



### Top Stories



**Mitt Romney suspends his United States presidential campaign**

**Niece of Scientology's leader goes public with criticism**



The niece of the Church of Scientology's top leader

David Miscavige, Jenna Miscavige Hill, has come forward publicly with criticism of the organization and of Scientology practices, speaking on Inside Edition on Tuesday to criticise practices of the Church.

### Wikipedia Current Events

Hamas militants launch nearly 20 rockets at nearby Israeli towns.

- A fire in a nursing home in Egg, Austria kills at least 11 people.
- A student shoots two students and kills herself at Louisiana Technical College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Scotland Yard detectives investigating the death of former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto say that she died from the effect of a bomb blast not gunfire.
- A woman attacks two pilots on Eagle Airways flight 2279 from Blenheim to Christchurch, New Zealand. The aircraft lands safely at Christchurch and the suspect is arrested and charged with hijacking and three counts of assault.
- The man accused of the multi-crore, Gurgaon kidney scandal is arrested in Nepal.

sentence of Raymond Mata Jr., who was convicted in the murder of three-year-old Adam Gomez. Mata's sentence was upheld by the court but stayed it stating that when petitioning for a date, the state should establish that it has a "constitutionally acceptable method of carrying out Mata's sentence."

### Greece defeats Finland 2-1 in friendly football match

The Greek national football team has defeated the Finnish equivalent 2-1 in a friendly football match.

Finland scored the first goal in the 66th minute when Alexei Eremenko managed to get the ball to uncovered player Jari Litmanen, who in turn put it past substitute goalkeeper Chrisostomos Michailidis. Just one minute later Greece equalised when Angelos Charisteas headed a free kick from Giorgos Karagounis into the Finnish goal.

### Featured story

**'Top Model' winner CariDee English on her modeling career and her battle with psoriasis**



Wikinews interviews former America's Next Top Model winner CariDee English on her struggles with psoriasis and about her current career as a New York

fashion model.

### Nebraska court bans the electric chair

The Nebraska Supreme Court has banned the use of the electric chair in the execution of murderers. The court found that the application violated the Nebraska constitution's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. Since July 2002, Nebraska has been the only state in the United States to use electrocution as its only executional method.

The case developed from death

In the 72nd minute Greece moved into the lead as Benfica midfielder Costas Katsouranis scored a distant but powerful shot, bouncing it beneath goalkeeper Peter Enckelman.

Both sides missed chances, with Finn Jonatan Johansson failing to capitalise on opportunities in the 7th and 4th minutes, causing Finland to lose out on having dominated the first half. Greek defender Sotiris Kyrgiakos kicked a shot over the bar shortly before half time.

Also competing in the four-nation tournament, held in Cyprus, are Poland and the Czech Republic. Greece are the current European champions, whilst Cyprus and Poland both qualified for Euro 2008, making Finland the only team in the line-up not to be competing in this year's European championships.

### **Judge dismisses copyright lawsuit against Uri Geller**

Today Judge Vaughn R. Walker dismissed the Electronic Frontier Foundation's lawsuit against Uri Geller. Walker dismissed the case, concluding in his 25 page opinion that the United States District Court in San Francisco did not have jurisdiction over Geller, a British subject, or Explorologist, LTD, an English company that holds certain rights to him.

The lawsuit was filed in May 2007 by the EFF on behalf of Brian Sapient and his organization the Rational Response Squad. Sapient has posted a excerpt from the PBS documentary *Secrets of the Psychics*, starring James Randi, on YouTube. Geller claimed he owned the video clip and forced YouTube to remove the video. However, Sapient filed a counter-DMCA claim and the video has since been restored pending the lawsuits.

Walker suggested that the case be moved to Philadelphia where Explorologist, LTD (Geller's business) filed an earlier lawsuit against Sapient, claiming that the YouTube post violated English Copyright Law.

### **65 journalists killed in 2007 according to Committee to Protect Journalists**

In it's recently released report called *Attacks on the Press in 2007*, the Committee to Protect Journalists has said 65 journalists

were killed in 2007. According to the report, 32 of these deaths were in Iraq, which has had the highest number of deaths for the second year running.

The report says that "journalists were killed in unusually high numbers in 2007, making it the deadliest year for the press in more than a decade." According to the report, the number of deaths has increased by eight from the previous year and is more than double the figure for a decade ago.

The African director of the CPJ said that , in general, the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, which came fourth in the list, "is fairly antagonistic to the independent press, and unfortunately we [the CPJ] monitor a lot of cases [in the Democratic Republic of Congo] of harassment, imprisonments, and even murders that are carried out with impunity."

The report also shows that the number of journalists imprisoned in 2007 has decreased from the 2006 figure, with the 2007 figure, which was 127, being approximately the same as the 2005 figure. It also states that 57% of those imprisoned are done so on antistate charges, and that 17% have no publicly disclosed charge pressed against them. The director of the CPJ criticized these imprisonments in the report, saying that "imprisoning journalists on the basis of assertions alone should not be confused with a legal process. This is nothing less than state-sponsored abduction." He continued by stating that he believes "every one of these 127 journalists should be released," and that the CPJ are "especially concerned for those detained without charge because they're

often held in abysmal conditions, cut off from their lawyers and their families."

### **Wayne Allyn Root wins Missouri Libertarian primary**

Wayne Allyn Root, one of the leading competitors for the Libertarian Party's nomination for the 2008 U.S. presidential election, won the Missouri primary on Super Tuesday.

He came second in Arizona, ahead of Barry Hess, a native of the state. In California he was beaten by Steve Kubby, taking third place. Mr. Root did not campaign in any of these states.

The Libertarian Party will hold their national convention on May 22, ending on May 26. During this time, nearly 1,000 delegates will meet at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver to choose their presidential and vice presidential nominees.

Currently, Mr. Root has raised the highest amount of money out of all the Libertarian candidates, \$14,330.

### **Gunman opens fire at Missouri city council meeting**

On Thursday, a local man known for his outbursts and disruptive behavior with city officials killed five people at a city council meeting in City of Kirkwood, Missouri, United States. During the melee, he was shot dead by police.

Among those killed were Councilwoman Connie Carr, two police officers and two others at the meeting.

The suspect shot and killed a Kirkwood Police officer on the way into City Hall where he shot a second officer. He then proceeded to shoot five more people in the room, killing 3 more. Kirkwood

Police called to the scene for shots fired, returned fire killing the suspect. According to St. Louis County Police Department spokesperson Tracy Panus.

"He came from the back of the room," said Janet McNichols, a St. Louis Post-Dispatch correspondent. "He kept yelling 'shoot the mayor' and he just walked around shooting anybody he could."

The two wounded are a Suburban Journals reporter and Mayor Mike Swoboda. Swoboda underwent emergency surgery to treat a gunshot wound to the head Thursday night at St. John's Mercy Hospital in Creve Coeur. Hospital spokesman Bill McShane delined to discuss Swoboda's injuries. He did note that another Suburban Journals reporter Todd Smith was in satisfactory condition. Smith was shot in the hand.

According to McNichols, the gunman was Charles Lee "Cookie" Thornton who was arrested two years ago in the same council chambers for refusing to leave a meeting after a confrontation with Swoboda and the council. He was asked to stop and was arrested when he refused to leave the chamber.

According to KSDK, an NBC affiliate, Thornton had been banned from City Council meetings, but had made it known that he would be at Thursday night's meeting and extra police were assigned ahead of time.

KSDK also reported that the shooter fired at City Attorney John Hessel who had thrown chairs at the assailant in an attempt to stop him. The assailant then moved behind a curved desk where council members sat to fire on them.

Swoboda, council members Michael H.T. Lynch and Conne Karr, and Public Works Director Kenneth Yost were shot, said the Post's McNichols.

Thornton fled the building and was shot by responding Kirkwood police outside the building.

About 30 people were in the meeting according to McNichols.

### **House approves Senate amended economic stimulus package**

The United States House of Representatives has passed the bipartisan US\$152 billion economic stimulus package that gives one-time rebates to United States citizens, US\$600 for individuals or US\$1,200 for couples plus US\$300 for each child. US\$300 checks would be sent to people on low-income including retirees on Social Security which was not included in the original bill backed by President George W. Bush. The plan would begin to decrease rebates for citizens with taxable incomes of US\$75,000 for individuals and US\$150,000 for couples. The checks would go out to more than a 130 million Americans according to Treasury secretary Henry Paulson.

The House overwhelmingly approved the more broad Senate amended bill which included the low-income portion mentioned above along with provisions that would keep illegal aliens from receiving a rebate check. Depsite some opposition from some Congressmen, such as John B. T. Campbell III of California's 48th congressional district, the plan passed overwhelmingly 380-34.

Campbell called the plan "wealth redistribution" and noted it did not have safeguards to prevent illegals

from receiving these rebates and also claimed that stimulus plan would increase the deficit more and noted the cause of the looming recession was because of "credit problems."

The United States Senate voted hours earlier on the bill which passed in the Senate, 81-16. after having to shed some incentives included by Senate Democrats which caused the bill to fail. Some of the incentives that were left out of the plan in a compromise to gain Republican support were demands for benefits for long-term unemployed workers and stipulation that would allow low-income citizens to pay off heating bills and let home builders pay off losses off the current year against previous tax years.

President Bush approved of the package, noting in a statement, "This plan is robust, broad-based, timely, and it will be effective, this bill will help to stimulate consumer spending and accelerate needed business investment."

### **Woman attacks aircraft pilots in New Zealand hijacking attempt**

A 33-year-old Somalian woman was arrested after she stabbed two pilots in an attempt to hijack a New Zealand passenger plane. The 19-seater on Eagle Airways Flight NZ2279, was travelling from Blenheim to Christchurch when the incident occurred. Eagle is a regional commuter carrier division of Air New Zealand.

According to media reports, the pilots sent a mayday call around 07:40 NZDT to report that a female passenger had breached the cockpit and attacked them before being removed from the flight deck area. Local police confirmed that the woman also

made bomb threats. Christchurch Police Commander Dave Cliff told reporters that emergency radio calls informing staff on the ground that the woman claimed to have two bombs on board were sent by the wounded pilots after subduing their attacker.

The pilot sustained a severely cut hand while the co-pilot suffered an unknown foot injury.

The flight landed at 08:00 NZDT in Christchurch and the woman was arrested by a special Armed Offenders police team, and was taken into questioning. Police and fire units quickly surrounded the plane as it landed, and a witness account said a "sniper was on the tarmac". All six remaining passengers were removed from the plane and the pilots were able to walk off before being moved to Christchurch Hospital for treatment.

Passengers and their luggage on short haul flights within New Zealand are not subject to security checks. This excludes domestic flights departing a New Zealand international airport, however. Air New Zealand, the national carrier who operated the flight through a charter company, told reporters Friday that the company was reviewing security measures across the fleet following the incident.

"Today's incident, although a one-off, has naturally given us cause to conduct a thorough review of our safety and security systems and processes on regional domestic flights," said Bruce Parton, Air New Zealand's general manager of short-haul airlines.

Police searched the plane and are now confident there was no bomb on board, although initial

measures were taken to arrange a bomb disposal unit for a possible unit in the woman's bag. The Christchurch Airport was closed for three hours following the incident.

### Today in History

474 – As the seven-year old Leo II was deemed too young to rule, his father Zeno was crowned as the co-emperor of the Byzantine Empire.

1825 – After no presidential candidate received a majority of electoral votes, the United States House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams President of the United States.

1895 – William G. Morgan, a YMCA physical education director in Holyoke, Massachusetts, USA, invented a game called Mintonette, which evolved into volleyball.

1920 – The Svalbard Treaty was signed, recognizing Norwegian sovereignty over the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard.

1960 – Actress Joanne Woodward was honored with the first star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

### Quote of the Day

You've got to get up every morning with a smile on your face  
And show the world all the love in your heart  
The people gonna treat you better,  
You're gonna find, yes you will,  
That you're beautiful as you feel.  
~ Carole King ~

### Word of the Day

affectation n

1. An attempt to assume or exhibit what is not natural or real; false display; artificial show.
2. An unusual mannerism.

### About Wikinews

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the globe (including **you**) can collaborate to report the news on a wide variety of current events. By making our content perpetually available for free redistribution and use, we hope to contribute to a global digital commons.

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