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Around 240 demonstrators in the Chilean capital of Santiago were detained Friday after anti-government protests held against the



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country's education system and increasingly free market policies.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Huge interest takes Wikileaks offline

The Wikileaks website, which publishes sensitive and censored material submitted by anonymous contributors, has experienced unprecedented levels of Internet traffic today through public interest. This interest has caused the website's servers to be unable to meet the enormous demand of over 164 gigabytes of download traffic within twenty-four hours, leading the site to be temporarily inaccessible.

Wikipedia Current Events

The enlargement of the EU's borderless zone to eight Eastern European countries and Malta is completed through the lifting of air border controls between them and the 15 countries already part of the area.

- French architect Jean Nouvel wins one of the world's premier architecture honors, the Pritzker Prize.
- Battle of Basra (2008): Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr calls for his followers, the Mahdi Army, to lay down their arms and end their fighting with the Iraqi Army in Basra.
- North Korea threatens to cut off dialogue with South Korea over comments a South Korean military official reportedly made

Wikipedia Current Events

last week about a possible pre-emptive strike against the country.

- A privately registered Cessna 501 Citation carrying five people crashes into two homes in Farnborough, Kent, United Kingdom, after taking off from London Biggin Hill Airport. (BBC News) Onboard were former racing drivers Richard Lloyd and David Leslie.

Zimbabwe opposition claims early victory in election

Zimbabwe's main opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), released premature election results on Sunday, which claim a large victory for their presidential candidate Morgan Tsvangirai against incumbent Robert Mugabe.

MDC leaders said the unofficial tally, based on one-third of the election returns, shows Tsvangirai with 67% of the vote. The results were posted on the doors of polling stations, and then sent to party officials by text messaging. MDC Secretary General Tendai Biti said, "Barring a miracle, Mugabe can't win."

The official results are expected to be released Monday, but MDC officials called for them to be released sooner, fearing the government would use the delay to rig the voting. There were unconfirmed reports that military authorities were pressuring the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to

declare Mugabe the winner.

Biti called the delay a "constitutional threat" to the election's outcome. "We are very much concerned by the lack of results from [the Electoral Commission] and we suspect that the regime is at loss as to how to respond to the results which are showing that MDC is winning in most parts of the country," said Biti.

George Chiweshe, chairman of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, said the commission would not be pressured into releasing the official count early. "We are dealing with a matter with national dimensions," Chiweshe said. "Our mandate is clearly laid down in terms of the Constitution and we have tried -- actually, have followed -- that."

Critics of the government had long predicted that the election would be marred by fraud. Biti accused the ruling Zanu-PF party of chasing away his party's agents from polling stations. In addition, Amnesty International and other human-rights groups have accused the government of harassing the opposition and threatening to cut off food supplies to those who didn't vote for Mugabe's party.

Earlier, Mugabe spokesman George Charamba warned the MDC that declaring a premature victory for Tsvangirai would be tantamount to a coup d'état, "and we all know how coups are handled," he said.

There are concerns that violence may erupt on Monday if both parties claim victory. The United States embassy released a statement warning American citizens in the country of a "volatile situation" and a "possibility of violence across

Zimbabwe".

In the capital of Harare, opposition supporters took to the streets in celebration of the MDC's announcement. One voter remarked, "The old man is gone and our suffering has ended. Let's try another leader, Morgan Tsvangirai." But in the suburbs of Harare, celebration was stifled by heavily armed police, who have been deployed across Zimbabwe to stop any politically-motivated violence.

Police commissioner Augustine Chihuri said his forces would not hesitate to use "full force" against political violence. He and military commander Constantine Chiwenga have vowed not to salute Tsvangirai if he wins. However, some have questioned the effectiveness of the military, citing mass troop desertions and poor funding. "What the military says at the senior level and what happens at the ground level of the rank and file are two very different things," says Henri Boshoff, a military analyst.

Wikimania jury chooses Buenos Aires for 2009 location

On March 28, the jury in charge of selecting the location of Wikimania 2009 announced that the annual conference will be held in the city of Buenos Aires, the capital of the Argentine Republic.

According to a an official mailing list post from Wikimedia Volunteer Coordinator Cary Bass, Phoebe Ayers, and James Forrester made on behalf of the jury, Buenos Aires was chosen because of the "strong, organized team" behind the bid, the "detailed budget proposal and planning schedule," the "significant number of sponsors already lined up," "relaxed visa rules," because it has

a "solid venue, situated within a well-maintained cultural center in a major international city," and because of its "good Spanish-language media contacts."

Buenos Aires was selected out of 4 official bids, including Toronto, Brisbane, and Karlsruhe.

The conference venue will be the General San Martín Cultural Centre, located in the heart of the city. The conference will also be sponsored by entities like the Buenos Aires Tourism Authority and the National University of La Plata.

The bid was mainly organized by the members of Wikimedia Argentina, a local chapter of the Wikimedia Foundation.

This will be the first Wikimania celebrated in the South American continent and the first in a Spanish-speaking country.

Wikimania is an annual international conference for the editors of Wikimedia projects. The first conference was held in Frankfurt, Germany, on August 4-8, 2005; the second conference was held in Boston, USA, on August 4-6, 2006; the third one was held in Taipei, Taiwan, on August 3-5, 2007; this year's conference will be held on July 17-19 in Alexandria, Egypt.

Wikimedia Argentina reacts to the selection

Wikinews interviewed Patricio Lorente, the President of Wikimedia Argentina, on his reaction to the selection of Buenos Aires for Wikimania 2009.

Wikinews How do you feel about the selection?

Patricio: The whole group feels

great satisfaction and an enormous responsibility. We've been working on this candidacy for over a year and the expectancy of getting the jury's support was very big.

Wikinews How will Wikimania 2009 be different from other years?

Patricio: The location is part of the newness: it'll be the first Wikimania celebrated in the southern hemisphere and in a Latin country. The Spanish-speaking community has had, up until now, a weak participation in the global Wikimedia community, and we think this event will help integrate us.

Secondly, it'll be a Wikimania more integrated to the host city than previous ones: we based our bid on that, making sure that the venues are in the very heart of Buenos Aires. In addition to having a comfortable ambiance for carrying out the discussions, we want the wiki community to live the city.

Thirdly, it'll be a bilingual Wikimania. Up until now, the official language of Wikimania has been English. As part of this effort to integrate the Spanish-speaking community to the Wikimedia world we will make sure that there is simultaneous translation between Spanish and English, so that conferences are available in both languages.

Wikinews How do you think Wikimania will affect Latin America?

Patricio: We hope it gives new impulse to the organization of existing communities in countries in the region, developing new local chapters. We also expect important press coverage,

stimulating the appearance of new Wikimedians.

Moqtada al-Sadr calls for end to fighting

Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has told followers, the Mahdi Army militia, to stop fighting Iraqi and coalition forces and to cooperate with them.

This comes after six days of fierce fighting in Iraq's southern city of Basra, Baghdad and other Shi'a areas that has left over 240 to 250 dead.

The statement and offer came from al-Sadr's headquarters in Najaf. In the statement Sadr said, "Because of the religious responsibility, and to stop Iraqi blood being shed, and to maintain the unity of Iraq and to put an end to this sedition that the occupiers and their followers want to spread among the Iraqi people, we call for an end to armed appearances in Basra and all other provinces."

Sadr also condemned further attacks against the Iraqi government stating, "We announce our disavowal from anyone who carries weapons and targets government institutions, charities and political party offices."

However, al-Sadr also called on the government to offer general amnesty, release detainees and stop what he believes are illegal raids.

An Iraqi government spokesman, Ali al-Dabbagh, welcomed the statement as "positive and responsive." The Madhi Army had been negotiating since Saturday night with the Iraqi government. Ali al-Dabbagh said, "As the government of Iraq we welcome this statement. We believe this will

support the government of Iraq's efforts to impose security."

American forces targeted the Baghdad neighborhood of Sadr City with air strikes that killed 9 people and wounded 14. Another airstrike was launched at the northern Baghdad neighborhood of al-Zuhor, which killed 6 people and wounded 14. The American military said they killed 11 militants in those areas.

US Maj. Gen. Kelly: 'unbelievable over crowding' in Fallujah city jail

Wikinews has obtained a copy of a classified memo from the Commander of US forces in western Iraq, Major General John Kelly. The document, which was obtained via Wikileaks, features Kelly describing Fallujah city jail as a jail with "unbelievable over crowding, total lack of anything approaching even minimal levels of hygiene for human beings, no food, little water," and "no ventilation."

Kelly said in the memo that he was told that one of the reasons for the poor conditions is the fact that "there is zero support from the government for any of the jails in Anbar [the region the jail is in] No funds, food or medical support has been provided from any ministry."

He continued by saying that, "the police that run Anbar's jails are the same personnel responsible for investigating crimes. These jailer/investigators are undermanned and more often than not spend most of their time out begging and scavenging for food than investigating crimes."

"Anbar lacks trained Iraqi correctional officers (ICOS) to run the jails in Anbar. The development and employment of

trained ICOS would enable the IP to focus on criminal investigation rather than jail supervision. I believe the Iraqi police are doing the best they can, and they literally begged me on humanitarian, moral and religious grounds to help them help the prisoners by somehow moving the government to action," Kelly continued.

Wikipedia publishes 10 millionth article

The online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, has published its 10 millionth article. The 10 millionth Wikipedia article is "Nicholas Hilliard" in the Hungarian Wikipedia, according to a press release from Wikimedia Foundation head of communications Jay Walsh. The Wikimedia Foundation operates Wikipedia editions in 253 languages. The largest single language is English, which has 2.3 million articles. The official total count reached 10 million on Thursday, March 27, at 00:07 UTC.

In the press release, Wikimedia founder Jimmy Wales was quoted as saying "It's incredible to think that we've grown from one Wikipedia in English to over 250 language Wikipedias. Ten million articles is something we could never have imagined happening so fast when we embarked on Wikipedia in 2001. This is a testament to the incredible dedication of our volunteers around the world."

The table below lists the five largest Wikipedias:

#	Language	Articles
1	English	2 308 922
2	German	729 856
3	French	640 411
4	Polish	484 829
5	Japanese	480 726

Wikinews interviews Brian Moore, Socialist Party USA presidential candidate

While nearly all cover of the 2008 Presidential election has focused on the Democratic and Republican candidates, the race for the White House also includes independents and third party candidates. These parties represent a variety of views that may not be acknowledged by the major party platforms.

As a non-partisan news source, Wikinews has impartially reached out to these candidates, who are looking to become the 43rd person elected to serve their nation from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW. Wikinews' own Patrick Mannion corresponded with the Socialist Party USA nominee and candidate, Brian Moore via e-mail.

Interview

Why do you want to be President?

Moore: Because the two party political system, and our capitalistic economic system, are not addressing nor are they resolving the problems domestically nor internationally. I believe we need candidates of courage and vision to address issues in a forthright and alternative way, and no one so far, does that through the systems and solutions that they offer. I also want to represent the working man and woman, the common man, and the poor, and bring equality and fairness and respect to them, which does not exist now under our systems and society.

Have you ever run for political office before?

Moore: Yes, I ran for city council and mayor in Washington in the 1980's and 1990's; and I ran for the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Senate in Florida in 2002, 2004

and 2006 respectively.

Have you ever been a member of a political party, other than the one you're currently in?

Moore: Yes, I was a member of the Democratic Party, the Citizens Party, the Reform Party and the Socialist Party. I also was an Independent for a long period of time.

Have you ever campaigned for another political candidate?

Moore: Yes, from 1967 through 1984 and in the 1990's and early 2000's I campaigned for congressmen, senators, governors and presidents in California, Utah, New Mexico, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Maryland and Washington. I have collected signatures on petitions, raised money, held fundraisers, parties, meetings, signs, attended meetings, etc for two dozen candidates over a 30-year period. I only decided to run as a candidate myself at the age of 41, after campaigning for the first 17 years for other candidates. After becoming a candidate in 1984, I still campaigned for others in my off years up to 2004.

What is your current job?

Moore: I am semi-retired at 64 (will be 65 in June, 2008), but am presently looking for work again, despite my presidential candidacy, because my younger wife recently lost her banking job with regard to home loans and mortgages. Since I have a graduate degree, it may be easier for me to regain employment than she, who worked her way up through the banking industry for 25 years without attending college.

What skills or ideas do or previous positions, you bring from this position that will benefit the Oval Office?

Moore: Not sure your question is clear. I have worked in the private and public sector, for-profit and non-profit sectors, domestically and internationally, as an administrator, project director, fundraiser and in sales. I have worked with the poor and solicited funds from corporations and governments as well. I speak Spanish and some Portuguese, and have traveled and lived in South America for almost eight years. I have been involved civically and politically and professionally for forty years, I play sports and attend cultural events, and feel I am well-rounded. I speak out forthrightly on the issues, take strong and clear stands, take the initiative a lot and leader and/or start causes and projects in a leadership capacity.

Obviously, the next American President and his or her administration will face many diverse issues. But if you were to narrow identify the three most important issues, what would they be? How will you address these issues?

Freedom and Privacy Rights: Abolish the Patriot Act, the Military Tribunal bill, all executive orders that water down people's rights, and abolish all intelligence agencies overseas and the Homeland Security Agency at home.

Radically Change Economic System: Transition America's economic system from capitalism to socialism in an efficient, expeditious, non-violent, civil, respectful way in order to eliminate all for-profit corporations and turn full authority and social ownership to the community and control over to workers. We do not advocate "government ownership" but all decisions will be made from the bottom up, and a redistribution of wealth will begin to take effect.

Workers therefore have, if anything, a GREATER incentive to work hard under socialism than under capitalism because they are able to retain a much greater portion of the value of their own labor.

End the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars and Bring the American Troops and Corporations Home

Immediately: Immediately end the two wars, and remove our troops and American corporations within a month or two. Assure protection and departure for citizens in danger of retaliation. Turn control of Iraq over to a new coalition or Iraqi tribes to decide on the political outcome of the new country. Provide generous reparations to Iraq and Afghanistan for the destruction of the infrastructure and culture the United States has caused. Proceed to make efforts to register any and all war crimes by our political and military leaders, and our allies, and request the Hague and International Law to hold accountable any and all political and military leaders from America, and its allies, responsible for crimes against humanity.

My grandfather emigrated from Ireland in 1949, some of my relatives lived here illegally, you yourself have Irish immigrant grandparents, what is your opinion on the immigration battle that is occurring today in America?

Moore: The immigration problem stems from greed and exploitive policies of the American government against many third and fourth world nations, that have undermined their economy and caused great poverty and suffering worldwide. I am in favor of full amnesty for all legal and illegal immigrants, the provision of full social services to all residents in our country, and the implementation of socialism which

will guarantee free and full health benefits, education and housing to all its residents. Plus we will institute worker ownership and a guaranteed annual income for all adults, even for those incapacitated by handicaps, homelessness, etc. We will eliminate all for-profit corporations, closed down all foreign military bases, reduce our defense budget in half, and then more in the years to come. We will also end arms sales, and stop the use and sale of all nuclear power both militarily and commercially.

Campaigning for the American presidency is one of the most expensive exercises in the world. How do you deal with the cost and fundraising?

Moore: Not very well. Presently, the only candidates who succeed in our system are millionaires, or sellouts to corporate America and special interests. Public funding of future campaigns, universal laws for all fifty states to allow equal and fair ballot access to multiple and minor party candidates will be necessary to open up the system. Plus, we will take back the airways, and require if not award equal television and radio time for all candidates.

Do you believe that it is really possible for you to win the 2008 election, being a third party candidate and all?

Moore: Hell no! We will be fortunate to get on the ballot in 20 states. There is a possible, but not highly probable, reason that it could happen due to catastrophic events in our country such as war, economic collapse, assassinations, etc. or due to the throwing of support from several other minor parties to a candidate (i.e. a socialist party candidate being endorsed by the Green Party and a strong Independent candidate like

Ralph Nader, or visa versa, thereby enabling one single candidate to be on the ballot on 45 to 50 states).

Can any third party or independent candidate ever win?

Moore: Yes, per the rationale mentioned in answer #11; or from an attractive third party candidate and an even split from the other two major party candidates. Remember, Bill Clinton won the 1992 presidency with 39% of the vote, George Bush with 37%, Ross Perot with 20% (he was up to 40% in the early part of the campaign and won up to 28% in some states). Plus, the country is getting tired of holding its nose and voting for the lesser of two evils, plus the number of Independent and minor party candidates is growing and about to surpass one or both of the two major parties in percentage registered.

Why do you believe socialism or even democratic socialism has never really "taken off" in America?

Moore: Socialism had taken off in America. It is just that the "Red Scare" and the Espionage Act and the Sedition Act between 1917 and 1924 by the U.S. government, Stalinism and McCarthyism from 1945 to 1955; and the Cold War in the second half of the 20th century all undermined a wonderful and rich heritage of our country that thrived from 1900 thru 1925 and beyond. There were 1200 officeholders in America who were registered and public candidates as Socialists in America around 1920. Close to one million Americans voted for Eugene Debs in 1912 and 1920, gaining 9% and 11% of the popular vote. Remember, Teddy Roosevelt ran in 1912 as a third party candidate and garnered the second highest vote totals (20%) and still Gene

Debs also gained around 11%. Can you imagine if Teddy Roosevelt had not been a candidate in that election! Secondly, the Socialists were against World World I, plus there was a split in the party with over half going to Communism, thus both suffering the consequences of Woodrow Wilson's Sedition Act and Red Scare tactics accusing them of being traitors. Membership in the Socialist Party of America grew from 13,000 to 118,000 by 1912, and circulation of its journal, Appeal to Reason, reached a circulation of over 760,000.

Keep in mind supporters of Socialism then and into the 1930's and 1940's, in addition to Eugene V. Debs were Upton Sinclair, Helen Keller, Einstein, Sinclair Lewis, A. Philip Randolph, Walter Reuther, Margaret Sanger, Jack London, William DuBois, Kate Richards O'Hare, Frank Zeidler, Rose Pastor Stokes, Victor Berger, Bayard Rustin and Michael Harrington. The growth of the left worried President Woodrow Wilson and his administration so much that America entered what became known as the "Red Scare" period. In 1919, U.S. Attorney General Alexander Mitchell Palmer, at the order of President Wilson, arrested over 10,000 suspected communists and anarchists. These people were charged with "advocating force, violence and unlawful means to overthrow the Government." J. Edgar Hoover was part of the effort at that time. Large number of these "suspects" were held without trial for a long time, and some were expelled to Russia. The Socialist party took a terrible hit and its membership suffered a severe drop due to the governmental intimidation and false claims against it. One of my jobs is to re-educate America about this rich and radical heritage, and how its vision is

positive and beneficial to the country. My other function will be to point out how capitalism is failing America and that it is acceptable to think in terms of radical change and alternative economic systems that will preserve and insure our country's survival and bring more fairness and justice to more Americans and to the world.

If you can't make it into the Oval Office, who would you prefer seeing taking the presidency?

Moore: No one else, other than Ralph Nader. All, including Ralph Nader, are part of the capitalistic system, and accept its premises that competition, profit, ambition, taking the initiative, winning, exploitation, and survival of the fittest philosophy win over the socialist's features of cooperation, democracy, communal responsibility, fairness, equity, egalitarianism, mutual respect, helping one another, etc. Even Ralph Nader would have a terrible time under capitalism, but I think down deep he really is a socialist at heart, but does not have the gumption or is too practical to believe that it can emerge or survive.

What should the American people keep in mind, when heading to the polls this November?

Moore: That they should vote their conscience and their principles. They should register their vote with the candidate they most believe in to show all the powers that be where your mandate lies. Third Party issues have created change in America. They have advocated causes that the two major parties have embraced 10, 20 or 30 years later, The major parties just did not have the moral courage to stand up at the time for what they really believed in. Eugene V. Debs, founder of the

Socialist Party was quoted: "I'd rather vote for something I want and not get it than vote for something I don't want and get it."
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Today in History

- 1778 – English explorer James Cook landed on Vancouver Island and claimed it for Great Britain.
- 1854 – Commodore Matthew Perry of the U.S. Navy signed the Treaty of Kanagawa, forcing the opening of Japanese ports to American trade.
- 1889 – The Eiffel Tower was inaugurated in Paris, becoming a global icon of France and one of the most recognizable structures in the world.
- 1903 – New Zealand inventor Richard Pearse reportedly flew in one of the first powered flying machines for a distance of several hundred metres, about nine months before the Wright brothers flew their Wright Flyer.
- 1917 – The Danish West Indies became the U.S. Virgin Islands after the United States paid Denmark US\$25 million for the Caribbean islands.
- March 31 is Feast of the Annunciation in Western Christianity (observed, 2008); César Chávez Day in various U.S. states, Freedom Day in Malta.

Quote of the Day

Let us roll all our strength and all
Our sweetness up into one ball,
And tear our pleasures with rough
strife
Thorough the iron gates of life:
Thus, though we cannot make our
sun
Stand still, yet we will make him
run.

~ Andrew Marvell ~

Word of the Day

endemic adj

1. Native to a particular area or culture; originating

- where it occurs.
2. Peculiar to a particular area or region; not found in other places.
3. Prevalent in a particular area or region.

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