



### Top Stories

#### US Senator Ted Stevens convicted on 7 counts

United States Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska was convicted Monday on seven counts of failing to report gifts.



Stevens, a senior United States Senator from Alaska and the longest serving Republican in the Senate, had been accused not reporting tens of thousands of dollars worth of gifts from the VECO Corporation including free house remodeling.

#### Homes of six Minnesota politicians vandalized

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#### Acting teacher and director Milton Katselas dies at age 75

Acting teacher and director Milton Katselas died Friday at age 75, after suffering from heart failure at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, California. He began the Beverly Hills Playhouse in 1978 and taught acting classes there to noted actors including George Clooney and Gene Hackman. His book *Acting Class: Take a Seat* was published earlier this month.

### Top Stories

#### More teenagers attracted to computer crime, say experts

Security experts warn more and more teenagers are now into hi-tech computer crime. Alarming large number of teenagers are found peddling credit card numbers, phishing kits and cracking tips in some Internet forums. The young offenders are very likely to get caught and prosecuted due to their inferior technical skills, claim experts.

### Wikipedia Current Events

At its PDC, Microsoft delivers a pre-beta release of Windows 7 to developers, and announces plans to release a full Windows 7 beta early in 2009.

•North Korea issues a statement declaring that it will turn South Korea into "debris" if the South does not stop all "confrontational activities".

•Iran opens a naval base in the town of Jask, just outside the Strait of Hormuz entrance to the Persian Gulf.

#### Arctic ice thickness decreasing, suggests satellite data study

A recent study based on satellite radar altimetry indicates drastic thinning of Arctic ice during the winter of 2007. It was found that the ice thickness had been fairly constant for the five previous winters. The researchers were able to highlight widespread ice thinning in areas covered by both old and young ice. This thinning

constitutes the most severe since records started being taken in the early 1990s.

The study by scientists of University College London has been published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*. The work provides the first definitive proof for overall decrease in Arctic ice volume, claim the authors.

The researchers have found that last winter's ice thickness represented a decrease of an average of 26 centimeters below the 2002-2008 winter average. The greatest decline of 49 centimeters was in the western Arctic, which could explain the region's becoming relatively ice-free this summer, allowing it to be open to shipping for the first time in 30 years. The record low of ice thickness during summer happened when the weather was not abnormally warm.

"About five years ago, the average projection for the sea ice disappearing was about 2080. But the ice minimums, and this evidence of melting, suggests that we should favor the models that suggest the sea ice will disappear by 2030-2040, but there is still a lot of uncertainty." —Dr Seymour Laxon, University College London

Katharine Giles, the lead author, points out that the study used satellite data sets, which had a number of advantages over other methods. Previous studies have used measurements from drilling, or submarine and airborne

surveys. These studies could be severely limited by time and space. The present study utilized continuous, all-weather, day-and-night radar altimeter data from the European Space Agency's Envisat satellite. The study measured ice thickness from October to March, 2007, over more than half of the Arctic.

There has been considerable uncertainty over the causes of ice loss in the Arctic. It has been debated that ice could have been piled up against the coast, thus reducing the sea ice extent. Measurements of the ice thickness, as in the present study, give definite proof for ice melting. "So this means melting; it doesn't mean that the ice has just been pushed up against the coastline," remark Seymour Laxon, co-author of the paper.

The conclusions of the study can help predict what could happen with the ice cover in future. Deflection of sunlight by the Arctic ice cap could be reduced, leading to larger areas of water, which can absorb heat. Warmer temperatures will in turn promote more ice melting. "About five years ago, the average projection for the sea ice disappearing was about 2080", said Dr Laxon. "But the ice minimums, and this evidence of melting, suggests that we should favor the models that suggest the sea ice will disappear by 2030-2040, but there is still a lot of uncertainty."

### **Acting teacher and director Milton Katselas dies at age 75**

Acting teacher and director Milton Katselas died Friday at age 75, after suffering from heart failure at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, California. He began the Beverly Hills Playhouse in 1978 and taught acting classes there to

noted actors including George Clooney and Gene Hackman. Katselas is survived by a sister and two brothers.

Katselas directed an off-Broadway production of Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story*, and received a Tony Award nomination for his 1969 direction of *Butterflies are Free*. Actress Blythe Danner won a Tony Award for her role in *Butterflies are Free* under Katselas' direction. He moved to California to direct the film version of that play, and went on to direct films and television movies. Actress Eileen Heckart received an Academy Award for her role in the film version of *Butterflies are Free*.

Katselas directed the San Francisco and Los Angeles productions of the play *P.S. Your Cat Is Dead!* by playwright James Kirkwood, Jr. In his author's notes in the publication of the script, Kirkwood acknowledged Katselas, and wrote that the plays were "directed with incredible energy and enthusiasm by Milton Katselas, to whom I am extremely indebted".

Katselas directed the television movie *Strangers: Story of a Mother and Daughter*, and actress Bette Davis received an Emmy Award for her role in the movie. Katselas taught many famous actors including Michelle Pfeiffer, Richard Gere, Robert Duvall, Jack Lemmon, Al Pacino, Goldie Hawn, Christopher Walken, Burt Reynolds, George C. Scott, Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, Alec Baldwin, and Patrick Swayze. Katselas was credited with being able to nurture actors with raw talent so that they could develop strong Hollywood careers. He utilized innovative techniques in his courses - one course called "Terrorist Theatre" had a simple

premise: successfully get an acting role within six weeks or leave the course.

He grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to parents who had immigrated from Greece, and graduated from Carnegie Mellon. He studied acting with Lee Strasberg in New York at the Actors Studio, and received advice from directors Joshua Logan and Elia Kazan.

Katselas was a prominent Scientologist, and a July 2007 profile on Katselas in *The New York Times Magazine* observed that some of his students stopped taking courses at the Beverly Hills Playhouse because they felt they had been pressured to join the Church of Scientology. According to the article, Katselas credited Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard "for much of his success in life", and one of his students works at Scientology's Celebrity Centre. The article commented that some in Los Angeles view the Beverly Hills Playhouse as "a recruitment center for Scientology".

Katselas met L. Ron Hubbard after moving to California, and began studying Scientology in 1965. The *New York Times Magazine* reported that he had reached the level of "Operating Thetan, Level 5, or O.T. V." in 2007. According to *The New York Times Magazine* when Scientologists proceed up the "The Bridge to Total Freedom" they learn the story of Xenu, and that: "75 million years ago the evil alien Xenu solved galactic overpopulation by dumping 13.5 trillion beings in volcanoes on Earth, where they were vaporized, scattering their souls." A Church of Scientology publication, *Source*, lists Katselas as reaching O.T. V. in 1989.

"He is brilliant, and knows me so well as a person and an actress that he gets the most out of me."  
—Jenna Elfman

Though some actors felt pressured to join the Church of Scientology after taking courses at the Beverly Hills Playhouse, at least one individual felt Katselas was not active enough with the organization. Actress Jenna Elfman left the Beverly Hills Playhouse because she felt Katselas was not committed enough to Scientology. Katselas had previously directed Elfman in half of *Visions and Lovers: Variations on a Theme*, two one-act plays about relationships that he had written himself. In 1999 Katselas had planned to adapt the script of *Visions and Lovers* to a film version, and Elfman was set to reprise her role from the play. In an article in *Variety* about the project, Elfman commented on her experience working with Katselas: "He is brilliant, and knows me so well as a person and an actress that he gets the most out of me."

Other prominent Scientologist actors who have studied under Katselas include Giovanni Ribisi, Jason Lee, and Leah Remini. According to *Rolling Stone*, Katselas also recruited actress Kelly Preston to Scientology. Actress Nancy Cartwright (the voice of Bart Simpson), told *Scientology publication Celebrity* that Katselas motivated her to get more active in Scientology, and she stated she took the organization's "Purification Rundown" and her life "took off completely"

"Life is an endless unspooling of art, of acting, of painting, of architecture. And where did I learn that? From Milton." —Terry Jastrow

Anne Archer was introduced to Scientology while studying at the Beverly Hills Playhouse, as was former Scientologist and now outspoken critic actor Jason Beghe. Beghe told Roger Friedman of *FOX News* in April 2008 that "He [Katselas] gets kickbacks", and that he was brought to a Scientology center by fellow Beverly Hills Playhouse classmate Bodhi Elfman, Jenna Elfman's husband. In a 1998 article for *Buzz Magazine*, Randy Hoder wrote "In his class, Katselas is careful not to label anything as a tenet of Scientology, but there is no question that the church's influence seeps into the playhouse."

Anne Archer's husband and fellow Scientologist, producer Terry Jastrow, commented to *The New York Times Magazine* that Katselas changed the way he experiences life on a day-to-day basis: "I go out in the world and look at human behavior now. I see a woman or man interacting with a saleslady, and I see the artistry in it. Life is an endless unspooling of art, of acting, of painting, of architecture. And where did I learn that? From Milton."

Actor Anthony Head of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* spoke highly of Katselas in a 2002 interview with *San Francisco Chronicle*: "He's this wonderfully intuitive teacher and his premise is basically: The only real barriers are the ones we put in front of ourselves. If you say, 'My character wouldn't do that' -- bollocks! Ultimately it's you who wouldn't say that. Who knows what your character might do." In the acknowledgements of her 2004 autobiography *Are You Hungry, Dear?: Life, Laughs, and Lasagna*, actress Doris Roberts wrote: "I thank my friend and acting teacher, the incredible Milton

Katselas, for his insights, wisdom, and inspiration, which have helped make me the actress that I am."

"I really care about the craft of acting. It's absolutely necessary to take the time and patience to really develop an actor."  
—Milton Katselas

Katselas authored two books: *Dreams Into Action: Getting What You Want*, first published in 1996 by Dove Books, and *Acting Class: Take a Seat*, which came out earlier this month. *Dreams Into Action*, a *New York Times* Bestseller, sought to modify motivational acting exercises to the field of business.

In an interview in the 2007 book *Acting Teachers of America*, Katselas commented on his experiences as an acting teacher over the years: "I have very special teachers here at the Beverly Hills Playhouse—some have been with me for over twenty-five years. I believe that to make a difference over the long haul, we need to train teachers. I really care about the craft of acting. It's absolutely necessary to take the time and patience to really develop an actor."

### **Homes of six Minnesota politicians vandalized**

An unknown person or persons wrote graffiti and vandalized the exterior of homes belonging to six members of the United States congressional delegation from the state of Minnesota late last Monday night or early Tuesday morning.

According to the *Star Tribune*, Laurie Coleman, wife of U.S. Senator Norm Coleman, found the words "U R A CRIMINAL, RESIGN OR ELSE! PSALM 2" written on the family's garage. The word "SCUM"

was also written in three places on another side of the garage. Psalm 2 is a biblical reference.

The homes of senator Amy Klobuchar, and U.S. representatives Michele Bachmann, Keith Ellison, John Kline and Jim Ramstad were also targeted by vandals. Ellison's house was the only one that sustained damage.

"We're looking at this as an actual threat." —Peter Panos, St. Paul Police spokesman

Peter Panos, St. Paul Police spokesman, told the Star Tribune that threatening message in the graffiti were cause for concern.

"We're looking at this as an actual threat," he told the Star Tribune. "We're taking it quite seriously. Vandalism threats are pretty rare in this city."

Bachmann, Coleman, Kline and Ramstad are Republicans. Klobuchar and Ellison are Democrats. All live in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area. Reps. Collin Peterson and Jim Oberstar, who live in out state Minnesota, along with Rep. Betty McCollum — who lives in a condominium, did not receive vandalism to their homes. Senate candidates Al Franken and Dean Barkley, who are running against Coleman in the November elections, condemned the vandalism.

"There's no place for this unacceptable behavior in our political process, or in our communities." —Al Franken campaign

"There's no place for this unacceptable behavior in our political process, or in our

communities," Franken's campaign told the St. Paul Pioneer Press. The paper said that the Franken campaign office was the victim of graffiti attacks including the words "Crazy" and "No New Taxes."

Federal and local authorities are still investigating these incidents, as well as similar incidents that took place in Missouri.

Over the weekend, a Minnesota hair salon was targeted. Police say it may have been a copycat vandal, though the salon is said to be patronized by Norm Coleman.

### **More teenagers attracted to computer crime, say experts**

Security experts warn more and more teenagers are now into hi-tech computer crime. Alarmingly large number of teenagers are found peddling credit card numbers, phishing kits and cracking tips in some Internet forums. The young offenders are very likely to get caught and prosecuted due to their inferior technical skills, claim experts.

Swapping malicious programs, knowledge, stolen data, exploits and virus code are very popular with teenagers exposed to the world of computer crime. Online communities and web forums sharing application cracks, exotic exploits and virus code make it easy for teens to do the illegal activities. Many nuisance programs are written by teenagers to exploit users of social networking sites, opines Chris Boyd, director of malware research at FaceTime Security.

"Some are quite crude, some are clever and some are stupid," said Mr Boyd. Attempts to make money by dabbling in cyber crime quite often fails due to a lack of technical skills. "They do not even

know enough to get a simple phishing or attack tool right," said Kevin Hogan, a senior manager of Symantec Security Response. The teenagers often end up damaging their own PCs by the viruses they have written.

Teenagers desire to win recognition for their exploits make them post revealing videos in sites such as YouTube. They commonly sign on with the same alias used to crack a site, run a phishing attack or write a web exploit. They are thus easily tracked down by computer security experts.

"Some are quite crude, some are clever and some are stupid" —Chris Boyd, FaceTime Security

Mathew Bevan, arrested as a teenager cyber criminal and then acquitted, says teens enjoy the "thrill and power to prove they are somebody". Thus they end up sticking to the same alias, even at a risk of being caught. "The aim of what they are doing is to get the fame within their peer group," he said. "They spend months or years developing who they are and their status. They do not want to give that up freely."

Graham Robb, a board member of the Youth Justice Board, cautions about the life-long stigma on being caught. "If they get a criminal record it stays with them," he said. "A Criminal Records Bureau check will throw that up and it could prevent access to jobs."

### **Today in History**

1268 – Conradin, the last Duke of Swabia, was beheaded in Naples after failing to reclaim Sicily for the House of Hohenstaufen from Charles of Anjou.

1787 – The opera Don Giovanni, based on the legendary fictional libertine Don Juan and composed

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, premiered in the Estates Theatre in Prague.

1923 – Mustafa Kemal Atatürk became the first President of the Republic of Turkey, a new nation founded from remnants of the Ottoman Empire.

1929 – A catastrophic downturn in the New York Stock Exchange on "Black Tuesday" set off the Great Depression, triggering a chain of bankruptcies and a worldwide economic depression.

1998 – After more than three decades, 77-year old John Glenn returned to space aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery on STS-95, to study the effects of space flight on the elderly.

October 29 is Republic Day in Turkey

**Quote of the Day**

He who has provoked the lash of wit, cannot complain that he smarts from it. ~ James Boswell

**Word of the Day**

withhold v

1. To keep (a physical object that one has obtained) to oneself rather than giving back to its owner.
2. To keep (information, etc.) to oneself rather than revealing.
3. To retain or keep back; not to grant.

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