



Top Stories

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Featured story

Small aircraft crashes into building in New York City

A small aircraft struck an apartment building in New York this afternoon, killing the pilot and a flight instructor. Cory Lidle, a pitcher for the New York Yankees baseball team, was the registered owner of the aircraft and is believed to have been piloting it; his passport was found on the scene.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The Federal Reserve finds that economic growth in the United States is "moderate or mixed" with "widespread cooling" in the housing market.
- Members of the Janjaweed militia attack Sudanese refugees from

Wikipedia Current Events

- the Darfur region in eastern Chad.
- Five Palestinians have been killed during an Israeli raid in the Gaza Strip, reports say.
- The French parliament adopts a bill criminalizing Armenian genocide denial, despite significant lobbying efforts by the Government of Turkey.
- The New Zealand Auditor-General's report into 2005 election funding is released. NZ\$1.17 million dollars was unlawfully spent during the election by seven parties, more than half of it by Labour. Labour immediately promises to repay the money.
- A gun attack on the office of a satellite TV station in Baghdad kills 11 people.
- Sir Richard Dannatt, Chief of the General Staff and head of the British Army, gives an interview stating that British forces should "get out some time soon" from Iraq as their presence "exacerbates the security problems".
- Workers begin demolishing the one-room Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania where five girls were shot to death and five others were injured.
- Turkish writer Orhan Pamuk, whose novels discover "new symbols for the clash and interlacing of cultures", wins the 2006 Nobel Prize in Literature.

French parliament approves bill on Armenian "genocide" denial

Today, the French National Assembly passed a bill that would penalise negationism of the Armenian Genocide. The label "genocide" is disputed internationally, and the Turkish government has reacted to the vote, calling it a "serious blow" to diplomatic relations. Armenia has congratulated France over its "natural response" to an "agressive" policy of "denial" by the Turkish government. The French government also opposes the bill; Catherine Colonna, Minister charged with European Affairs, reacted that "It's the task, first and foremost, of historians and not of lawmakers to clarify history."

Turkey's Prime Minister Erdogan had warned France to look into its own colonial past in Africa instead of demanding Turkish recognition of the events. Ali Babacan, the Turkish Minister of Economy, in Brussels for talks on Turkey's E.U.-membership, said he could not exclude that people would start boycotting French products in Turkey. In a recent visit to Armenia, the French President Jacques Chirac launched the idea that recognition as a "genocide" would be necessary for Turkey to enter the E.U., causing the media to label it as the "Chirac criterion". The European Commission, which has confirmed that such a criterion would not be instituted, deplored the initiative of the French parliament, because it could

damage contacts with the European Union.

According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, hundreds of thousands of Armenians were forced into a diaspora between 1915 and 1917, resulting in a disputed number of casualties. The Turkish government and some international historians attribute this to inter-ethnic strife, disease and famine during World War I, while others see it as state-sponsored plan of mass extermination. Some politically influential countries like the U.S., Canada and France have driven efforts to interpret these events as an attempt to eradicate an ethnic group.

The bill, which provides for a 1-year prison sentence and a € 45,000 fine (the same as for Holocaust denial), still needs to be approved by the Senate and the President, and due to the parliamentary calendar, news sources think it is unlikely that it would be discussed before the end of the legislation in February 2007.

Former U.S. President Gerald Ford hospitalized

The office of Gerald Ford said Thursday that the former President was admitted to Eisenhower Medical Center for tests in Rancho Mirage, California, USA.

"President Gerald Ford has been admitted to Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, California for medical tests. He is doing well," Ford's spokeswoman Penny Circle said. The statement didn't release any information about the tests.

Ford has been hospitalized twice this year. In January, he was hospitalized to treat pneumonia. In July, he was hospitalized at

Colorado's Vail Valley Medical Center due to shortness of breath.

Ford was also hospitalized in August at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for heart procedures. Ford received a pacemaker to regulate his heartbeat. Ford also underwent angioplasty to increase blood flow in his arteries. Ford also suffered a small stroke five years ago.

Gerald Ford became the 38th United States President on August 9, 1974 after Richard Nixon resigned due to the Watergate scandal. At the age of 93, Ford is the oldest living U.S. President and could next month become the longest living U.S. President ever.

Delhi Police question South African cricketer Herschelle Gibbs over match-fixing scandal in 2000

While being interrogated by the Delhi Police today, South Africa cricketer Herschelle Gibbs admitted that his former captain Hansie Cronje asked him to underperform at the Pepsi Cup in 2000. Gibbs also named Derek Crookes among three others who, he said, were involved in the affair.

"Gibbs had come and the interrogation took place in a manner in which we wanted. The investigation can now move forward," Joint Commissioner of Crime Branch Ranjit Narayan said at a press conference following the two hour long session.

Gibbs maintained that he did not know whether or not any Indian players were involved in the scandal, although he did reveal that the entire South African team had received an offer in 1996, which they refused. Gibbs also refrained from revealing whether or not he actually accepted any

money to underperform, saying only that he was following his late skipper's wishes. Narayan, on his part, indicated that the investigation could now "move forward", following the filling-in of "loopholes and gaps" as a result of today's interrogation. The Delhi Police have also taken samples of Gibbs' voice to compare it with the telephone recordings that they have recovered. The cops also stated that Gibbs had been cooperative, and that he "might be needed again".

Trial of New Zealand teacher murderer still months away

The accused murderer of Tokoroa, New Zealand teacher Lois Dear, Whetu Te Hiko, has appeared at the High Court in Rotorua but was remanded further into custody.

Only written evidence was given while in court.

Dear, 66-years-old, was found murdered in her class at Strathmore School a day before term 3 started, July 16.

Hiko, 23-years-old, was remanded in custody until November 9 when he will be indicted, but it is unsure when the trial date will be set.

While in the dock Hiko, who has pleaded not guilty, hang his head and only showed his back to the crowded public gallery. He occasionally looked up to look at Justice Paul Heath, the residing judge. Heath said that they would not arraign Hiko yet because it is too soon after the depositions hearing.

Kevin McNeil, son of Dear, was also present at the high court. "I am here today for Mum. She would have been here for us. Nearly three months on, the evidence in the murder case was still being

withheld, and a lot of it probably will be for some time." He was however confident that justice would be served. While wiping his eyes he added: "It's bloody hard. You have your bad days when the tears come. You never know when it is going to happen."

Hiko was in the Tokoroa District Court just under a month ago for the depositions hearing.

Brother of Hiko, Piri Te Hiko, said to McNeil: "She sounded like a real good lady. She taught a lot of my nieces and nephews."

The two men then shook hands and McNeil said that his family does not hold any animosity at Hiko's family.

Heath has ruled that the media cannot publish the written depositions but may read them. The media cannot also view photographs or exhibitions that are evidence. Heath was concerned that it would become an unfair trial.

Dove's Real Beauty looks at photoshoot techniques in commercial

Dove soaps continues their North American "Campaign for Real Beauty" advertising with a television commercial that explores the alterations that can be done on models.

Labeled "a Dove film", the commercial is entitled "evolution". Beginning with a woman walking into a photo shoot. From there, she is primped and plucked by hair and makeup artists, then tweaked on a Photoshop-like program.

The photo-manipulation is then posted on a billboard for the fictional "Easel Foundation Makeup" brand. Two young,

teenage girls walk past, glancing at the board.

"No wonder our perception of beauty is distorted" ends the ad in text, "Every girl deserves to feel beautiful just the way she is."

Dove runs the Dove Self-Esteem Fund as a part of their Campaign for Real Beauty. In the marketing campaign, Dove uses "real" women, instead of professional models, in an attempt to instill self-esteem in their customers.

This continuing promotion, launched in 2004, was on the forefront of a current trend in Western culture to abandon the overly idealised images the media portrays of women. Recently some fashion capitals have mandated minimum body mass indexes for runway models. The top rated comedy in the United States and Canada is Ugly Betty, a series that stars an average girl coping at a fashion magazine. The series is based on Betty la Fea, an extremely popular Columbian telenovela, which has been reproduced internationally.

Only two percent of women surveyed worldwide consider themselves beautiful, according to ABC Good Morning America co-anchor Robin Roberts, whose program debuted the commercial this morning at 8:07 am EST.

The ad is currently playing on the Campaign for Real Beauty's homepage.

"Corrupt" New Zealand government to repay \$768,000

The New Zealand Labour Party today joined National, the Greens, ACT and the Maori Party in saying they would pay back the money received from Parliamentary Services that the Auditor-General

says was wrongly used for electioneering.

The Auditor-General report, tabled today, found \$1.17 million of taxpayer-funded parliamentary funding was misspent over all political parties. Labour was found to have overspent \$768,000.

The Prime Minister is adamant the Labour Party did not break any rules, but she is still going to pay back money spent unlawfully in the lead up to the election.

Labour "strongly maintains" that its spending was within the rules as they were understood but given the new ruling it would refund the money.

"Labour has strongly stated its case as was its right...The party welcomes the Auditor-General's findings that inadequate guidance has been available to MPs and parliamentary parties on what constitutes appropriate advertising, particular in the pre-election period." Clark said

The Government will now follow through with plans to pass retrospective legislation on election spending. Deputy Prime Minister and finance minister, Dr Michael Cullen says legislation will be introduced into Parliament next week to validate spending by parties dating back some years.

He argues the only legal remedy for the breaches identified by the Auditor General is for them to be validated by an act of Parliament.

Meanwhile National Leader Dr Don Brash is viewing the Auditor General's report on election overspending as a victory for National.

Dr Brash says it is only public,

political and media pressure that is making the Prime Minister repay the money that Labour spent.

He claims she led a dirty campaign punctuated by threats, bullying and diversionary tactics, and he says she is clearly paying the money back with great reluctance.

Dr Brash says the Prime Minister should also apologise to the Auditor General, as she bullied him publicly to try to get him to change his report.

Dr Brash said it had taken a year to persuade Labour to "admit its guilt".

"I am delighted they have finally done it... after trying every trick known."

Wikinews Shorts: October 12, 2006

Kenyan couple caught having sex in mosque

A couple was caught copulating in a mosque during Ramadan in Gilgil, Kenya. They were discovered when a worshipper learned of "strange noises" coming out of a dark corner of the mosques. John King'ori, a senior magistrate said, "Having sex in a mosque is a most abominable thing to religion."

Two Czechs take Mr Universe and Miss World titles

A Czech, Tomas Bures, today won the Mr Universe title, the same title which launched Arnold Schwarzenegger's career. Additionally, a week ago, Czech teenager Tatana Kucharova was named Miss World.

US now qualifies its view that North Korean test was small

After Russia's report that the North Korean test was much larger than the American estimate, the U.S.

intelligence community is now saying it's possible the tunnel in which the test took place could have "muffled" the seismic waves and thereby caused the US estimate to be wrong on the downside.

- Ex French Prime Minister Édouard Balladur announced retirement same day Barthez's one.
- In danger in Euro 2008 qualifying after disastrous Saturday's loss against Cyprus in Nicosia, the Republic of Ireland team drew 1-1 against the Czech Republic at Landsdowne Road, Dublin.
- Tiger Woods won his sixth straight PGA tour event Sunday in Hertfordshire, England. The streak began in July with his victory at the British Open.

Canadian Liberal Leadership frontrunner, Ignatieff, refused to attend debate in Toronto

Canadian Liberal Leadership frontrunner Michael Ignatieff refused to attend a debate with all three frontrunners in Toronto, on Tuesday. Instead, Bob Rae, second place to Ignatieff in Leadership race, Stéphane Dion, and Gerard Kennedy attended.

Ignatieff was invited to attend but refused to participate in the event. His spokeswoman described it as "arbitrarily restricted to perceived 'front-runners'. She said Mr. Ignatieff wanted all eight candidates to be present.

"We were approached several months ago by the Canadian Club-Empire Club to participate in a debate that was only to include Stéphane Dion, Bob Rae and Michael," said the Ignatieff statement. "We advised the

organizers that we are not prepared to participate in a debate that was arbitrarily restricted to the perceived 'frontrunners'."

The leadership campaigns were notified several months ago the event was being planned, with advice sought on scheduling for after the "Super Weekend."

Ignatieff also offered to speak alone, but it did not happen.

"His camp would say participating in a debate where invitations are not extended to all the candidates would be doing a disservice and would be rude to the other (four) candidates," said Liberal strategist Scott Reid. "That's smart because he wants to flatter people whose support he would require for a later ballot." However, Reid said other camps would suggest that Ignatieff is avoiding a mix-up with the three contenders with the best chances of supplanting him at the November 28 to December 3rd convention in Montreal.

Ignatieff's name was only mentioned once in the whole debate. Mr. Rae, who spoke of Canada's perennial national unity difficulties as requiring practical, constructive solutions rather than "abstract, theoretical discussions to resolve the constitutional riddle," an allusion to Mr. Ignatieff's proposal to reopen the Constitution debate and have the province of Quebec recognised as a nation within Canada.

"Trying to build support, build momentum on later ballots that's really where this campaign is being fought now," said CTV's Roger Smith.

The party's final formal debate in Toronto on October 15 is the big chance for Ignatieff to get more

supporters.

Blunkett: Brown supported Iraq war to save job

The Blunkett diaries, being serialised in the Guardian, claim that Gordon Brown opposed the war against Iraq. Only at the last minute did he give in, according to the diaries, when he realised that Blair would sack him otherwise.

Gordon Brown, interviewed by the Guardian, said he did not think Blunkett had ever said such a thing and that, if he was reported as having done so, he was being misquoted.

The diary entries are contemporary with the events and were recorded shortly after the Cabinet meeting on Iraq.

Barbra Streisand heckled during concert

Barbra Streisand was heckled during a concert on Monday night in New York City inside Madison Square Garden after doing a comedy sketch, impersonating the United States President, George W. Bush portraying him as a "bumbling idiot."

Some of the audience members did not like her sketch and began to heckle the singer, causing Streisand to ask "Come on, be polite!" during her sketch.

One audience member refused to stop and Streisand told him off.

"Shut the fuck up! Shut up if you can't take a joke!" said Streisand.

The heckler was then asked to leave the concert. There is no word on who the heckler was.

Streisand is currently making her first 16 city tour after nearly 12 years.

Today in History

1492 - Christopher Columbus makes landfall in the Caribbean, believing he has reached East Asia.

1810 - The first Oktoberfest was held in Munich, to celebrate the wedding of Prince Ludwig I of Bavaria.

1859 - Self-described "Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico" Joshua A. Norton "ordered" the United States Congress to dissolve.

1984 - The Provisional Irish Republican Army failed in its attempt to assassinate British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and most of her cabinet in the Brighton hotel bombing.

2002 - A series of car bombs exploded in Bali, Indonesia, killing 202 people and injuring a further 209.

October 13 is Hispanic Day in Spain, Day of Indigenous Resistance in Venezuela, Our Lady Aparecida's Day & Children's Day in Brazil.

Quote of the Day

If you ever get trial by television or guilt by accusation, that day freedom dies because you have not had it done with all of the careful rules that have developed in a court of law. Press and television rely on freedom. Those who rely on freedom must uphold the rule of law and have a duty and a responsibility to do so and not try to substitute their own system for it.

~ Margaret Thatcher

Word of the Day

triskaidekaphobia; n

1. Fear, hate, or dislike of the number thirteen (13).
2. Fear of Friday the 13th.

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