



Top Stories

Canada confirms fifth case of Mad Cow Disease

Canada's Food Inspection Agency has announced that tests done on a six-year-old dairy cow, have come back positive for Mad Cow Disease. This is Canada's fifth confirmed case of the disease since 2003.

Rail accident in northern Greece

Three people killed and 22 injured in a rail accident in northern Greece, when the Intercity truck driver attempted to drive through a crossing. The train was operating the route from Thessalonika to Alexandroupolis.

Featured story

Police confirm lagoon bodies are boys missing from Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Police have confirmed that the bodies of two children found in a small pond in McGovern Park are Purvis Parker, 11, and Quadrevion Henning, 12, who went missing on March 19. Police say there was no foul play involved and that the autopsy reports show the boys had drowned.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The Tenth National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam opens in Hanoi amid a major corruption scandal.

Still no action in standoff in Ontario town

Seven weeks after citizens of the Six Nations of the Grand River reserve repossessed land near Caledonia, Ontario, on February 28, the Ontario Provincial Police, who have authority from a court to arrest the protesters for contempt of court, have yet to act.

On April 11, more than 50 police cruisers, two paddy wagons, and several vans gathered outside an abandoned school on Unity Road in Caledonia. However, reports from last night are that visible police presence is minimal, with just a few police cruisers parked down the road from the protest site.

Before the site was blocked, Henco Industries had begun construction on 10 luxury homes out of a total of 71 scheduled to be built as part of the \$6 million Douglas Creek Estates subdivision.

The tract of land under dispute was registered as a land claim by the Six Nations Band Council in 1987 but its status has yet to be settled. The land originally made up part of a large land grant given in 1784 to the Six Nations for services rendered during the American War of Independence.

The government and the developer claims that title was surrendered by the Six Nations in 1841, but the Band disputes this.

The protesters are demanding a nation-to-nation dialogue with the Canadian government and continue to call for a peaceful

resolution. Some protesters, however, have stated that if the OPP forcefully try to remove them, they will defend their land with force.

"If they break the peace, we'll do what we have to do," said protester Dick Hill. "Things are very tense. We are trying to defend our lands, which were taken from us. Every time we try to stand up for who we are and what we are, they come and drag us away."

An injunction was issued to the development company a month ago that allowed for the protesters to be removed, however; police have not enforced the injunction.

However; David Ramsay, Ontario's Aboriginal Affairs Minister said that the province was going to have a meeting with both protesters and developers in an attempt to address their concerns.

"This is a very serious situation. I have to be very hopeful that we're going to see a peaceful end to this situation. We think we can resolve this by negotiating, and by talking so that's what we're doing," added Ramsay.

Sondhi may face arrest over lèse majesté allegations

Thai media mogul and outspoken critic of the current government, Sondhi Limthongkul faces arrest should he fail to answer a second summons over lèse majesté allegations.

Instead of turning up to face the police yesterday, Sondhi sent his lawyer to deliver a written testimonial, and a variety of other evidence. The accusation that he insulted or attacked the monarch centres around speeches made at a number of the rallies organised by the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) during their ongoing campaign to remove caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

When the summons was first issued on April 10, the country's justice minister, Chidchai Vanasatidya, quickly denied accusations that the charges were government-orchestrated. Chidchai, currently acting as Prime Minister said, "I affirm that the summoning has nothing to do with politics".

Sondhi has been given another seven days to surrender himself to police for questioning.

Explosion in Tel Aviv injures at least 40, kills at least 8

Tel Aviv police report that a Palestinian suicide bomber has caused an explosion at a restaurant in central Tel Aviv. Eight people are reported dead and at least 40 injured in the blast.

Two of the victims died after they had arrived at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv. Of the wounded, six were seriously hurt, 12 sustained moderate wounds, while the rest were lightly injured.

A suicide bomber targeted the same restaurant, "The Mayor's Felafel," on January 19. At least 20 were wounded in that attack. The restaurant was reportedly full of holiday travellers.

Palestinian group Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for the

attack. Palestinian sources identified the bomber as Sami Salim Hamad, an Islamic Jihad activist from the village of Qabatiyah, on outskirts of the West Bank city of Jenin, where the Battle of Jenin occurred in 2002.

Rail accident in northern Greece

A rail accident occurred on Sunday night outside the town of Drama, northern Greece, having as a result the death of four people and the injury of 22. The Intercity train, which was operating the route from Thessaloniki to Alexandroupolis, had 65 passengers onboard and according the Hellenic Railway Organisation(OSE) the accident occurred when a truck driver attempted to drive through a grade crossing.

Forty people were transferred to the Hospital of Drama and 22 remain hospitalised; two of them to be in critical condition. The driver of the truck, Yannis Papadopoulos, 40, a police trainee and a kindergarten teacher were killed, however the police have not released the names of the last two.

OSE expressed its sorrow for the deaths and the Minister of Macedonia-Thrace visited the site of the accident and declared that the State acted immediately. However, this rail accident raises a question about the safety of the Hellenic Railways as well as the policies that the Greek Ministry of Transport should apply.

Canada confirms fifth case of Mad Cow Disease

Canada's Food Inspection Agency has confirmed that a cow in British Columbia, Canada, tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy or Mad Cow

Disease. Officials announced on Friday that initial tests done on the six-year-old dairy purebred Holstein, had come back inconclusive. The cow was found in Fraser Valley, a farming community near Vancouver, British Columbia.

Officials also say that the beef supply is safe because none of the infected cows had made it to the human food chain. "This finding does not affect the safety of Canadian beef. Tissues in which BSE is known to concentrate in infected animals are removed from all cattle slaughtered in Canada for domestic and international human consumption. No part of this animal entered the human food or animal feed systems," said agency officials in a statement on Sunday.

"This animal, a six-year-old dairy cow, developed BSE after the implementation of Canada's feed ban. Investigators will pay particular attention to the feed to which the animal may have been exposed early in its life, when cattle are most susceptible to BSE. The CFIA is collecting records of feed purchased by and used on the animal's birth farm," the statement continued.

However, the United States does not believe a ban on Canadian beef will come immediately. "Information gathered through this investigation will help us to determine what, if any, impact this should have on our beef and live cattle trade with Canada. Based on the information currently available, I do not anticipate a change in the status of our trade," said U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns.

This is Canada's fifth confirmed case of the disease since May 2003, and officials have tested

more than 100,000 cows since the first case of the disease turned up in Alberta. This is the second cow to test positive for the disease this year.

At least 150 people worldwide have died from eating beef contaminated with the variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a nerve disease that is usually fatal. Most of the deaths occurred in the United Kingdom.

Greenpeace founder supports nuclear energy

An article supporting nuclear energy written by Patrick Moore appeared in the Washington Post Outlook section yesterday. Moore was a co-founder of Greenpeace who currently co-chairs an industry-funded initiative, the Clean and Safe Energy Coalition, which supports increased use of nuclear energy. Moore and U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel (R-Nebraska) spoke during the opening session of the 2005 American Nuclear Society's Winter meeting in November.

Moore says that his views have changed since founding Greenpeace, and he now believes that using nuclear energy can help counteract catastrophic climate change from burning fossil fuels. Says Moore, "The 600-plus coal-fired plants emit nearly 2 billion tons of CO2 annually -- the equivalent of the exhaust from about 300 million automobiles." Moore also cites reports from the Clean Air Council that coal plants are responsible for 64 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions, 26 percent of nitrous oxides and 33 percent of mercury emissions.

"Meanwhile, the 103 nuclear plants operating in the United States effectively avoid the release of 700 million tons of CO2

emissions annually," says Moore. "Nuclear energy is the only large-scale, cost-effective energy source that can reduce these emissions while continuing to satisfy a growing demand for power. And these days it can do so safely." Moore points out that the average cost of producing nuclear energy in the United States was less than two cents per kilowatt-hour, comparable with coal and hydroelectric. He predicts that advances in technology will bring the cost down further in the future.

According to Moore, British atmospheric scientist James Lovelock, father of the Gaia theory, also believes that nuclear energy is the only way to avoid catastrophic climate change. Concerns about past accidents in the nuclear industry were also mentioned, as he claims the Chernobyl nuclear disaster as example, calling it "an accident waiting to happen. This early model of Soviet reactor had no containment vessel, was an inherently bad design and its operators literally blew it up". He also recognized the difficulty of dealing with nuclear waste.

Moore was a founding member of Greenpeace in 1971 and was instrumental in its early campaigns, but left the organization in 1986. Greenpeace is known for its campaigns of nonviolent direct action against atmospheric and underground nuclear testing.

Suspect in Oklahoma girl's murder blogged about depression, "dangerously weird" fantasies

Kevin Ray Underwood, the suspect in the murder of 10-year-old Jamie Rose Bolin of Purcell, Oklahoma, reportedly kept a weblog in which

he joked about cannibalism, discussed the effects of not taking his prescribed medicine, and talked about "dangerously weird" fantasies.

Underwood was arrested Friday after investigators searched his apartment and found Jamie's body in a plastic bin in his bedroom closet. Also reportedly found in his apartment were barbecue skewers and meat tenderizer, which law enforcement officials believe he intended to use to eat the girl's flesh.

People who knew Underwood reported that he was a relatively unassuming man, seemingly trustworthy. His mother described him as "a wonderful boy" and said of Jamie, "I would like to be able to tell her family how sorry we are. I just feel so terrible."

In the profile of his blog, entitled "Strange Things are Afoot at the Circle K", Underwood described himself as "Single, bored, and lonely, but other than that, pretty happy." Also on his profile page, he poses the question, "If you were a cannibal, what would you wear to dinner?" and answers, "The skin of last night's main course."

In an entry dated September 8, 2005, Underwood reportedly described 1998 as "the year that a large part of me died" and "the longest year of my life." He reported losing contact with most of his friends, making an online acquaintance only to lose her again, and suffering panic attacks from being around people at college. Two of his friends also were involved in a car accident, one fatally injured.

He reported in that entry that in the last year he found himself

becoming more and more detached from the world, never leaving his apartment except to go to work or his parents' apartment. In an entry dated September 24, 2004, he reported that his fantasies were "just getting weirder and weirder. Dangerously weird. If people knew the kinds of things I think about anymore, I'd probably be locked away. No probably about it, I know I would be."

In an entry dated February 4, 2006, he said that he had hardly left the apartment in almost two months, and that "a week or so ago, I spent my day off sitting here at the computer, barely moving from the chair, for 14 hours."

His last blog entry was dated Thursday, April 13, 2006, one day after authorities believe Underwood killed Jamie Bolin.

10,000 refuse to pay U.S. taxes to protest Iraq war

An estimated 10,000 conscientious objectors chose to withhold some or all of their U.S. income taxes due Monday, April 17, in protest to the use of US military power in Iraq. Some plan to instead donate their required tax to charity.

The Internal Revenue Service does not distinguish tax resisters from any other person behind on their taxes, and will apply the same fines and interest used against the other Americans who do not pay their taxes on time. Legal action is possible for extreme cases, but more commonly the IRS uses wage or bank account garnishing.

The tax protestors are well aware of these risks, yet refuse to pay on principle. Jim Allen, who served in the Army for 20 years and now teaches at St. Louis University,

acknowledges that he will likely end up paying more due to the fines than he is refusing to pay today. "I am not opposed to paying taxes, but I am when such a large percent is going to pay for war. Sooner or later, they're going to get their money, but until that happens, I'm going to continue protesting. This is too important not to." Allen and his wife withheld \$1300 - or 42% of what the couple owes the IRS, estimating this to be the proportion of his taxes that would otherwise go to military spending.

Other protestors simply refuse to file at all. Becky Pierce of Boston fills out a 1040 to determine her tax, but then donates that amount to charity without filing. Pierce says she follows in the footsteps of American protesters like Henry David Thoreau, a protester of the Mexican-American War who went to jail rather than pay taxes. "You need to have control of your money," Pierce says. "I'm a self-employed carpenter. No one is reporting what I make. That's why I can go unnoticed."

Ecumenical Hellenism program's representatives visited U.S.A.

On the occasion of the one year since the death of Archbishop Iakovos of America, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Church History Professor, Athanasios Angelopoulos along with his collaborator, London's Westminster University politics student Nicolas Mottas, represented the program Ecumenical Hellenism[1] and the Institute for National and Religious Studies of Thessalonika at the first annual memorial service for the late Archbishop Iakovos which took place in Boston on April 9, 2006.

The memorial service for

Archbishop Iakovos - which was followed by a parade in Central Boston honoring the Greek Independence Day - were attended by five members of the Greek parliament, the Consul General of Greece in Boston and hundreds of Greeks and Americans from Massachusetts. The memorial service, which was offered by the Bishop of Boston Methodios, was followed by a speech from Athanasios Angelopoulos dedicated to Archbishop Iakovos' memory. More specifically, Angelopoulos mentioned that "the late Archbishop was the proper and the only person who could inspire the presidents of the United States, so that this country co-celebrates along with the Greek-Americans every year, the spiritual goals of freedom and democracy, on the occasion of the historic event of the Greek revolution in 1821". Angelopoulos made also a reference to the late Metropolitan Silas of New Jersey, who died in 2000 and was a personal friend of Iakovos. Speeches were also offered by the Bishop of Boston as well as from Consul General of Greece.

By the opportunity of the first annual memorial service of the former Greek Orthodox leader, professor Angelopoulos and Nicolas Mottas, met with the director of Archbishop Iakovos' archives and for years personal secretary of the Archbishop, Nikie Calles, at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America[2] - as well as with Paulette Poulos, director of development of Leadership 100 and former secretary of Iakovos at the Onassis Cultural Centre - in New York City, NY, regarding the inedited correspondence of the late Archbishop on national issues; an ambitious work, which is scheduled to be published in both

Greek and English, within 2006. The representatives of Ecumenical Hellenism - a program which started in 1996 and exists under the patronage of the Hellenic Republic Presidency and the Ecumenical Patriarchate - had also the opportunity to meet with the current Archsbishop of America, Demetrios.

Today in History

1025 - Bolesław I the Brave was crowned in Gniezno and became the first King of Poland.

1906 - A major earthquake and subsequent fires devastated San Francisco, California.

1942 - World War II: Sixteen B-25 Mitchell bombers from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet carried out the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo.

1980 - Rhodesia became the Republic of Zimbabwe, with Canaan Banana as the country's first President.

1996 - Israel Defense Forces shelled Qana, Lebanon during Operation Grapes of Wrath, killing over 100 civilians at a UN compound.

Quote of the Day

"I do not consider it an insult, but rather a compliment to be called an agnostic. I do not pretend to know where many ignorant men are sure — that is all that agnosticism means."
~ Clarence Darrow

Word of the Day

pshaw; *interj*

Definition

Indicating disapproval, irritation, impatience or disbelief.

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