



Top Stories

Bomb explodes at PayPal headquarters

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Elephants recognize mirror image of themselves

If you put an elephant in front of a mirror, it will be able to recognize itself, according to a study performed by scientists on three female elephants at the Bronx Zoo located in New York City, New York.

Featured story

New strain of Bird Flu appears in China

A new strain of Avian Flu or Bird Flu has been discovered in China and has also infected some humans. The virus also "spreads fast" and has covered a "big geographic region" according to Chinese health officials.

Wikipedia Current Events

• White House Press Secretary Tony Snow said in a statement that "We are therefore increasingly concerned by mounting evidence that the Syrian and Iranian governments, Hezbollah, and their Lebanese

Wikipedia Current Events

allies are preparing plans to topple Lebanon's democratically elected government," and that "We're making it clear to everybody in the region that we think that there ought to be hands off the (Prime Minister Fouad) Siniora government; let them go about and do their business."

- The cargo ship M/S Finnbirch sinks in the Baltic Sea, with twelve crew members rescued and two missing. Rescue operations are hindered by a blizzard.
- Turkish archaeologist Muazzez Ilmiye Cig is acquitted of inciting religious hatred; a charge made after she published a book stating that the Muslim headscarf originated in the clothing of Sumerian priestesses who initiated young men into sex.
- The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) attack a rural police command in Colombia killing at least 16 officers as part of a two-week offensive. The President of Colombia Alvaro Uribe had earlier withdrawn from negotiations.
- The government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army rebels sign a second truce as negotiations restart in Juba, Sudan.
- An Israel Defense Forces soldier and six Palestinians were killed in an IDF operation in the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The Prime Minister of Fiji Laisenia Qarase reportedly meets with his security chiefs this morning after yesterday trying to sack Fiji's military commander Frank Bainimarama. Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister of Australia, has raised concerns about a coup.
- The World Confederation of Labour and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions merge to form the International Trade Union Confederation.

Bomb explodes at PayPal headquarters

A bomb exploded at the PayPal headquarters, a subsidiary of eBay, located in San Jose, California, causing the evacuation of employees from the building. Authorities stated that the explosion was "not an accident." Spokespeople for eBay said that the incident was "isolated" and that there were no injuries or deaths reported.

"It's definitely not an accident. Everything else there is accounted for. This was not any kind of accident or malfunction," said San Jose Police Sgt. Nick Muyo. He added that authorities have yet to find any kind of explosive device or material.

"We believe this is an isolated incident. We're working closely with local authorities. We have everything under control," said Amanda Pires, a spokeswoman for

the PayPal division of the company.

The blast was seen from the street and was located in an area where workers take breaks. The initial damage reported was a broken window near the blast site.

Fire officials do not yet know the specifics of the bomb's makeup.

"Whatever it was, it disintegrated. Whatever caused this was pretty strong," said San Jose Fire Department Captain Jose Guerrero.

The San Jose Police are working with agents from the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Bureau (ATF) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), but it is reported that the San Jose Police are in charge of investigating the blast. There are no suspects at this time.

New strain of Bird Flu appears in China

A new strain of Avian Flu or Bird Flu has been discovered in China and has also infected some humans. The virus also "spreads fast" and has covered a "big geographic region" according to Chinese health officials. It is not known how dangerous the new virus is and its not known if its stronger or deadlier than the current H5N1 virus. Despite the illnesses in humans, no evidence has turned up to suggest that the virus can be spread easily from human to human.

"The new variant doesn't indicate any increased risk for people other than the fact it seems to be pretty widespread," said World Health Organization's [WHO] Global Influenza Program, which is located in Zurich, Switzerland, Doctor Michael L. Perdue.

"This virus seemed to spread very fast over a big geographic region.

However, we don't have any evidence to show whether this virus is more dangerous or less dangerous than any other H5N1 viruses," said State Key Laboratory of Emerging Infectious Diseases at the University of Hong Kong in China director, Yi Guan.

The strain was discovered during April and June of 2006 in China's Fujian Province when Guan's team examined ducks, chickens, geese and other birds at a market in the province. At least 95% of the birds Guan and his team looked at were infected with the new strain and vaccines formulated to fight the H5N1 virus have not worked.

"This novel variant may have become dominant ... because it was not as easily affected as other strains by the avian vaccine used to prevent H5 infection. This [means] that H5 avian vaccines are not able to prevent infection by this virus as efficiently as they do with other types of H5N1," added Guan.

The team is continuing surveillance on the area where the strain was discovered and according to Guan the virus "is not causing widespread infection outside of our surveillance area" but the new strain is reported in Thailand, Laos, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

Scientists also say that current vaccines used in birds for the H5N1 virus might have caused the new strain to develop.

Elephants recognize mirror image of themselves

If you put an elephant in front of a mirror, it will be able to recognize itself, according to a study performed by scientists on three female elephants at the Bronx Zoo

located in New York City, New York.

During a test on the elephants named Happy, Maxine and Patty, a mirror was placed in their habitat and all three of the animals went over to the mirrors when they were released back into their habitats.

"Maxine, Patty and Happy immediately went over to the mirror when they were let out, which was really a surprise to us because most animals, when exposed to a mirror, act immediately as if it were another animal," said a student who took place in the experiment and studies at Emory University located in Atlanta, Georgia, Josh Plotnik.

The mirrors were initially covered and when the elephants went to examine the new item, the cover was removed. Another elephant also began to play with a painted "white 'X'" on its head when it walked in front of the mirror.

"They would go over smell it and then leave. They went straight for it — there was a lot of smelling the very first day. Both Maxine and Patty tried to climb the mirror wall and look over it," added Plotnik.

Despite the activity, the elephants Plotnik says, who are usually very vocal to each other were silent during their examination of the mirrors.

"I was really surprised that there was no audible vocalization. These elephants are extremely vocal," Plotnik said.

Until this study had been performed, there were only three other animals, that scientists have studied, which can recognize

themselves in mirrors. Dolphins, chimpanzees and Humans were the only other three.

"This ability to recognize themselves in a mirror suggests a higher level of self-awareness," said a senior scientist who was a co-publisher of the study, which was reported in the National Academy of Sciences, Diana Reiss.

Three masked men shoot a man on Halloween night

A Florida homeowner Ronald Langley, currently faces surgery in an effort to save his eye following being shot in the face by masked assailants.

Around 9 p.m on Halloween night the Jacksonville resident answered a knock on his door carrying with him (as is traditional) a bowl of candy. Instead of finding trick-or-treaters, the 67-year-old found three camouflage-wearing masked men, one of the three shot him in the face, hitting the homeowner above the eye. Langley was transported to Shands-Jacksonville Medical Center in Jacksonville, Florida.

"This is a very nice neighborhood the neighbors are very close," said Pat Weyer, a neighbor. "It's just a very strange happening." "He had surgery last night and they may do more," Weyer said. "He definitely will lose the sight in his eye, but they are trying to save the eye itself."

"Outside of Halloween night, that would have aroused suspicion. But they blended very well in the crowd of people," said the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office spokesman Ken Jefferson. "A person should not have to open his door and get shot when you've got legitimate reasons to open your door at night."

Police are asking anyone with information about the shooting to call Crimestoppers at 866-845-TIPS.

Australia beat New Zealand to enter into the final of 2006 ICC Champions Trophy

Australia has beaten New Zealand by 34 runs in the first semifinal of 2006 ICC Champions Trophy at Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali. After beating New Zealand, Australia secured his place in final which will be taking place on November 5 in Mumbai.

New Zealand cricket captain Stephen Fleming won the toss and decided to field first. Australia set up a target of 241 in 50 overs before New Zealand to make a place in final match of the tournament.

New Zealand could not reach to the target and were all out on 206 in 46 overs. Australia won the match by 34 runs. He will play final with the winner of the second semi final which will take place tomorrow in Jaipur between South Africa and West Indies.

Man of the match award was given to Glenn McGrath for his innocent bowling by taking 3 wicket for just 22 runs in 10 overs.

PW Botha, apartheid leader, dead at 90

P.W. Botha, the hardliner who led apartheid-era South Africa for much of the 1980s, died yesterday at the age of 90.

Known as the "Great Crocodile", Botha defied an international effort to force South Africa to give up white minority rule and also free African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela from prison.

Botha led the country first as

Prime Minister, then as President, from 1978 until 1989 when a stroke forced him from office.

He presided over a State of Emergency in an attempt to suppress the growing resistance movement to give South Africa's black majority the vote but also introduced some reforms in an attempt to satisfy critics.

"While to many Mr Botha will remain a symbol of apartheid, we also remember him for the steps he took to pave the way towards the eventual peacefully negotiated settlement in our country," said Mandela in a statement.

Three "Arab" men sought after serial rapes in Karmiel, Israel

Three unidentified Arab men have been accused of kidnapping a young Israeli woman in Karmiel last Monday, and driving her to Safed where they allegedly raped her repeatedly, over several hours.

They then drove her back to where they took her from and she found her way to Nahariya hospital, where she has been hospitalized for several days and required several operations for her injuries.

The police suspect that the men are a gang of serial rapists who committed several other rapes in Karmiel recently.

The victim stated that the men drove a white BMW.

Global study dispels some myths about sexual behaviour

The first comprehensive global study of sexual behaviour, published today as part of The Lancet's Sexual and Reproductive Health Online Series, found that people aren't losing their virginity at ever younger ages, married people have the most sex, and

there is no firm link between promiscuity and sexually transmitted diseases.

Experts say data gleaned from the study will be useful not only in dispelling popular myths about sexual behaviour, but in shaping policies that will help improve sexual health across the world. Researchers looked at previously published studies on sexual behaviour in the last decade.

Professor Kaye Wellings, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicines, and her colleagues analysed data on sexual behaviour in the last decade from 59 countries.

The report also shows no support for the common notion that there is a culture of multiple sexual partners in countries with poor sexual health. Multiple sexual partners, it turns out, are more common in industrialised than in developing nations.

The study also found that contrary to popular belief, sexual activity is not starting earlier. Nearly everywhere, men and women have their first sexual experiences in their late teens; from 15 to 19 years old — with generally younger ages for women than for men, especially in developing countries. In some instances, married women may be at more risk than single women.

"A single woman is more able to negotiate safe sex in certain circumstances than a married woman," said Paul van Look, director of Reproductive Health and Research at the World Health Organisation, who was unconnected to the study who points out that "married women in Africa and Asia are often threatened by unfaithful husbands

who frequent prostitutes".

There is much greater equality between women and men with regard to the number of sexual partners in rich countries than in poor countries, the study found. This imbalance has significant public health implications. Because of the diversity of sexual habits worldwide, Wellings warns that no single approach to sexual health will work everywhere. "There are very different economic, religious and social rules governing sexual conduct across the world," Wellings said.

For example, men and women in Australia, Britain, France and the United States tend to have an almost equal number of sexual partners. In contrast, in Cameroon, Haiti, and Kenya, men tend to have multiple partners while women tend only to have one.

Along with other industrialised countries, Australia was one in which having two or more sexual partners in the past year was comparatively common.

Single men and women in Africa were fairly sexually inactive: only two-thirds of them reported recent sexual activity, compared with three-quarters of their counterparts in developed countries.

In what researchers said was proof the sexual double standard was still strong, more men than women reported having more than one partner.

"These findings beg the question of who the men are having sex with," they wrote.

Italy had one of the lowest percentages of men who had sex

before age 15 (4 per cent), compared to 18 per cent in the United States and 30 per cent in Brazil and the Dominican Republic. The researchers said early initiation was more likely to be non-consensual, unsafe and generally to be regretted later.

The study suggests that unequal treatment of girls and women as the major sexual-health issue.

The researchers call for providing sexual health services to unmarried young women, supplying condoms, decriminalizing commercial sex and homosexual sex, and prosecuting the perpetrators of sexual violence.

Experts say data gleaned from the study will be useful not only in dispelling popular myths about sexual behaviour, but in shaping policies that will help improve sexual health across the world.

"There's a misperception that there's a great deal of promiscuity in Africa, which is one of the potential reasons for HIV/AIDS spreading so rapidly," said van Look

Fewer than half of unmarried non-virgins reported having sex in the past month.

Some of the major findings the survey found were:

School-based sexual education delays and does not hasten onset of sexual activity.

First sexual experience is often forced or sold.

Marriage is no safeguard of sexual health. It is more difficult for married women to negotiate safe sex and condom use than it is for single women.

Condom use is increasing, but condom-use rates remain low in

many developing countries. Among girls who marry at a very young age, "very early sexual experience within marriage can be coercive and traumatic."

While there is no major trend toward earlier sexual experience, a trend toward later marriage has led to an increase in premarital sex.

Public health measures to improve sexual health should focus not only on individual behaviours but also on broader issues such as gender, poverty, and mobility.

Public-health messages intended to reduce sexual risk-taking "should respect diversity and preserve choice."

Monogamy is the dominant pattern in most parts of the world. Men report more multiple partnerships than do women. Such men are more likely to live in developed nations.

Australian government commits AU\$60 million to cut greenhouse emissions

In response to the Stern Report, Australia's Prime Minister John Howard announced AU\$60 million to fight climate change, on 42 projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The projects are part of the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate.

"The Asia-Pacific Partnership includes countries that represent about half of the world's emissions, energy use, GDP (gross domestic product) and population, and is an important initiative that engages, for the first time, the key greenhouse-gas emitting countries in the Asia-Pacific region," Mr Howard said in a statement.

Howard told the audience at the CSIRO's Ensis, a research and development organisation for the forestry industry, the government was taking practical steps to lower

greenhouse gas emissions and symbolism would not clean up the air.

"Symbolism will not reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Practical methods will and that is what I'm interested in...The thing that matters is doing things" he said.

More than half the money is going to projects to develop clean coal technology, including \$8 million for a mobile carbon catcher for coal-fired power stations.

\$17.5 million will be spent on renewable energy projects, including high efficiency solar power stations and solar-enhanced transport fuels.

\$11 million will be spent on coal mining. \$6 million will be spent on improving energy efficiency of appliances and buildings, and AU\$2.5 million will be used to help the aluminium industry reduce emissions.

Howard dismissed as "pure speculation" the Stern Report's more alarmist projections.

"Talk about hot air. There's an enormous amount of hot air on this issue," Howard says "what we need are measures which actually achieve results." and that his announcement will achieve results.

Wellington airport denies National party advertisements

Wellington, New Zealand, airport has denied supporters of New Zealand's National party to use its land for its newest billboard advertising. The advertisement was denied for being too politically sensitive.

Bill English, National member, said: "Vicious attacks on critics by

Helen Clark and her Labour-led Government have led to Wellington Airport turning down a National Party billboard as it was too politically sensitive."

However the sign has been put up in Auckland, State Highway 20 and on Christchurch's Main North Road.

"The billboards are being paid for from party funds and highlight the scandals and controversies that have surrounded Helen Clark during her time as Prime Minister. The airport company has every right to decide who advertises on airport property, but last year Wellington Airport accepted billboards critical of the Government," English said.

The billboard states on it: "painter-gate, corn-gate, doone-gate, speed-gate, pledge-gate and (next to an arrow) departure gate," all these words were accompanied by a picture of Helen Clark, PM, which slowly decreased in size. And then, at the bottom next to the National logo, it said: "Proudly paid for by supporters of the National Party - with their own money."

Wellington Airport will not comment on why they declined the billboard on its property. Louise Murray, a spokesman for the airport, said: "The airport reserves the right to decline any advertising." Murray made no comment on how the decisions are made or why this particular billboard was rejected.

"However, Wellington Airport, like everyone else, saw Helen Clark's assault on the Auditor-General and Labour's plans to legislate to stop people who don't belong to political parties criticizing the Government next election. These actions have created a climate of

fear and more so for a company doing business with Government-owned Air New Zealand," English said.

Plane with Dutch royal couple on board makes emergency landing

The heir to the Dutch throne, Prince Willem-Alexander of Orange, has been forced to make an emergency landing in New Zealand after passengers smelt smoke on board a chartered plane soon after takeoff.

The private Jetstream 32 carrying Prince Willem-Alexander and his wife Princess Máxima departed for Wellington from Nelson, and was forced to make an emergency landing at Nelson Airport at around half past four this afternoon, minutes after takeoff.

Nelson Airport General Manager Kay McNabb says the plane was not in the air long when the crew detected what they thought was smoke in the cockpit, forcing the aircraft to circle the airport and land.

She says that the rescue fire crews were on standby as the royal couple's airplane touched down.

She says the plane landed without incident, all 17 people on board were unhurt. The royal couples were put on a commercial flight to Wellington at five o'clock.

The emergency landing comes after they made headlines earlier this week, with an apparent snub as he and Princess Máxima started an official visit to New Zealand on Tuesday.

The royal couple are visiting New Zealand from October 31 to November 4. Their stay will include visiting Christchurch, Nelson,

Wellington and Auckland. They are due to fly out for Singapore Saturday afternoon.

Police disperse striking traders in New Delhi

The Delhi Police used lathi(baton)-charges to disrupt striking traders when they gathered in large numbers and attempted to block traffic on the city's streets on Wednesday morning. The 2-day old strike, protesting a Supreme Court order to seal unauthorised commercial establishments in the city, turned to a more violent note with protestors stranded several buses by puncturing their tyres.

The Supreme Court's Monitoring committee sent a notice to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Tuesday to resume the sealing of unauthorised shops from November 2. Initially, the sealing drive was to resume on November 1.

Private medical practitioners also joined the protest on its final day, which affected health services in the city. The traders threatened to extend their strike if MCD resumes its sealing drive.

The first two days of the strike went peacefully without having any serious violence. Traders were expecting the government to meet their demands. They met Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit to resolve this dispute.

Tense stand-off in Fiji amid coup warnings

Fijian Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase yesterday failed to overthrow the military Commander, Commodore Frank Bainimarama. The President, Ratu Josefa Iloilo, decided yesterday to dismiss Bainimarama on the advice of Qarase, but the move backfired when a senior military

officer refused to accept an offer by the President to take control of the armed forces.

In response, soldiers have staged exercises on the streets of Suva and sealed off the main army barracks.

Bainimarama has threatened to force Qarase to resign unless he drops two contentious bills, one of which will offer amnesty to some of those involved in the coup d'état orchestrated by George Speight, which deposed the elected government of then-Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry in 2000, and in two mutinies, one of which took place several months after the cuop.

Commodore Bainimarama is currently visiting troops performing peacekeeping duties in the Middle East.

Bainimarama and other senior military personnel have continued to call on Qarase to stand down.

According to a senior military officer, Qarase has threatened to resign if Bainimarama is not ousted.

Earlier yesterday, military spokesman Captain Neumi Leweni, said it would be "unwise" to remove Commodore Bainimarama.

Mr Qarase called emergency cabinet and National Security council meetings this morning and addressed the nation this afternoon, while senior military officers met this morning. In his address, Qarase refused to resign and said that he would not bow to intimidation.

A joint press conference with acting military commander Elasa Teleni and Fiji Police Commissioner

Andrew Hughes, an Australian, this morning was canceled and Hughes said he had so far been unable to make contact with military leaders today.

Australia has issued a travel advisory for Fiji, warning of tension between the military and the Government.

"We advise you to exercise a high degree of caution in Fiji due to increased tensions between the Fiji government and the Fiji military forces and the possibility of military action against the government," DFAT said on its website.

The United States warned the armed forces of Fiji against carrying out a coup against the elected civilian government of the racially divided Pacific island nation.

Australia has also said it is "very concerned" over the real risk of a military coup in the Pacific Island nation of Fiji, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said on Wednesday.

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark urged Bainimarama to accept the decision of the country's government to sack him and step down.

Fiji has suffered three coups and a failed mutiny since 1987.

Final bidder submits SGD5.5 billion plan for Singapore casino

The third and last bidder for Singapore's Sentosa Integrated Resort (IR) project, Eighth Wonder, submitted its development plan yesterday: a SGD 5.5 billion (USD 3.52 billion) eco-friendly casino known as "Harry's Island".

Harry's Island will boast 10 luxury, family-oriented hotels, a tree house with family suites, and a 7,500-seat Caldera theater which will feature nightly spectacular shows.

Eighth Wonder says it wants to make Harry's Island a world-class, must-see tourist destination and has roped-in several big names in its tender. If selected, the resort will have spas and health centers run by health guru Deepak Chopra, Vera Wang hotels with access to her entire wedding collection, and a soccer academy with Brazilian soccer icon Pele giving his input.

Harry's Island will create around 15,000 jobs, including 5000 in the food and beverage industry.

The company believes it can recover its investments by 2015 by generating over \$5.6 billion in five years; it hopes to bring nearly 15 million visitors annually by 2014.

The Sentosa IR project is the second of two IR tenders offered by the Singapore Government: the first was located in Marina Bay.

The Singapore government is expected to announce the winner in December.

New Zealand Medical Association says no party pills

The New Zealand Medical Association has warned the public against taking party pills, even though they are legal in New Zealand. This warning comes because Benzylpiperazine, or BZP, can trigger hypothermia, seizures, paranoia, insomnia, anxiety, nausea, vomiting, palpitations and spasms of the muscle. Some of those side effects will occur if the person has taken 4.5 tablets.

Those who do take party pills should not mix them with medication, drugs or alcohol. Also those with mental illnesses are advised to steer clear of the pills.

Ross Boswell, chairman of the medical association, said: "There were growing concerns about the safety of BZP-based party pills," and the legality of the pills is coming under fire. "If people insist on taking the pills, they should make sure they stick to the manufacturer's recommended dose, of one or two pills, and not combine them with other stimulants."

A study done at the Christchurch Hospital has shown that 61 patients had been to the emergency department a total of 80 times. Of those 80 times, 15 of them were toxic seizures and two patients presented life threatening conditions.

The pills are often sold as "herbal highs" but according to Boswell, there is nothing "herbal" about them as they were first made to treat cattle that had worms.

Boswell said: "Further research on the effects of BZP is soon to be released by the Health Minister," as the New Zealand government is debating whether or not they should be banned or have their sale restricted.

Dutch Prince leaves sour impression with New Zealanders

The heir to the Dutch throne, Prince Willem-Alexander of Orange, left New Zealand onlookers bemused with an apparent snub as he and his wife Princess Máxima started an official visit to New Zealand on Tuesday.

Prince Willem-Alexander and

Princess Máxima are visiting New Zealand after an official visit to Australia. An official state welcome was held in the grounds of Government House in Wellington yesterday.

As they left a hotel, in Queenstown, New Zealand's tourism capital, ending a a three-day private holiday before embarking on their official tour of New Zealand, a radio reporter asked the prince about his impressions of New Zealand.

"Mind your own business, it's private," was the curt reply, which drew gasps from onlookers, as the Prince of Orange got into a cream-coloured Mercedes. Just seconds earlier, Princess Máxima who is pregnant with the couple's third child, waved and smiled, saying she had "just loved" Queenstown.

Hotel general manager Victoria Shaw said the couple "loved the hotel and their time in Queenstown, but it was their private time and they requested they have their privacy while they were here."

One upset onlooker yelled "And don't come back" after the departing motorcade.

They left Queenstown in a bright orange private jet and will host their first reception in Wellington on Wednesday.

The couple are due to fly out for Singapore Saturday afternoon.

Today in History

- 1817 - The Bank of Montreal, Canada's oldest chartered bank, opened in Montréal, Québec.
 1917 - Arthur Balfour issued the Balfour Declaration, proclaiming British support for Jewish settlements in Palestine.
 1936 - BBC Television Service, the oldest regular high-definition television station in the world, was launched.
 1947 - Howard Hughes flew Spruce Goose, the largest flying boat ever built, on its maiden flight in Long Beach, California.
 2000 - The first crew arrived at the International Space Station.
 November 02 is All Souls Day in Catholicism; Day of the Dead in Mexico.

Quote of the Day

The wayfarer,
 Perceiving the pathway to truth,
 Was struck with astonishment.
 It was thickly grown with weeds.
 "Ha," he said,
 "I see that none has passed here
 In a long time."
 Later he saw that each weed
 Was a singular knife.
 "Well," he mumbled at last,
 "Doubtless there are other roads."
 ~ Stephen Crane ~

Word of the Day

- rodomontade; v
 1. To boast, brag or bluster pretentiously.

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