reno, Nevada area

A large series of earthquakes has hit the northern area of U.S. state Nevada recently, particularly in and around the Reno metropolitan area. Nevada is the third most earthquake-active state in the United States, and the Reno area regularly sees seismological activity. However,

### Top Stories

recent events, particularly yesterday's series of tremors, have become alarmingly frequent for locals.

#### EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

#### Wikinews holds a follow-up interview with Max Riekse, Constitution Party candidate for the 2008 U.S. presidential election

In March, Wikinews interviewed Max Riekse, candidate for the Constitution Party's nomination for the 2008 U.S. presidential election. With the Constitution Party's national convention underway this weekend, we spoke with him one last time before he either wins his party's nomination or loses.

### Wikipedia Current Events

Some forty people are injured when a Mennonite church's floor collapse during a Christian rock concert in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

•Two people are killed and more than a dozen injured after a semitrailer crashes into a Chicago Transit Authority station during rush hour.

•Sri Lankan Civil War: At least 24 people are killed by a blast on a bus near Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo.

•Actor Wesley Snipes is sentenced to three years in prison for tax violations.

•A United States military-

### Wikipedia Current Events

contracted vessel fires warning shots in front of two boats in the Persian Gulf, causing the boats to leave.

•Various aged students and their families participate in the nationally recognized 13th annual Day of Silence by refusing to speak for 24 hours.

#### Wikinews holds a follow-up interview with Max Riekse, Constitution Party candidate for the 2008 U.S. presidential election

In March, Wikinews held an exclusive interview with Max Riekse, one of the candidates for the Constitution Party nomination for the 2008 United States presidential election. With the Constitution Party's national convention underway this weekend, we spoke with him one last time before he either becomes his party's candidate or loses.

Riekse is a retired decorated Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army who served in both the Vietnam War and the Iraq War. He is also a former public school teacher and Assistant Professor of Military Science at Western Michigan University. He has a B.A. in Political Science and International Relations from the University of South Florida as well as two M.A.s, one in Political Science and International Relations, the other in Education and History. Both are from Western Michigan University.

We asked him if he thinks he has a good shot at winning the Constitution Party nomination and ultimately the presidency. He replied, "I will know Saturday the 26th if I win the nomination of the Constitution Party. As to winning the general election, I'm very sure that I will do far better than we have done in the previous 20 years as a 'third' party. I'm not only more qualified to be commander in chief than either the Democrat or Republican, but will be far better for the country."

When asked about America's illegal immigration problem he replied, "I will send all 20 to 30 million home. End birth right babies; no social security for them, etc. They are here illegally; now what part of that does anyone not understand?"

Riekse is running for president because "the Republicans and Democrats would not be having candidates that would solve the problems we have in this country and I know that I could do a lot better with my 32 years of military experience and over 20 years in Education, both in the K-12 public school venue and teaching at the University level."

### *Interview*

Wikinews (Joseph Ford): In the March interview, you told us why you're running for president. For those who may not have read it, please tell us again.

Lt. Colonel Riekse: I started to run for President because I know the Republicans and Democrats would not be having candidates that would solve the problems we have in this country and I know that I could do a lot better with my 32 years of military experience and over 20 years in Education, both in the K-12 public school venue and

teaching at the University level. Also I did not care for our party focusing on having a Republican lead our party in 2008; I also think we can do better with my heading the Constitution Party ticket this year than we have in the past; The number of votes we have received in past presidential elections has been pathetic giving our national platform & ideal's. I think I can do a lot better; and in the process, raise the number of votes our candidates receive for national, state and local offices.

WN: (Joseph Ford): How would you handle foreign relations with Europe, where there are growing anti-American feelings?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: I fully understand and appreciate the feelings that Europeans have for us, especially in regards to our foreign policy. I've been to Europe, including Iceland, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Russia and some five other European countries, both as part of my military service and as a tourist. I have found Europeans most friendly and easy to get along with and communicate with. As president, we will get on very well with all Europeans, especially Russia. Russia has huge natural gas & oil deposits and it would do well that we be on good, friendly terms with them. We can be great friends if we try to. All Europeans will be treated with dignity and respect in my administration.

WN: (Joseph Ford): Gasoline is already \$3.50 a gallon and will most likely be \$4.00 by summer. As president, how would you control the increasing prices?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: Gasoline and also diesel fuel which American truckers depend on, is subject largely to the law of supply and demand. Would I would do as president is push the oil companies

very hard to build two new oil refiners; one on the east coast and one on the west coast in 1-3 years which will be a great help in keeping the price of gas diesel fuel down. Also, I will push hard for reducing the stress on depending on foreign oil by pushing hard for sun, wind and water power, thus greatly reducing the need for foreign oil which will also help keep the price down. I believe that we can get the price of a gal of gas down: to \$1.00 We also need to cut the federal gas and diesel fuel tax by 70%. We can save a lot of money for building up our roads and bridges by not sending that money to Washington.

Another way to help bring down: gas & diesel fuel cost is to put an end to free & unfair trade which has greatly increased the cost of gas & diesel fuel for truckers in this country. As 'third' world demand for oil raises, especially in China, it pushes up the cost of oil for consumers in this country. Our huge trade imbalance with communist China helps fuel the Chinese economy thus increasing their 'need' and demand & competition for worldwide oil supply. American consumers buying cheap Chinese goods are not only helping the Chinese build up their economy, but also helping to drive up the cost of oil. I will slap a stiff tariff on all Chinese imports; and lead a nationwide boycott of all Chinese imports to not only drive down: the huge trade deficit with Red China, no real friend of the United States of America, but also to help bring back good paying manufacturing jobs with vested pensions and quality health benefits to working Americans. And finally, to pressure the Chinese to free Tibet from harsh deadly and repressive communist rule. Stop genocide on the Roof of the World.

WN: (Joseph Ford): Five years after it began, the Iraq War is still raging with no end in sight. As president, how would you handle it?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: We would be out in 3-4 months of my taking office. With 32 years in the military, I know how to do it in an orderly and professional way. Within ten days of my being confirmed of being the next president, I will let those planners in the Pentagon know what I expect and to plan for it. Bush will keep the war going until the day he is out of the office. When I take office, I expect to have a plan on my desk to pull out of both Iraq and Afghanistan within 24 hours. No plan on my desk within 24 hours, I will start firing a lot of generals. I am not only a graduate of the US Army Command & General Staff College, but taught it for nearly six years.

WN: (Joseph Ford): The American economy is worsening. How would you help the struggling working class man, woman or family?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: Put an end to free and very unfair trade, especially NAFTA; Republicans and Democrats working together gave us free, unfair trade and NAFTA. It will take Mad Max and the Constitution Party to end it. Simple.

WN: (Joseph Ford): For many Americans, health care is a major issue. How would you handle this?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: Socialized medicine is the wrong way; look at England and Canada. It does not work very well. I will have my people study the French system. It works for both their doctors and insurance companies. We can do it in this country.

WN: (Joseph Ford): How would you handle America's education

system?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: Eliminate the Federal Education Department. The states know best how to educate their children.

WN: (Joseph Ford): Illegal immigration is a major problem in America. How would you handle it?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: I will send all 20 to 30 million home. End birth right babies; no social security for them, etc. They are here illegally; now what part of that does anyone not understand? There are filling up our jails, prisons, stressing out our schools and hospitals. I will see to that they are ALL removed ASAP. To be sure many of them are good people, but they are illegal. Go home. They are also stressing out our environment.

WN: (Joseph Ford): Abortion is a controversial subject amongst Americans. How would you handle it?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: This is a state issue; period. Millions of abortions have taken place since the federal government has gotten involved. I trust the states to do the right thing. Michigan is a leader in saving the unborn; and would do more if not for the federal government.

WN: (Joseph Ford): Capital punishment is a controversial subject as well. How would you handle it?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: I support capital punishment; however something more needs to be done to insure that the wrong person does not die. More safeguards must be put in place.

WN: (Joseph Ford): As president, would you try to limit government presence in people's lives?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: Yes; lower taxes and less government. We need a lot less government in our

face; and less taxes to support big government which is way too powerful. I would cut the federal government in many areas.

WN: (Joseph Ford): How would you handle homosexual marriages?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: This is a state issue and the federal government has no Constitutional right to get involved in this issue.

WN: (Joseph Ford): How would you handle the environment?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: I would be the best president this nation has had in regards to the environment since President Teddy Roosevelt; I rank him right up their in high regards next to George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Great Men. We can greatly reduce our dependence on foreign gas and oil by 'burning' clean fuel.

WN: (Joseph Ford): What exactly does the Constitution Party stand for?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: The Constitution and the Bill of Rights; go to their web site and read their (our) platform.

WN: (Joseph Ford): Why do you think it is necessary that a third party candidate be voted into the White House this year?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: End the wars, Save Social Security; I am on a Constitution Party national committee dealing with Social Security and our committee has a very good plan to not only save Social Security, but keep it well for 100 years; get it out of the hands of Congress which has robbed it. I will also end the taxation of ALL Social Security benefits for those that are retired and eliminate the earnings requirement. I will also end free trade and bring good quality, high paying jobs back top the USA with good health benefits.

WN: (Joseph Ford): Do you think you have a good shot at winning the Constitution Party nomination? If so, do you think it is really possible to win the general election?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: I will know Saturday the 26th if I win the nomination of the Constitution Party. As to winning the general election, I'm very sure that I will do far better than we have done in the previous 20 years as a 'third' party. I'm not only more qualified to be commander in chief than either the Democrat or Republican, but will be far better for the country.

WN: (Joseph Ford): We haven't seen many Max Riekse billboards, commercials or television appearances. Will we if you win the Constitution Party nomination? Or are you trying to have a more grassroots campaign?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: I have a good plan to get elected which will unfold and develop as my campaign goes on. It will work for me only and no other Constitution Party candidate because only I have many of the qualifications that the American people are looking for.

WN: (Joseph Ford): Why are you a better candidate than John McCain?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: He is not fit to be commander in chief; John McCain and John Kerry working together on a US Senate Committee turned their backs on some 800 live American POW's who wanted to come home from Laos and Vietnam. He cannot be trusted with our tax dollars. He used his father's influence to get into the War College and gave very anti-American speeches in Vietnam while a POW. He is not good and does not deserve to be President.

Pro-life, family values orientated Christians can not and should not trust this man. He is also very much anti-second amendment; and will as he said keep us in Iraq for the next 50-100 years.

WN: (Joseph Ford): Why are you a better candidate than Hillary Clinton?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: She is anti-gun and will say and do anything to get elected. We cannot trust her one bit.

WN: (Joseph Ford): Why are you a better candidate than Barack Obama?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: No experience; also will say and do anything to get elected. He is a racist.

WN: (Joseph Ford): There are thousands reading this right now. What could you say to convince them to give you their vote?

Lt. Colonel Riekse: Go to my web site and read the whole thing.

### **Long March 3C rocket launches Tianlian-1 satellite**

At 15:35 UTC this afternoon (23:35 local time), the Chinese Long March 3C (CZ-3C) carrier rocket lifted off on its maiden flight, from launch pad 2 at the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre. It placed the Tianlian-1 satellite into a geosynchronous transfer orbit. Tianlian-1, also known as Tian Lian 1 and TL-1, a spacecraft tracking and data relay communications satellite, similar in function to the American Tracking and Data Relay Satellites (TDRS), will be used to track and communicate with manned Shenzhou spacecraft in low Earth orbit. It will be able to cover around half of the spacecraft's trajectory, compared to the 12 percent which can be covered by China's fleet of tracking ships and ground stations. The next

Shenzhou mission, Shenzhou 7, is currently scheduled for launch in October. Tianlian-1 is based on the DFH-3 satellite bus.

This is the 19th orbital launch of 2008, and the first this year to be conducted by the People's Republic of China. It is currently believed that China intend to conduct one more launch before the end of April, however due to secrecy surrounding China's space programme, it is difficult to be certain of this.

The Long March 3C is a new version of the Long March 3 rocket, which serves as an intermediate between the Long March 3A, and the Long March 3B. It is 55 metres tall, and can place a 3,700 kilogram payload into a geosynchronous transfer orbit.

### **At least 25 dead in Sri Lanka bus bombing**

A bus bombing in Sri Lanka has killed at least 25 and wounded at least 40.

The bomb exploded just outside the capital city, Sri Jayawardenapura-Kotte, with the wounded transported to nearby Kalubovila hospital. The explosion occurred during the evening rush hour.

"It's a parcel bomb of about 3kg (6 lbs) with a time device. It was placed in the middle of the bus," said a bomb squad official to Reuters.

As well as wounds sustained from the explosion, several passengers were burned after the commuter bus caught fire straight after the explosion.

The government has blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the bombing.

"It's definitely by the LTTE, with the recent losses and battlefield defeats they are desperate," said Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, a spokesperson for the military.

Fighting between the government forces and the LTTE has escalated since a cease-fire ended in January.

### **Arsonist behind Namdaemun gate fire in Seoul imprisoned for 10 years**

The arsonist responsible for setting fire to the historic Sungnyemun gate (more commonly referred to as Namdaemun gate) in Seoul, South Korea in February has been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. The 600-year-old landmark was considered one of the nation's greatest and most iconic, with some sources describing it as the single most important one in the country.

The 69-year-old male defendant has a previous conviction from two years ago for attempting to torch the Changgyeong palace, for which he received a suspended prison sentence and was fined. It is understood he destroyed the Namdaemun gate and attacked the palace over an unconnected land ownership dispute which had angered him. He felt that the compulsory purchase of his home a decade ago had been inadequately compensated for by the state.

After the fire, residents left flowers at the scene and wrote grieving notes.

Chae Jong-Gi, who admitted the crime, was told of the seriousness of the offence in a statement by the Seoul district court. "A heavy sentence is inevitable as the accused inflicted unbearable agony

on the people and damaged national pride... (The monument was) the treasure among all treasures which had survived all kinds of historic disasters. Even if restored, the gate's originality will never return. Therefore, the nature and consequences of this crime are very serious," said the statement.

The man is thought to have selected the gate as a target due to lax security measures. In the fire's aftermath, officials have been criticised over this and concerns that firefighting efforts were ineffective, and the Cultural Heritage Administration's chief resigned to show he accepted responsibility for the blaze.

The two storey gate in pagoda style was constructed in 1398 and despite a 1447 rebuild and multiple renovations still contained original timbers prior to the destruction in the fire. Only the stone base survived.

According to the Cultural Heritage Administration, a reconstruction effort will take two to three years and cost 20 billion won (US\$21 million).

### **US Marine charged with rape of Japanese girl**

A United States Marine has been charged in a case involving the alleged rape of a 14-year-old Japanese girl.

Staff Sgt. Tyrone Luther Hadnott has been charged with various offenses including rape of a child under 16, abusive sexual contact with a child, kidnapping, adultery, and making a false official statement.

There were protests in Japan as a result of the alleged crimes. The Guardian reports that an

estimated 300 women protested in Okinawa.

### **Series of earthquakes strikes Reno, Nevada area**

A large series of earthquakes has hit the northern area of U.S. state Nevada recently, particularly in and around the Reno metropolitan area. Between the hours of 01:00 PST (08:00 UTC) on April 24 and 16:00 PST (23:00 UTC) on April 25, over 125 earthquakes, ranging in magnitude from 0.7 to 4.2 on the Richter scale, hit the Reno area. Six of the earthquakes were of magnitude 3.0 or greater, noticeably shaking local residents. The area has seen at least 500 earthquakes greater than magnitude 0.7 in the last two months; of those, about 45 have exceeded 2.0 on the Richter scale.

Nevada is the third most earthquake-active state in the United States, and the Reno area regularly sees seismological activity. However, recent events, particularly yesterday's series of tremors, have become alarmingly frequent for locals. The recent tremors are also unusual in that the most recent earthquakes have been the largest. The most common earthquake scenario is a large quake followed by smaller aftershocks.

### **Teen charged with seven felonies related to threats made on Wikipedia, Wikinews interviews administrator who contacted police**

A 15-year-old boy, arrested last Friday in conjunction with criminal threats made on Wikipedia, was charged Thursday with seven felonies in Pomona Juvenile Court in Pomona, California. Prosecutors stated that the teen posted two threats on Wikipedia, saying that six named students as well as members of his school's badminton team would be shot.

The court arraignment had initially been set for Tuesday, but was continued until Thursday. Wikinews interviewed the Wikipedia administrator who contacted police after the threats had been made on the site.

Though officials had said the boy made a full confession that he had made threats to other students via the online encyclopedia Wikipedia, he denied the charges at the Thursday court petition. The court ordered that he remain detained pending a May 9 scheduled appearance before Pomona Juvenile Court. He has remained in custody since his arrest.

The threats were made via two separate edits to the Wikipedia article about Glen A. Wilson High School in Hacienda Heights, California on April 16. Wikipedia administrators were made aware of the threats in a post to the "Administrators' noticeboard" on April 16 by Wikipedia admin Dreadstar. Another Wikipedia administrator, John Reaves, contacted the police in Los Angeles, California, and helped them work with the Internet service provider to find more information on the IP address that made the threat. A third Wikipedia administrator, Persian Poet Gal, removed the threats from the edit history of the article after finding out that the student had been arrested.

Students' backpacks were searched prior to entering Glen A. Wilson High School on April 17 and all after-school activities were canceled that day. All classes were canceled April 18, and classes resumed on Monday.

### *Interview*

Wikinews interviewed Wikipedia

administrator John Reaves, the administrator who contacted police in Los Angeles about the threats made on Wikipedia.

Wikinews: Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed by Wikinews about your part in the incident previously covered in the Wikinews article: "California student arrested in criminal threats made on Wikipedia". How long have you been an administrator on the English Wikipedia?

John Reaves: About a year and one month.

WN: What areas do you normally focus your contributions to Wikipedia?

J.R.: Random, OTRS steers a lot of my edits. [OTRS is short for Open-source Ticket Request System, and within Wikipedia refers to the people who respond to e-mails sent to the Wikimedia Foundation.]

WN: Are you aware of previous criminal threats made on Wikipedia? If so, were you directly involved in dealing with any of them?

J.R.: I was aware of another school shooting threat was made I believe, but I wasn't involved.

WN: How did you first notice the threats made on the Wikipedia article "Glen A. Wilson High School" ?

J.R.: User:Dreadstar posted to AN [Wikipedia's Administrators' noticeboard] asking for advice.

WN: You had said at the Administrators' noticeboard that you were speaking with a detective - What police department did you get in contact with?

J.R.: I believe it was the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department's Industry City station.

WN: How did you work with the detective and the Internet service provider? Did you give them any additional information, other than the suspect's IP address?

J.R.: I gave them the basic information you get when you run a checkuser (which included the IP address among other things). I also forwarded this to the ISP who referred me to their legal department in a reply. I also had to give them a brief overview of how Wikipedia works (which was rather difficult to do on the spot and to people who had never heard of the project). [The Checkuser tool on Wikipedia allows those with "checkuser" status to examine user IP information and other server log data.]

WN: Did you notify the Wikimedia Foundation staff that you had contacted the police? If so, what was their reaction?

J.R.: I spoke with Board member Michael Snow via IRC and [he] gave me the go ahead on releasing the checkuser information and I spoke with Cary Bass [Volunteer Coordinator for the Wikimedia Foundation] the next day. I don't remember their reactions.

WN: Are you satisfied with the way Wikipedia administrators responded to the threat? Could anything have been done differently?

J.R.: Yes, the only thing that could have been better would be if there had been someone who could have made it a local call.

WN: How can Wikipedia administrators better prepare for this scenario in case it happens again?

J.R.: I don't see what you can do to prepare for something like that. If it's serious, call the police, if you don't know, post at AN.

WN: How do you feel law enforcement responded to the threat? What could they have done better? How can they plan for this in the future?

J.R.: They responded full force. It would have been easier if they were a little more wired though (anyone who has ever had to read the URL of a diff over the phone would also agree). [A "Diff" is the difference between two versions of a page on Wikipedia, it can also refer to the long link in the address bar denoting the version of those pages.]

WN: Do you have any advice for law enforcement from other locations that may be monitoring this situation?

J.R.: Get an e-mail address and some basic computer/internet crimes knowledge.

WN: Thank you for your time, and thanks for speaking with Wikinews.

### **UK City Councillor suspended from party after expressing controversial views**

Gavin Webb, a British City Councilor from the Liberal Democrats party has been suspended from his party and may lose his position as a school governor after making controversial comments on, among other things, the subjects of drugs and prostitution.

When describing his opinion on drugs, Webb said "I believe we should legalise the lot, including the most harmful substance heroin." He also said that the action taken by police on drugs was a "waste of money."

He also called for legalisation of handgun use. "The only person one can trust in protecting one's own life, is oneself. That is why I

also advocate that individuals should have the right to carry a handgun," he said.

Mr. Webb also advocated the decriminalisation of driving under the influence and the legalisation of brothels.

On a separate occasion, when speaking on the Free Talk Live radio show recently, Webb said that he refused to pay some types of tax.

### **Helen Thomas probes White House on torture; online community sends flowers**

On Wednesday, long-time White House correspondent Helen Thomas questioned White House Press Secretary Dana Perino bluntly and repeatedly about United States President George W. Bush's recent confirmation that he had approved CIA interrogation policies that included waterboarding.

"Where is everybody?" asked Thomas, apparently frustrated with lack of attention her colleagues had given the issue. The community at the social news site reddit answered "Here we are"; a message they plan to deliver along with several thousand dollars in flowers and other gifts.

Thomas's questions became front-page news on reddit this morning, via a Think Progress blog post that includes a C-SPAN 2 video clip of Thomas during yesterday's press briefing. Noting the president's repeated assertion that the U.S. does not torture, Thomas characterized the authorized interrogation techniques as torture.

"Now he has admitted that he did sign off on torture, he did know

about it," said Thomas, "so how do you reconcile this credibility gap?"

Perino reiterated that the "United States has not, is not torturing any detainees in the global war on terror."

"That's not my question. My question is, why did he say publicly 'we do not torture', when he really did know that we do?"  
—Helen Thomas

Whether waterboarding, among other techniques, should be categorized as torture has been a subject of political contention in recent months. Thomas was unequivocal, responding to Perino: "That's not my question. My question is, why did he say publicly 'we do not torture', when he really did know that we do?"

In appreciation of the reporter asking "A REAL QUESTION" (as the headline put it), reddit users (known as "redditors") have collected over \$3,000 for the purchase of flowers, edible arrangements and other gifts. Several 'redditors' also claimed to have ordered flowers for Thomas independently.

The bulk of the money was collected through Chipin.com, on a donation page created Micah Fitch, a musician and graphic designer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As of publication, the site registered 400 contributors for a total of \$3,125. Fitch also created a wiki, FlowersWiki, for organizing the gift purchases and selecting messages to go with them. A large delivery to the Washington D.C. offices of Thomas's employer Hearst Newspapers is being scheduled for Friday morning.

One redditor claims that a friend who works for The Daily Show is

pitching the story to the show's staff.

This is not the first time Thomas has received a high-volume flower gift. In 2006, an e-mail campaign that began on the political website Democratic Underground collected over \$2000 and resulted in delivery of 108 dozen roses.

### Today in History

1478 – In a conspiracy to replace the Medici family as rulers of the Florentine Republic, the Pazzi family attacked Lorenzo de' Medici and killed his brother Giuliano during High Mass at the Florence Duomo.

1865 – American Army soldier Boston Corbett cornered and fatally shot John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln.

1937 – Spanish Civil War: The Bombing of Guernica by the Condor Legion of the German Luftwaffe resulted in a devastating firestorm.

1964 – Tanganyika and Zanzibar merged to form Tanzania.

1986 – The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant near Chernobyl, Ukrainian SSR suffered a steam explosion, resulting in a fire and a nuclear meltdown.

2002 – Expelled student Robert Steinhäuser murdered 16 people and wounded 7 others before committing suicide in the Erfurt school shooting in Erfurt, Germany.

April 26 is Holy and Great Saturday (Eastern Christianity, 2008)

### Quote of the Day

I had the good fortune and opportunity to come home and to tell the truth; many soldiers, like Pat Tillman ... did not have that opportunity. The truth of war is not always easy. The truth is always more heroic than the hype.

~ Jessica Lynch

### Word of the Day

dyed-in-the-wool adj

- (figuratively) Firmly established in a person's beliefs or habits; deeply ingrained in the nature of a person or thing.

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### About Wikinews

We are a group of volunteer journalists whose mission is to create a diverse community where citizens from around the globe (including **you**) can collaborate to report the news on a wide variety of current events. By making our content perpetually available for free redistribution and use, we hope to contribute to a global digital commons.

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