



WIKINEWS PRINT EDITION

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Page 1

Top Stories

Church of Scientology's 'Operating Thetan' documents leaked online

Wikinews has obtained leaked 'Operating Thetan' (OT) documents of the Church of Scientology which were leaked via Wikileaks. Although some portions of the manual have been leaked previously, this is believed to be the first time the full unedited version has been leaked. The 612 page manual for Scientologists and written by L. Ron Hubbard, contains instructions for the eight different Operating Thetan levels including 'clear' and OT8

Popular soap opera 'The Young and the Restless' celebrates 35 years on the air

Wikinews interviews three actresses of the popular U.S. daytime soap opera The Young and the Restless to commemorate the serial's 35th anniversary, which was celebrated today. Actresses Melody Thomas Scott, Michelle Stafford, and Tricia Cast took part in the largest Wikinews interview to date.

Wikinews interviews author and filmmaker Peter John Ross

Wikinews spoke with author and filmmaker Peter John Ross, who has made numerous short films and co-directed a feature, the WWII horror film Horrors of War. He told us why he makes movies and about his book, Tales From the Front Line of Indie

Top Stories

Filmmaking, which has valuable tips for the filmmaker just starting out.

'Big Brother' contestant Parker Somerville sounds off about the show and his aspirations

Wikinews interviews Big Brother USA castoff Parker Somerville about his experiences on the show, what he really thinks of some HouseGuests, and what's in store for him in the future.

Wikipedia Current Events

The Space Shuttle Endeavour lands at Cape Canaveral, Florida in a rare nighttime landing ending a 16-day mission to the International Space Station.

•Ford Motor Company announces it will sell its British luxury-car brands Jaguar and Land Rover to India's Tata Motors for \$2.3 billion.

•The United States embassy in Cairo admits that a United States Navy-contracted boat crew killed an Egyptian when it opened fire on a small boat near the Suez Canal.

•The first foreign journalists allowed in Tibet since the outbreak of the 2008 unrest in Tibet arrive in Lhasa.

•The President of the United States of America George W. Bush calls the President of the People's Republic of China Hu Jintao to raise concerns about

Wikipedia Current Events

events in Tibet.

•The death toll from the Battle of Basra (2008) rises to 40 dead and 200 injured in two days of fighting between Shiite militias and the Iraqi military.

•A federal indictment claims that Saddam Hussein's spy agency paid for three Democratic Party legislators (Jim McDermott of Washington, David Bonior of Michigan and California) to visit Iraq in the lead up to the Iraq War.

•The South Korean government decides to vote for a resolution on North Korean human rights violations in the United Nations Human Rights Council.

•A 41 km × 2.5 km chunk of ice (102.5 km², see size comparisons) breaks away from the Antarctic Wilkins ice shelf, heralding the disintegration of the remaining 14,000 km².

Popular soap opera 'The Young and the Restless' celebrates 35 years on the air

The popular American soap opera The Young and the Restless, currently the reigning Emmy Award-winner for best daytime drama, celebrated 35 years on the air Wednesday.

The 35th anniversary also comes after the series, known colloquially as Y&R, marked its 1,000th straight week as the highest-rated soap opera in a daytime slot. In addition to

keeping the #1 spot every week since December 1988, Y&R has also been the top-rated soap in the African-American demographic since 1991.

A trend-setter since the beginning, Y&R relied on character-driven storytelling, accentuated with understated sexuality from its cast, which at that time was mostly young, to bring in teenage and twentysomething viewers, which were ignored by soap producers and networks up to that time. These traits immediately set Y&R apart from other soap operas, and other soaps have since mimicked Y&R's formulaic approach to offering something for everyone, especially younger viewers.

Since premiering on March 26, 1973, Y&R has become a worldwide cultural institution in its own right; racking up an impressive 100 Emmy Awards between the writers, producers, cast and crew since 1974. The show has aired in over 100 countries, including Australia, New Zealand, France, Germany, Italy, and Turkey, and reaches a worldwide audience of ten million daily. So far-reaching was Y&R's appeal that Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci chose the serial's theme song as accompanying music to her floor exercises at the 1976 Summer Olympics. In Australia, where Y&R has aired since 1974, the show was canceled by the original network that aired it in 2007, prompting a widespread fan backlash in that country. It was eventually moved to a pay channel.

Over the past 35 years, countless characters, marriages, divorces, births, deaths, and every joy and trauma in between have visited the residents of Genoa City, where

Y&R is based. To commemorate the milestone, Mike Halterman from Wikinews interviewed three actresses who have played long-running characters on Y&R, and asked them to share their memories. All three responded to questions about what being on Y&R means to them, what their favorite storylines were, what they perhaps would have wanted to do all over again, and what they'd love to tell their fans directly.

Below are portions of all three interviews.

[Wikinews interviews Y&R cast members](#)

Throughout March, Mike Halterman spoke to three Y&R actresses: Melody Thomas Scott, who has portrayed Nikki Newman since 1979; Michelle Stafford, who has portrayed Phyllis Summers Newman since 1994; and Tricia Cast, who portrayed Nina Webster from 1986 to 2001.

Questions asked to all three

Mike Halterman: How do you feel about the way the show has evolved from the day you started the show, to what it is now?

Melody Thomas Scott: Our show has always reflected the pertinent issues of the real world, so of course, that is constantly changing. Making the transition from a half hour to an hour was seamless, and that happened in 1980, my second year on the show. As long as we have riveting character-driven stories, excellent actors and someone at the helm to make sure the look of the show remains unique and mesmerizing, we continue to hold the tradition that Bill Bell created.

Michelle Stafford: Yeah, it's changed a lot but anything that goes on for a long time changes. Nothing stays the same. I liked it then and I like it now too.

Tricia Cast: Well, to be honest, I don't watch a lot of TV. To be really honest, I didn't watch it much when I was on it either, and oftentimes didn't know what was going on with the other characters. Is that bad?

Mike Halterman: What does being associated with Y&R mean to you? What's the one thing you feel has impacted your life for the better from your association with the show?

Melody Thomas Scott: Y&R changed my life in very significant ways. Probably more so than anyone else. It was through the show that I met my husband ([we] will be married for 23 years this October), had my children and given me the beautiful life that I live. God was and still is smiling down on me!

Michelle Stafford: I made money as an actress and that's always a good thing. I'm always a fan of making money.

Tricia Cast: Aside from being honored to be part of the best show on daytime, I learned so much in the time I was there. I'm a better technician for having worked there.

Mike Halterman: In terms of writing and depth of character, do you think your character is stronger now than she was, say, a decade ago?

Melody Thomas Scott: Hopefully she has learned more about life, which always makes a person smarter and therefore stronger. However, there are parts of her makeup that never change. For example, thinking with her heart and not her head. She will forever be vulnerable in the romance department and perhaps in the business world as well. I think she probably feels she is smarter than she actually is! But that's one of the things we love her for, isn't it?

Michelle Stafford: You know what, some people would disagree with me but I think she is stronger now. She's not whacking out every second of the day.

Mike Halterman: Out of all the storylines you've been involved in, which one was your favorite?

Melody Thomas Scott: I really enjoyed the alcoholism storyline. It was very realistic and showed how easily one can get drawn into addiction. (She was also mixing her alcohol intake with pain pills!) Perhaps the story was ahead of its time. The only thing that flawed it for me was not showing the viewers how she recovered. I was really hoping that we could follow her through rehab, counseling, therapy, etc. It would have been a riveting glimpse of what she had to go through to get sober but we never saw any of that. She simply woke up one morning, sober. To this day, I'm always hoping for her to relapse so that we could finally end that story realistically.

Michelle Stafford: The blackmailing of Dr. Reid. That was so creepy and fun and wrong, but it ended up being very funny, [and] the Nick/Phyllis affair. It was a very real story. I like the way it was told. It was real. It's also fun to play a secret.

Tricia Cast: "Trying to make a lady out of Nina" was fun. I love comedy.

Mike Halterman: ...which one was your least favorite?

Melody Thomas Scott: Although the stripping will forever be imprinted in the viewers' minds (especially the men!), I was nervous as a cat each time Nikki performed on stage. I am not a good dancer, so I felt very awkward pretending to know what I was doing! Even though the show hired amazing choreographers to work with me, I

always felt like a fraud!

Michelle Stafford: I didn't have a least favorite. That's my job to make whatever I'm given good. If it comes off – the jury's out on that – that's up to the audience. Tricia Cast: The "poor Nina" stuff tended to depress me.

Mike Halterman: If you had the power to bring one past character back to the show, who would you bring back and why?

Melody Thomas Scott: Selfishly speaking, I would love to have John Enos [who played Bobby Marsino] return. We had a lot of chemistry on camera and it was a pleasure working with him. His character's not dead, so anything is possible!

Michelle Stafford: I think I would like to bring Diane Jenkins back because we don't seem to have anyone evil on the show and I think it's important to have some villains in this medium. And Susan [Walters, who played Diane] was a great actress.

Mike Halterman: How do you feel about the rise of unscripted shows which indirectly breed dramatic situations, like Big Brother and Starting Over? Do you think the rise of reality programming is "bad for business" as far as the daytime dramas go?

Melody Thomas Scott: Like it or not, reality television is enjoying its trend right now. It's in a category of its own: and can't really be compared to our show or any other daytime drama. I love my Survivor and real-life crime shows as much as the next guy, but I don't see it as a conflict of viewer choices. The only event I can think of that had a huge impact in the ratings was the O.J. Simpson trial. Everyone was glued to their televisions to watch that circus. Unfortunately, all of daytime programming took a huge

hit, with some viewers never returning to their soaps. But that was across the board and affected all of the programming at that time.

Michelle Stafford: I don't think it's bad for business because we are still employed, and it doesn't seem to be affecting us. I don't watch those shows so I can't have too much of an opinion on them. Tricia Cast: Yes, I said it 20 years ago on the Donahue show. We're lucky to have jobs because reality programming is a threat to scripted shows everywhere.

Mike Halterman: What do you feel is the one major reason for the show staying at the top of the ratings for 19 years? Do you feel you contributed to the show's ratings strength in some fashion?

Melody Thomas Scott: Ed Scott. Now I can finally say it! [editor's note: Ed Scott is the former producer of Y&R, and Melody Thomas Scott's husband] Of course without the individual excellence of our writing staff, performers, and every other area such as set decoration, lighting, camera work, etc., it wouldn't get the viewers' attention. The contributions of all the talented people we are lucky enough to have makes our show the unique piece of art that it is. Synergy!

Michelle Stafford: Oh God, yes, of course! [laughs] No. It's a group thing. It's a group endeavor for a show like this. One person doesn't carry it. I think not a lot of people leave the show. The production value is really great. There are extremely talented people who work on our show and I'm not just talking about actors, I'm talking about the crew [as well].

Tricia Cast: As a whole the show sparkles. The Young and the Restless is the best show on daytime. It's been number one with and without me.

Mike Halterman: Do you feel Y&R, through its longevity and popularity, has influenced other shows?

Melody Thomas Scott: One would think so, but I have not yet seen another show equal to our production values. I think they have tried, but have not succeeded. Maybe they just don't know how!

Michelle Stafford: I'd like to think so. Sure, that would be a huge compliment.

Tricia Cast: I would hope other shows recognize the excellence of Y&R and strive to compete.

Questions asked to Melody Thomas Scott

Melody Thomas Scott describing her character's initial stories:

"Nikki went through a lot even before the stripper storyline. In the first few months after I started, she killed her father in self-defense (he had rape on his mind), joined a cult, and was a model for an agency that turned out to be a front for prostitution. Beyond wayward!"

Mike Halterman: Twenty-nine years in any job is a long time. What made you stick with it as long as you have?

Melody Thomas Scott: Whenever an actor gets a job on a soap, they never know how long it will last. Even though you may be given a three or five year contract, the show has the right to not pick up your option every 13 weeks. So one tends to think of their job in 13 week increments. First, you are nervous that you may be written off after the first several options, so one never feels absolutely confident that it could be a permanent job. Three years go by, then another three or another five, and if you are lucky, you eventually find yourself in double

digits! I've been very fortunate to play Nikki all these years as she can get involved in so many variations of stories that it seems like playing many different characters under the guise of one. No opportunity to ever get bored!

Mike Halterman: You remarked in Soap Opera Digest last year that you get disappointed when your character doesn't get featured regularly in her oWN: story. With that said, did you ever want to just end your involvement with Y&R and do other things?

Melody Thomas Scott: I don't recall ever saying that. If it was printed, it had to have been taken out of context because I don't feel that way. Never have. The truth of the matter is that we are an ensemble cast. We all expect to have light storylines as well as heavy. That's the nature of daytime television. Whenever I do have a few light months I take advantage of that by focusing on the everyday things that get lost during heavy storylines.

Mike Halterman: Nikki and Victor have spent many happy years together, but 2008 has seen the couple divorce for a fourth time. Why so much volatility?

Melody Thomas Scott: Actually, this is only their third divorce. (With nine marriages under her belt, it is hard to keep it all straight!) Nikki and Victor are both very passionate people, whether they're madly in love or hating each other with a vengeance.

Mike Halterman: Do you feel there should be a happy ending for Nikki and Victor?

Melody Thomas Scott: No, no, no to the happy ending! If we languished in happiness for too long, it would be beyond boring. Tension and conflict is the only way to keep characters

interesting. You may think you want them to be happy, but after a short time, the audience would want to see some fireworks again.

Mike Halterman: Your character went from stripper to socialite. How do you feel this change deepened the facets of your character's personality?

Melody Thomas Scott: Nikki went through a lot even before the stripper storyline. In the first few months after I started, she killed her father in self-defense (he had rape on his mind), joined a cult, and was a model for an agency that turned out to be a front for prostitution. Beyond wayward! Being a "socialite" never entered her mind, as she believed Victor was the butler when she fell in love with him. The socialite aspect happened very slowly, but finding herself as the wife of Victor Newman, she had to learn how to present herself properly in this world that was 180 degrees from where she came from. I think deep doWN: she still feels unworthy of her position in life.

Mike Halterman: Some of your fans are new to the show, and others have watched since you first appeared in 1979. What would you like to say as an end note to all of your fans?

Melody Thomas Scott: Thank you for your support! Keep it up! You are the only reason that we are thriving. Thanks for having such good taste!

Questions asked to Michelle Stafford

Michelle Stafford on who really got Phyllis' goat: "Christine by far. She really really really gets under Phyllis' skin. [Drucilla and Diane] are bad themselves, so they don't get under her skin."

Mike Halterman: You've been

working at Y&R eleven years across two separate stints. That kind of tenure in any job is a long time. What made you stick with it as long as you have?

Michelle Stafford: Because it's fun!

Mike Halterman: Do you think Phyllis and Nicholas have a fighting chance, or will Phyllis be doomed to losing the men she loves, like with Danny and Jack?

Michelle Stafford: I think that it's a soap opera and nobody ever stays happy for a long long time.

Mike Halterman: Phyllis had a lot of foils and enemies in the series, like Christine, Drucilla, and Diane. Which one of those women do you think is Phyllis's epic foil?

Michelle Stafford: Christine by far. She really really really gets under Phyllis' skin. The other two women are bad themselves, so they don't get under her skin.

Mike Halterman: You've won two Emmy Awards, both from separate and distinct parts in your story.

Out of the work which got you both Emmy Awards, which do you feel was your strongest body of work, the one you received on your first stint, or the one you got for your current stint?

Michelle Stafford: Because the Emmys are judged by submitting two shows, I can't honestly answer that question. The way Emmys are judged are on two shows from that year. And you win if you have two strong shows, which is really luck.

A lot of luck, some talent, but a lot of luck. You hope those two shows mix well together. That's luck too. I had other years where I had more of a storyline written for me and didn't win. So it's really based on if you're lucky enough to get two shows that really stand out.

Mike Halterman: Do you think Y&R should make more use of umbrella

storylines, like the recent "Out of the Ashes" event?

Michelle Stafford: I'm a big fan of character driven storylines. That's why I was a big fan of the Nick/Phyllis affair; that was very much a character driven storyline and ratings really peaked at that time because everyone was interested in seeing the fallout. I think that any actor on daytime is going to answer that question the same way.

Mike Halterman: Some of your fans are new to the show, and others have watched since you first appeared in 1994, and others have watched since the show first started. What would you like to say as an end note to all of your fans?

Michelle Stafford: Thank you for watching! I hope we've entertained you all. When I watched the daytime shows when I was younger I used to be highly entertained. I hope you're as entertained as I was.

Questions asked to Tricia Cast

Tricia Cast on her character's reputation as the "beleaguered heroine": "I think that's fair. No one wants every character to be 'together'."

Mike Halterman: In terms of writing and depth of character, where do you think Nina was at her strongest throughout her time in Genoa City? And what was her weakest point?

Tricia Cast: Her strongest point was just before she moved away. She had evolved into a talented and independent woman. Weakest? Perhaps when she temporarily lost control of her faculties. [editor's note: reference to Nina's suicide attempt in 1997.]

Mike Halterman: Nina's best friend on the show was Christine, and in

many respects, Christine's personality served as a contrast to Nina's. Why do you think those two kept a strong friendship as long as they did?

Tricia Cast: Who else but the kind, responsible Cricket was going to haul Nina out of the messes she got herself into?

Mike Halterman: Over the last couple of years, history was rewritten so that Philip, Nina's first husband, wasn't really Jill's son at all. What does that say to you as far as Nina ever coming back to the show? Do you find it disheartening that the show's history was rewritten to that degree?

Tricia Cast: What? What did you say? Who told you that? Jill? Why that...

Mike Halterman: You won one Emmy Award, for the bulk of your storyline involving David Kimble. What were some pros and cons in acting that emotional story?

Tricia Cast: Con: All that crying. Pro: I got to shoot him.

Mike Halterman: Many fans would deem the character of Nina as the "beleaguered heroine." Do you think that assessment is on the mark, or were there other facets to her character that you feel were integral to your portrayal of her that deserve note?

Tricia Cast: I think that's fair. No one wants every character to be "together."

Mike Halterman: For a time while you were on the show, you (and Nina) gained some weight. In the storyline, Ryan had left Nina for Tricia [Dennison, played by Sabryn Genet], and she became convinced she was unattractive and unloved. Was that a difficult storyline to act out? Also, what kind of fan reaction did you receive while

playing that sort of storyline, as it related to female viewers and their OWN: self-image concerns?

Tricia Cast: It was tough because it was so close to home. I struggled with my weight off camera and that wasn't fun. I got both supportive reaction and a measure of cruelty come my way over it. Some people love you no matter what and some people just don't like their TV personalities to be less than perfect.

Mike Halterman: With the advent of the Internet, soap fans have mobilized and fought to make their voices heard like never before. Do you feel fans may be more rigid to change and evolution in their soap operas more so network and company heads, who are sometimes accused of being out of touch?

Tricia Cast: I guess if I had a show, I'd pay attention to the wishes of the viewers, but I hope I would have faith in my talents as a writer regardless.

Mike Halterman: Out of all of your former colleagues, who do you still keep in touch with?

Tricia Cast: Lauralee [Bell, who played Christine] and I keep in close touch and I talk to Kristoff [St. John, who plays Neil] and Christian [LeBlanc, who plays Michael] now and then. I have friends there who will always be friends, whether or not we talk every day.

Mike Halterman: If you were asked tomorrow to reprise your role on Y&R, would you do it?

Tricia Cast: Maybe. I haven't shot anyone in a while.

Mike Halterman: Now that you're no longer with Y&R, many of your fans don't know what you've been up to. Can you bring us up to speed as to what you've been

doing since leaving the show?

Tricia Cast: As an actor, I do theater. I've also done a couple of indies due out sometime this year. I also quilt and grow vegetables and take out the trash. I do a lot of goofing off.

Mike Halterman: Is there any special message you'd like to say as an end note to all of your fans?

Tricia Cast: Thanks for watching. I can play to the lights, but it's more fun with an audience.

Sarkozy calls for Anglo-French unity on first day of state visit

On the first day of his state visit to the United Kingdom, French President Nicolas Sarkozy gave a speech praising the British nation and called for an "entente amicale" between Great Britain and France, in place of the existing, more formal entente cordiale agreement. Speaking, unusually, to both Houses of Parliament, Sarkozy went on to praise the help Britain gave to France during both World Wars and said that "France would never forget" and that it owed Britain a debt of gratitude.

Speaking in the Royal Gallery in the Houses of Parliament, the French president went on to say that Britain was a "bulwark against tyranny" and, addressing the issue of the long history of Anglo-French conflict, that Britain and France had been in conflict with each other, not because they were too different, but because they were "too alike".

As well as praising Great Britain, Sarkozy also promised to propose sending more French troops to Afghanistan at the Bucharest Summit, to be held later this year, although he did not specify the number of troops he was planning to send.

During his two-day state visit, Sarkozy will meet with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown: and they are expected to discuss many different issues, from global finance to Afghanistan.

Wikinews interviews organiser of New Zealand's Rock2Wgtn festival Phil Sprey

Westpac Stadium to see the various acts. New Zealand has never seen an event of this kind before.

Day one featured three theatrical acts. Finnish band Lordi, known for their monster costumes, opened the night. They were followed by the US shock rocker Alice Cooper, whose themed set included the horror theatrics regularly associated with him and a hanging stunt he recently restarted after a gallows collapse nearly killed him two decades ago. The night was headlined by the distinctively costumed band KISS, complete with their famed black-and-white makeup.

The first major act on the stage on day two was the American hard rock/glam metal band Poison. After Poison, British act Whitesnake took to the stage and performed their set to the crowd. British-born American rocker Ozzy Osbourne, who, as well as a solo career, fronts the world-famous Black Sabbath, was the second night's headline act.

The festival's entertainment did not stop at the six main acts. There was also support performances from three New Zealand bands - The Symphony of Screams, The Valves and Sonic Altar. Their sets were accompanied by a special effects package from award-winning studio Weta Workshops, who are known for their work on movies such as The

Lord of the Rings film trilogy. This came in the form of 'Drusila the Dragon', which rose up to a height of six foot and wigspan and moved for the audience, shining lasers from its eyes and breathing red smoke. Flame Fire Productions were hired to put on a fire show featuring several dancers alongside the performers. Also performing were six local guitarists and a group of 'zombie' cheerleaders.

Despite the crowds that flocked to the event, however, it has recently become apparent that financial trouble has hit the festival. Although figures remain to be confirmed, an estimated NZ \$750,000 has been lost.

Wikinews secured an exclusive interview with Phil Sprey of Capital C Concerts, who organised the festival. The entire interview is now available below.

Interview

Wikinews: What initially gave you the idea to stage New Zealand's first rock festival?

Phil: Easter in Wellington is normally a quieter place and as we are resident here we were working to not only present a phenomenal experience but to drive short range international tourism and domestic tourism. To do this we needed an impressive line-up and a format that was as much theatrical as it was festival. On a company level we were demonstrating that NZ has the ability to stage big events and have the planning, equipment services etc to deliver. We did this well beyond expectation and every artist management was more than satisfied with the production. We also wanted to brand our name to agents and management around the world - we have done this as well.

WN: How did you select the acts that would be performing and the other entertainment on offer?

What are your personal opinions on the artists present?

Phil:Originally we were looking at a KISS concert in November. To assist an Australian promoter we moved this act to the Easter slot and then to make it a festival format added Ozzy on a second day. It then grew from there based largely on availability and the genre. Originally we planned a format with 2 'younger' bands and 4 more mature performers so we were close to where we needed to be. Have absolutely no issues with the artists and all performed up to expectation or beyond.

WN: Is it true that Ozzy demanded the set be repainted from KISS colours to his own?

Phil:Ozzy made no demands on repainting the Guitar set we had. We in consultation with their production chief did so as it was better 'form' not to embarrass the artist on the second night and retain the very happy production of the weekend.

WN: What kind of reaction has there been from fans and the media to the festival?

Phil:HUGE! We have been bombarded with emails from around the world and from NZ fans. Media too have been very active and other than a few who 'picked' at individual performances most enjoyed the experience for what it was.

WN: Three-quarters of a million dollars is a huge loss. Why is the quantity so large if ticket sales were still relatively high, even if they were below anticipated levels? How much did it cost to hire each of the acts present, anyway?

Phil:The loss figure is only an estimate at this point but yes we sustained a loss. The ratio of ticket sales who bought the discounted two-day package was 30% higher than expected, accommodation in Wellington was at maximum partly due to a conference and another entertainment event booked after our concert that also swallowed up capacity. The fact that no major concert has ever been held in Wellington over Easter was always going to be experimental and risky. We contained other costs very well with the only blowout coming from additional costs of international freight which was doubled on us by airlines who had been supportive then decided to charge premium when demand increased. (That war is still to be fought.)

WN: Who is going to pay the price now?

Phil:Everyone of our contractors, Artist and suppliers are paid. We are concert promoters and will go onto the next concerts. It is what we do.

WN: You believe Easter trading restrictions are responsible for low sales. Might we then see a future Rock2Wgtn at a different time of the year? If so, what can we expect from it?

Phil:When archaic trading hours for bars and retail exist in a secular society and 'tourist' towns like Rotorua and Queenstown: can trade openly then things need to change. NZ is highly reliant on Tourism..... we can't be closed. Over zealous Police and Liquor licensing people who interpret laws made public comments in advance of the weekend which did deter people from coming. While we can't quantify the numbers we have had considerable comment to this effect.

WN: Why were Easter restrictions not factored into plans before the festival?

Phil: They were. We discussed this with City Council and Authorities, but these authorities only came back with the detail 2-3 weeks before the event and took a very negative approach to the work many of us and the hospitality industry had taken. Had they made the calls in 2007 when we announced the concert plans a totally different course would have been taken.

WN: There were also 20 related arrests for minor offences. What are your comments on this? Do you feel negative media attention from this may be an issue for Capital C Concerts?

Phil: We talked to police and the arrests were very very minor. 20 people in 50,000 is not worth the mention. Most were for over exuberant young guys who had a drink to many and climber over mojo barriers. None were for violence etc.

WN: What other events are you planning for the future?

Phil: We like the adventurous projects and will continue to bring the artists the public want into NZ. We understand showbiz in NZ better than most and this is what we do.

WN: What would you like to say to any fans reading this now?

Phil: To fans that were in Wellington we thank them for being part of rock history: The Trilogy of Evil (KISS, Ozzy and Alice) have never played in one event like R2W before EVER! So an accolade for us and a long memory to savour for all who were there. We know from the images we have that the enjoyment factor was way , way up there. That's

entertainment and that's what we do. Well.

Wikinews interviews German music video director Uwe Flade

Uwe Flade is a music video director from Germany. He has worked with numerous artists, including Depeche Mode, Rammstein, Apocalyptica, In Extremo, Nickelback, Franz Ferdinand and Tarja Turunen. Wikinews conducted an exclusive email interview with him, available below.

Interview

Wikinews: Tell us about your work, and how you came to be involved with directing. What stands out about you, and what inspires you?

Uwe: I was into music videos for a while already, watching MTV for hours every day. Back in the 90ies it was very inspiring and exciting to discover all those new visual styles and watch people like Gondry, Glazer, Jonze, Mike Mills rising. I was then trying to set up a little film production company around 99 after being stuck in some office jobs at TV stations and other production companies. I shot a few little things and got the chance to pitch an idea to a friend who played in a rising German band. They took the concept and I directed my first video. It was a tough ride but the video got some airtime. The next jobs didn't roll in easily but it was the genre I loved so I was fighting hard which got me more and more jobs. I am collecting ideas all the time and I can't really tell what inspires me. Sometimes taking a shower makes my mind work, sometimes I would just sit in front of my computer until the idea hits me. Travelling to places I haven't been also often inspires me a lot.

WN: How has the advent of the Internet—and the switch at

networks (such as MTV) from almost exclusively music videos to original programming—changed the way that artists approach what they want from a music video? Has the "big budget" music video disappeared?

Uwe: The big budget hasn't disappeared completely but the number of artist spending a lot is much smaller now and the budgets in general went down: a lot. YouTube changed a lot too. The hypersuccessful homemade style video for Ok Go "here it goes again" was a landmark for this development. It got over 31 000 000 views on YouTube and counting, won lots of prizes and got a lot of press. So the homemade, handmade style since then is a big thing in music videos turning the budget shortage in creativity. Some years ago Fatboy Slims "praise you" was an outsider, now it is a big part of the whole picture.

I think the artists just want to look good on the videos, that comes first ever since. Some of them still want something original happening but with the generally shrinking budgets a new style had to appear to squeeze creativity out of the mostly very limited money available and actually the artists don't have a choice.

WN: Is it difficult to make a planned plot for a video fit the music and the short time on offer?

Uwe: For me it is a challenge and still the freedom of creativity in this genre is a blast. I learned so many things by just trying them out and playing around with them.

WN: Your credits span across many artists and genres. What's it like working with such a broad range?

Uwe: It is a great broadband, I was thrilled by the very different demands and characters I met so

far. I personally like to do different styles just to keep creativity running and being challenged instead of repeating the same receipy over and over again.

WN: Which of your works would you say you enjoyed working on the most?

Uwe: Besides the big international projects for Depeche Mode I enjoyed a lot to work with my friends Sportfreunde Stiller. I shot 10 videos for them and it is even harder to work for long term friends since the fear to fail is much more personal.

WN: Were there any projects that you didn't enjoy making?

Uwe: Hmmmm. There are some;-)

WN: Do you have anything new in the works at the moment?

Uwe: I am setting up a mixed media collective of designers, animators and directors and planning a short film.

WN: Do you find commercial pressures, such as ensuring videos are not subject to censorship or filming deadlines, conflict with your interests as an artist?

Uwe: Actually I am feeling challenged by those things more then annoyed. The band and label pay for the whole thing so they set up the limits which is totally fine for me. The TV censorship in Germany is not very strict and I don't have so much experience with these things in the United States. I saw some rules for US TV, very long lists of things to care for. My videos didn't really break those rules anyway but there are a lot...that's what I thought.

Disdery Hombo & Tatyana Perepelkina win the 2008 Taipei International Express Marathon

The 13th Taipei International

Express Marathon, sponsored mainly by Carrefour for the second time since 2007, raced on Hsichih-Wugu Elevated Viaduct of Taiwan National Highway No. 1 this Sunday (March 23). Although it rained until the start of the marathon and half-marathon classes, the race finished properly. Despite the improved weather, the gradient near the Hsichih stop of Hsichih-Wugu Elevated Viaduct provided a major challenge to the runners' physical strength.

The race's organizer, the Chinese Taipei Road Running Association, invited several world-class marathon runners based on their prior performances in several international marathons. However, because of political instability in Africa, there were only four African runners participating in this race.

Finally, Disdery Hombo from Kenya and Tatyana Perepelkina (in Russian: Татьяна Перепёлкина) from Russia were, respectively, the men's and women's champions of the marathon (42K) class with 2H21m27s and 2H49m15s.

After this race, when Wikinews Journalist Rico Shen briefly interviewed Hombo, Hombo expressed his satisfaction with this race and Taiwan's image, as well as his eagerness to try out for future marathon races, especially the ING Taipei Marathon this December.

Church of Scientology's 'Operating Thetan' documents leaked online

Wikinews has obtained 'Operating Thetan' (OT) documents of the Church of Scientology which were leaked via Wikileaks. Although some portions of the manual have been leaked previously, this is believed to be the first time the

full unedited version has been leaked.

The 612-page manual for Scientologists written by L. Ron Hubbard contains instructions for the eight different Operating Thetan levels including 'clear' and OT8.

Most of the manual is typed from a computer, while the packet contains some hand written notes by Hubbard himself who also signed them. The manual also contains letters by Hubbard to individuals who have passed the according levels.

"War, famine, agony and disease has been the lot of Man and Man has been what has made Earth a Hell—and if you were looking for Hell and found Earth, it would certainly serve."

—L. Ron Hubbard

"A great many phenomena (strange things) can happen while doing these drills, if they are done honestly," Hubbard writes in regards to 'OT1.' Hubbard then goes on to explain in hand written notes, the 'drills' one must do in order to become 'OT1':

"One: Walk around and counts bodies until you have a cognition. Make a report saying how many you counted and your cognition. Two: Note several large and small female bodies until you have a cognition. Note it down. Three: Note several large and several small male bodies until you have a cognition. Note it down. Four: Final a tight packed crowd of people. Write it as a crowd and then as individuals until you have a cognition. Note it down. Do step over until you do."

Hubbard then goes on to explain OT2, but before he does so, he

tells the Churches how to keep Scientology working. One way is to not divulge information on their "technology." Doing so, says Hubbard, would result in "the complete destruction of all our work."

"On the other hand there have been thousands and thousands of suggestions and writings which, if accepted and acted upon, would have resulted in the complete destruction of all our work. Our technology has not been discovered by a group. True, if the group had not supported me in many ways, I could not have discovered it either. But it remains that if in its formative stages it was not discovered by a group, then group efforts, one can safely assume, will not add to it or successfully alter it in the future," states Hubbard in a confidential letter dated February 7, 1965.

Hubbard also goes on to say that "man has never before evolved workable mental technology and emphasizing it is the vicious technology he did evolve—psychiatry, psychology, surgery, shock treatment, whips, duress, punishment, etc., ad infinitum." Hubbard also says that "war, famine, agony and disease has been the lot of Man" and that Man "has been what has made Earth a Hell—and if you were looking for Hell and found Earth, it would certainly serve."

Hubbard calls those 'men' "SP Body Thetans" or those who "are out of valance" and who are "stuck to another thetan or body but is not in control" with Scientology. Some he says are even "psychotic, serve faces and have fixed ideas" which "inhibits recovery." Thetan is derived from the Greek word "Theta" which means "thought or life."

"An individual being such as a man is a thetan, he is not a body and he does not think because he has no brain," states Hubbard.

It is not until 'OT3' when you learn the true beginning of Scientology. In Hubbard's own hand written notes, he begins to describe a series of "76 planets [orbiting] around larger stars founded 95,000,000 years ago" which he says "are visible from here [Earth]."

"I am breaking security as I disagree that this should only be released to an elite in Scientology. I do, however, ask it not be released to psyches or 'squirrels' or anyone who will break the Independent Security Network and allow it to get back to the Church of Scientology."

—L. Ron Hubbard on 'OT8'

From those planets, which were over populated by "about 250 million per planet," came a "head of the Galactic Federation" named 'Xenu' who solved the overpopulation by sending mass amounts of his people to Earth somewhere between "75,000,000 and 4 qadrillion [Sic] years ago." Hubbard says that he brought them to Earth and dropped them off inside volcanoes on an island he describes as Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean. Xenu then captured the ones who escaped after 36 days and exploded the remaining individuals with a hydrogen bomb. Xenu was later "captured after six years of battle" and Earth had since become a "desert."

It is also said at this level, an implant, in what Hubbard calls an "engram" will be given in which the individual can "see pictures." However these pictures are not to be "stuck" or permanent.

At 'OT4' individuals are allegedly rid of illegal and legal drugs. Documents state that addicts are not treated with drugs, but simply not given anything.

"As drugs and drug incidents have been so common on the whole track, to simply generally ask for drugs or drug incidents when dealing with BTs and clusters, could cause a total restim," states the document which then says that individuals are made to wait out the effects of the drugs. Another process used to try and stop drug use is to "take any previously given Drug somatic items, or newly list any additional items connected with reading drugs, medicines, etc., and assess for reading somatic item." Hubbard insists that these methods are proven effective.

'OT5' is when individuals learn about the "physical universe, not the laws of physical scientists, but the basic considerations about Matter, Energy, Space and Time," states Hubbard.

At 'OT6' you allegedly learn telepathy and 'OT7' is the "rehabilitation of ability to project intention."

The final level, 'OT8', you are to "have full certainty and, therefore, perception on all" of your issues. According to Hubbard, the 'OT8' manuals are supposed to stay aboard the Free Winds Scientology ship which has heavy security because nothing is supposed to leave the ship. Despite that, Hubbard himself claims to have smuggled out his own 'OT8' instructions for the "elite" Scientologists.

"I am breaking security as I disagree that this should only be released to an elite in Scientology.

I do, however, ask it not be released to psyches or 'squirrels' or anyone who will break the Independent Security Network and allow it to get back to the Church of Scientology. It would be best if they do not find out that we have it. Please treat this data responsibly. It is the key to the only truth possible," said Hubbard in regards to his 'OT8' instructions.

Wikileaks previously leaked documents relating to the Church of Scientology's division the Office of Special Affairs. The 208-page document released March 9th details Scientology's involvement in black propaganda according to its "Fair Game" practices.

Ukraine refused Moldova in extradition of Malhaz Djaparidze and liberated him

The Court of Appeal of Odessa decided to free Malhaz Djaparidze, on March 24, according to Kiev press. The court's decision was based on a letter from the Central Administrative Board of Justice of the Odessa area, signed by Deputy Minister Valery Lutkovskoj. A letter from the Ukrainian Minister of Justice referencing more European legislative acts would set him free. According to the press, the letter says that Ukraine refused to extradite Malhaz to Moldova, despite the request of the Moldovan Minister of Justice.

Malhaz, 44, was arrested in Kherson on February 13 by Ukrainian police. After he was arrested, the General Prosecutor's Office announced that it had initiated the extradition procedure of Malhaz Djaparidze.

Malhaz Djaparidze disappeared on July 18, 2007 from a prison camp, helped by two policemen. The policemen accompanied Malhaz with their own car to a bathhouse

in Durllesti, at the outskirts of Chisinau, where he disappeared.

Malhaz's crime ring was broken some years ago, but some of its members, who are still free, are very active. The group is suspected of committing more crimes in Moldova: burglaries, thefts, armed robberies, drug running and others.

The INADI and Wikimedia Argentina sign an agreement of cooperation

The National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism (INADI) and the non-profit association Wikimedia Argentina signed an agreement of cooperation and technical assistance.

The signature took place in the INADI's auditorium, located in 750 Moreno Street, in Buenos Aires, the capital of the country. There were present Maria Jose Lubertino, chairwoman of the INADI, and Patricio Lorente, chairman of Wikimedia Argentina, who signed an agreement that includes the accomplishment of joint activities that help to promote and guarantee the free access to knowledge; the promotion and diffusion of economic, social, cultural, linguistic and environmental rights and the establishment of strategies for the prevention of discriminatory practices.

The non-profit association Wikimedia Argentina is a local chapter of Wikimedia Foundation, organization presided by Jimmy Wales, inventor of the famous virtual encyclopedia Wikipedia, which is today one of the more used resources in the world.

A local chapter is a NGO that shares the aims and the mission of

the Wikimedia Foundation. Wikimedia Argentina is the first chapter whose principal language is Spanish, though it foments the creation and development of projects in original languages as the Guarani, the Quechuan and the aymar . In this respect, one of the principal aims that will work with the INADI will be the development of encyclopedias in indigenous languages, an indispensable tool for the collectivities whose culture is threatened.

Former first lady Nancy Reagan endorses McCain

Former First Lady Nancy Reagan, widow of the late President Ronald Reagan, endorsed Senator John McCain for the Presidency of the United States on Tuesday at her home in Bel Air, Los Angeles, California.

The 86-year-old former First Lady issued a statement which read, "John McCain has been a good friend for over thirty years. My husband and I first came to know him as a returning Vietnam War POW, and were impressed by the courage he had shown through his terrible ordeal. I believe John's record and experience have prepared him well to be our next president."

Senator McCain said of the endorsement, "This is an important, most important kind of expression of confidence in my ability to lead the party that I could have."

Reagan's endorsement comes as McCain continues to face critical conservative voters. It is possible that it could help McCain earn the support of conservatives who have not always viewed him as aligning with the party on certain issues. At the same time, it could help to

align McCain with former President Ronald Reagan, who attracted Republican and Democratic voters.

African troops invade rebel-held island of Anjouan

Comoros, backed by African Union forces, has invaded the island of Anjouan in an effort to topple the rebel leadership of Mohamed Bacar, who has been seeking independence from Comoros.

Around 450 troops disembarked on Monday, landing in the capital of Mutsamudu on Tuesday at dawn, where a jubilant crowd cheered for them. They joined the nearly 1,500 African Union forces from Sudan and Tanzania, with Libya, France, and the United States providing logistical support for the operation.

The Comoros government says they have already captured most of the island. "The operation started in the early morning hours and it is going smoothly and according to plan," said Abdourahim Said Bakar, a government spokesman. "The military has taken control over most of the island - the airport and Anjouan's capital, Mutsamudu."

Map of the military invasion.
Image: James Frankcom.

There have been no official reports of casualties, but two African Union soldiers appear to have suffered minor injuries, and one reporter saw an elderly man being carried away after apparently being hit by a stray bullet. Sounds of machine guns and heavy artillery could be heard throughout the island.

Mohamed Bacar seized control of Anjouan in a 2001 military coup. After his term expired in 2007, he held his own elections in which he

declared himself the winner. This election was viewed as illegal by Comoros and the African Union.

"We hope that by the end of the day we will have the problem resolved," the government spokesman said. "A special group has been selected to capture Bacar, arrest him and bring him to court. He has to pay for his crimes."

The spokesman also outlined his priorities for Anjouan once the island is stabilized, which included holding elections within three months, disarming Bacar's militias, and putting Bacar on trial for corruption and human rights abuses once he is found.

The troops met some resistance from supporters of Mohamed Bacar, armed with assault rifles and rocket launchers and numbering around 400. Some loyalists gathered near Bacar's residence in Barakani, but the military soon took control of the area. The residence was searched, but Bacar was nowhere to be found.

The Bacar loyalists have reportedly begun using guerrilla tactics against the invading forces. "I have over a hundred men and we will fight until we die," said Lieutenant Ibrahim Moussa of the loyalists. "It's God's will that will decide who is to win and who is to die. The invaders won't make it through."

"I have ordered the Comoran army and the the forces of our country's friends to bring Anjouan back under the rule of law and free her citizens." —Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambï, President of Comoros

Though one Comoros soldier

reports that three of Bacar's highest-ranking supporters have been arrested, Bacar himself remains at large. The government spokesman says he has been seen fleeing to the island of Mayotte by canoe.

"Colonel Mohamed Bacar has been spotted in the village of Sadanpoini where he is heading without doubt for a place to flee on board a kwassa (small canoe) towards Mayotte Island," Abdourahim Said Bakar said. "It seems, according to various sources, that he is dressed as a woman," he added.

However, this information has not been confirmed. "The Comoran command will not confirm any information regarding the arrest of Colonel Bacar," said reporter Franck Berruyer.

In a nationally televised address, Comoros president Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambï said he had approved of the military operation. "I have ordered the Comoran army and the the forces of our country's friends to bring Anjouan back under the rule of law and free her citizens," he said.

Meanwhile, South African president Thabo Mbeki denounced the operation. "It takes Comoros back to the use of force to solve a problem that could have been resolved with negotiations," he said in a televised statement. "There was no need to deploy troops."

Today in History

1513 – Spanish conquistador Juan Ponce de León first sighted Florida, purportedly while searching for the Fountain of Youth in the New World.

1794 – To protect American merchant ships from Barbary pirates, the United States

Congress passed the Naval Act to establish a naval force of six frigates, which eventually became the United States Navy.
 1964 – The Good Friday Earthquake and subsequent tsunamis devastated Anchorage, Alaska, killing over 130 people.
 1998 – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the drug Viagra for use as a treatment for erectile dysfunction, the first pill to be approved for this condition in the United States.
 2002 – A suicide bomber killed about 30 Israeli civilians and injured about 140 others, many of them Holocaust survivors, at the Park Hotel in Netanya, triggering Operation Defensive Shield two days later.
 March 27 is Feast day of Rupert of Salzburg in the Roman Catholic Church.

Quote of the Day

At this point in history when all things which concern man and the structure and elements of history itself are suddenly revealed to us in a new light, it behooves us in our scientific thinking to become masters of the situation, for it is not inconceivable that sooner than we suspect, as has often been the case before in history, this vision may disappear, the opportunity may be lost, and the world will once again present a static, uniform, and inflexible countenance. ~ Karl Mannheim

Word of the Day

nascent adj

1. Emerging; just coming into existence.

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