



Top Stories

Explosion near Afganistan base kills 14, U.S. Vice President may have been target

An explosion outside an American military base in Afghanistan occurred as U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney was making a surprise visit.

Scorsese finally scores Oscar gold with "The Departed"

Martin Scorsese's violent epic The Departed captured the Best Picture of 2006 at the 79th Annual Academy Awards, held Sunday evening in Los Angeles.

Featured story

Liberals in Quebec gain support over separatist Parti Québécois

Following an upcoming election in Quebec, the Parti libéral du Québec (Liberal Party of Quebec) are in the lead, well ahead of the separatist Parti Québécois (PQ), says a poll done by Montreal based newspaper Le Devoir.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Delwa Kassiré Koumakoye becomes the new Prime Minister of Chad, replacing interim PM Adoum Younousmi who stood in for Pascal Yoadimnadjé since Yoadimnadjé's death on 23 February 2007 in Paris.
- Guinean general strike, 2007: President of Guinea Lansana Conte appoints Lansana Kouyate as the new Prime Minister of

Wikipedia Current Events

Guinea after reaching an agreement with the trade union movement and the Opposition.

- Talpiot Tomb: Film director James Cameron claims to have found ossuaries that once contained the remains of Jesus of Nazareth, his disciple Mary Magdalene, and their son, named Judah.
- Insurgency in Saudi Arabia: At least three French citizens have been shot dead in an attack near the historical site of Madain Saleh.
- The Iraqi Government has come to an agreement to divide oil revenue and encourage foreign investment in the country.
- A bomb inside the Iraqi Ministry of Public Works kills at least five people. It also injures Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi and the Minister for Public Works Reyad Ghareeb in a possible assassination attempt.
- The International Court of Justice finds Serbia guilty of failing to prevent genocide in the Srebrenica massacre, but clears it of direct responsibility and complicity in a case brought forth by Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The Daily Telegraph reports that Israel is negotiating with the United States for an air corridor over Iraq to carry out an air strike on Iranian nuclear facilities. Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh calls the information "baseless."
- The preliminary inquiry by the Rail Accident Investigation Branch

Wikipedia Current Events

into the Grayrigg rail crash finds that a key part of the set of points was missing. (The Daily Telegraph)

- Scientists find over 20 new species of animals as the Larsen Ice Shelf breaks in the Antarctic.
- Four Guatemalan police officers jailed for the 19 February slaying of three Salvadoran deputies to the Central American Parliament are shot dead inside a maximum security prison; a riot ensues.
- Vice President of the United States Dick Cheney makes surprise visits to Pakistan and Afghanistan to encourage President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf and President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai to increase border security between the two countries and to take further action against the Taliban and al-Qaeda.
- United Kingdom Secretary of State for Defence Des Browne announces the deployment of an additional 1,400 troops to Afghanistan.

Golfer sues law firm over Wikipedia article defacement

Golfer Fuzzy Zoeller wants to sue the anonymous person who vandalised his article in the Wikipedia encyclopedia, a website resource almost anyone can edit.

An IP address from Josef Silny & Associates, a Miami education consulting firm, wrote a biased paragraph about him creating

uproar from the golfer. The entry was posted twice: once sometime last year, and again in December 2006. The paragraph was removed last month, and deleted from the article history by Danny Wool, a staff member of the Wikimedia Foundation.

Zoeller is suing Josef Silny & Associates to find out who added this text.

"The Zoeller family wants to take a stand to put a stop to this. Otherwise, we're all just victims of the Internet vandals out there. They ought not to be able to act with impunity," said Zoeller's attorney, Scott Sheftall.

Through the court, Wikipedia can not be sued for a vandalous edit. The person or company, in this case, will be sued. In fact, the Wikimedia Foundation has not been contacted by Zoeller or his representatives about the lawsuit.

Scorsese finally scores Oscar gold with "The Departed"

Martin Scorsese's violent epic *The Departed* captured the Best Picture of 2006 at the 79th Annual Academy Awards, held Sunday evening in Los Angeles. The Warner Bros. movie also won three other Oscars, including Best Director for Scorsese (his first ever award), Best Adapted Screenplay, and Best Film Editing.

The musical *Dreamgirls*, which headed into the awards ceremony with the most nominations, managed to score only two Oscars for Best Supporting Actress (Jennifer Hudson) and Best Sound Mixing.

Among the other winners were Alan Arkin (Best Supporting Actor, *Little Miss Sunshine*) and Helen Mirren (Best Actress, *The Queen*). Forest

Whitaker won the award for Best Actor for his performance in *The Last King of Scotland*), denying Peter O'Toole an Oscar for the eighth time (not counting an honorary Oscar won in 2003). The acclaimed documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* (conceived by former Vice President Al Gore about global warming) won the Best Documentary Feature award, and *Happy Feet* won for Best Animated Feature.

Canada's Astral Media Inc. to acquire Standard Radio

Canadian Astral Media Inc. will buy out Standard Radio Inc., which runs many radio stations in Canada. Standard Radio Inc. is the largest privately owned multimedia company in Canada.

Montreal based Astral Media Inc. will buy all of the assets from Standard Radio Inc. for about CAN\$1.2-billion. Standard Radio Inc.'s 52 radio stations, and Astral's 29, will be brought together by Astral Media Inc. This will give Astral 81 radio stations in total. This makes Astral the largest radio operator in Canada of FM and AM radio.

"With the acquisition of Standard Radio, Astral Media will not only be acquiring the best performing radio stations in the country, we will at the same time acquire a company with similar values and culture," said Ian Greenberg, President and CEO of Astral Media.

"Over the past four decades the Slaight family has built a remarkable collection of strong radio brands and has contributed meaningfully in shaping the Canadian radio industry as we know it today. We are delighted with the prospect of welcoming Standard Radio's employees into our team."

Gary Slaight, President and CEO of Standard Radio also commented on the deal.

"We are looking forward to becoming a part of the Astral Media family," said Gary Slaight, President and CEO of Standard Radio. "We are pleased to see our legacy live on with a company such as Astral that has such a strong track record and commitment to its employees and to the Canadian radio and television industries."

All of Astral's radio stations are run in Quebec and Atlantic Canada and it also runs various television stations across Canada. Astral also has two french channels that broadcast on Sirius satellite radio Canada.

The company hopes to finalize the deal in or before April.

Chelsea beats Arsenal in Carling Cup

A heated showdown occurred in the all London Carling Cup final yesterday at Millennium Stadium. Chelsea fielded a full strength side, including Andriy Shevchenko, Michael Ballack, Didier Drogba, and skipper John Terry. Arsenal on the other hand fielded a young side, including Theo Walcott, Cesc Fabregas, Jeremie Aliadiere, and Justin Hoyte.

Despite their apparent lack of experience, Arsenal started out the match strongly, with crisp passing and great control. They pressed their advantage, and forced Chelsea keeper Petr Cech into several saves. On 12 minutes, Theo Walcott struck gold, as he orchestrated a give and go with Abou Diaby and slotted the ball into the far corner of the net, scoring his first ever goal for the Gunners. Soon after, Baptista of Arsenal had

a legitimate claim for a penalty, but referee Howard Webb wouldn't hear of it. Chelsea struck back quickly, and a hint of offside was shown as Didier Drogba was played in by an over the top ball by Michael Ballack. The Ivory Coast striker didn't wait for a whistle, and slotted the ball between Manuel Almunia's legs to tie the match. A few more chances were spurned due to poor finishing before the break, but the game went into halftime drawn at one a piece.

The second half started much as the first, with the youthful exuberance of Arsenal showing through, as they continued to press. Chelsea's output was increased as well however, with the addition of Arjen Robben at the expense of Makelele. 2 yellow cards were handed out to Chelsea in the next few minutes, before the game took a huge downturn. Chelsea skipper John Terry was seriously injured, when Diaby's foot connected squarely with his face as Diaby attempted to clear the ball. Terry was taken off in a stretcher and was replaced by Mikel. The loss of their captain seemed to push Chelsea to new levels, as Drogba forced a fine save out of Almunia, and Lampard saw his shot go off the woodwork. Arsenal were not able to hold on, and on 81 minutes, Denilson made a sloppy pass and Robben picked up the scraps. He sent a cross in as Drogba beat Senderos to the ball and headed in his 28th of the campaign. The blue tide continued, and Shevchenko blasted a ball off the woodwork, missing his chance to seal the victory. As the game entered stoppage time, Mikel and Toure entered a shoving match, and more players got involved. Coaches took the field to attempt to settle their players, and when all was finally calm, Mikel and Toure were shown red cards,

along with Adebayor of Arsenal. The game was finally called at 101 minutes, and stand in skipper Lampard was able to hoist the Carling Cup.

Sherry Lansing thankful for Hersholt Humanitarian Oscar

Given to an "individual in the motion picture industry whose humanitarian efforts have brought credit to the industry", the Jean Hersholt Award is not an annual honor, but rather an occasional prestigious title.

This year's winner was Sherry Lansing, the former CEO of Paramount Pictures and the first woman to head a major studio. Her biography in Wikipedia provides a full overview of her industry and humanitarian accomplishments.

She delivered the following acceptance speech at the 79th Annual Academy Awards ceremony last night: "I am deeply honored and very grateful to receive this award, but I also must admit that it feels a little strange to be singled out. So many of you have causes that you are equally passionate about. That is really what is so wonderful about the movie industry -- not only do we get to make films that matter, but we also work in a culture where we are encouraged to speak out. We may not always agree, but we do always care.

Through my work, I have met scientists who struggle every day to find cures for diseases. They do so quietly -- without glamour or attention, but always with passion and conviction. I have met school teachers who are battling against insurmountable odds, and yet they never stop trying to reach our children. To me, they are the real heroes, and tonight I share this honor with all of them.

On a personal note, I want to thank my husband Billy and our two boys Cedric and Jack, whose unconditional love gives me the courage to fight every day for what I believe in. And a special thank you to the members of the Academy for this extraordinary honor. I promise to spend the rest of my life trying to live up to it."

She joins a list of only been six honorees in the last seventeen years, Audrey Hepburn (1992, posthumously), Elizabeth Taylor (1992), Paul Newman (1993), Quincy Jones (1994), Arthur Hiller (2001), and Roger Mayer (2004).

CBS to invest in Electric Sheep Company

The officials from CBS stated on Monday that the company is going to invest in virtual world content developer Electric Sheep Co., which develops 3D properties in several virtual worlds like the one called Second Life.

In recent months corporate investors are paying more attention to virtual worlds. This is mainly due to the fact that the audience is shifting from TV to Internet. Another advantage of virtual worlds is that they can help in marketing products and promoting brands.

The Interactive President of CBS, Quinsy Smith, sees the virtual worlds as platforms for the next generations. The Chief Executive of Electric Sheep, Sibley Verbeck, mentioned in an interview that the company has the goal of helping entertainment companies to gain their clients from virtual worlds like Second Life. Then Electric Sheep will provide more entertainment experiences for clientèle. With money invested by CBS, Electric Sheep plans to develop software that will create virtual worlds for mainstream consumption.

Electric Sheep developed several projects for CBS, including "The L-Word in Second Life". CBS also filmed a commercial within Second Life in order to promote its show called "Two and a Half Men."

Currently Electric Sheep is developing inside Second Life a Star Trek-themed area for CBS.

Virginia legislature issues apology for slavery

The Virginia General Assembly voted unanimously Saturday in favor of a resolution apologizing for its role in slavery. The former center of the Confederacy during the Civil War became the first U.S. slave state to issue such a proclamation.

"This session will be remembered for a lot of things, but 20 years hence I suspect one of those things will be the fact that we came together and passed this resolution," said Delegate A. Donald McEachin, a Democrat who sponsored it in the House of Delegates.

The resolution passed the Virginia House 96-0 and the Virginia Senate on voice vote. The resolution says government-sanctioned slavery "ranks as the most horrendous of all depredations of human rights and violations of our founding ideals in our nation's history, and the abolition of slavery was followed by systematic discrimination, enforced segregation, and other insidious institutions and practices toward Americans of African descent that were rooted in racism, racial bias, and racial misunderstanding." The measure also expressed regret for "the exploitation of Native Americans."

"The resolution's wording was a

compromise between House and Senate lawmakers who tweaked the language from issuing an apology, to expressing 'contrition,' to expressing 'profound regret,'" according to the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Prior to the cessation of slave importation, Virginia was a central hub in the slave trade. Historians estimate that more than 100,000 slaves passed through ports on the James River at Richmond, the state's capital.

Missouri and Maryland are considering similar resolutions.

Today in History

1594 - The King of Navarre was crowned King Henry IV of France at the Cathedral of Chartres near Paris, beginning the Bourbon dynasty.

1617 - Rise of Sweden as a Great Power: Sweden signed the Treaty of Stolbovo to end the Ingrian War with Russia, making large territorial gains.

1801 - Washington, D.C. was placed under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Congress.

1933 - The Reichstag building was set on fire, a pivotal event in the establishment of the Nazi regime in Germany.

1976 - The Polisario Front proclaimed the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic in Western Sahara.

February 27 is Independence Day in the Dominican Republic (1844)

Quote of the Day

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing.
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow ~

Word of the Day

vilify; v

1. To denounce or belittle through speech; to put down.
2. To say defamatory things about someone or something.

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