



Top Stories

United Airlines Flight 923 makes emergency landing at Logan International Airport

United Airlines Flight 923 has made an emergency landing in Boston. The original course was from London to Washington D.C. Fighter jets escorted the plane to the ground.

Former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon develops double pneumonia

Former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon has developed double pneumonia and is being treated with "massive" amounts of antibiotics according to hospital officials.

Featured story

Nigeria hands over disputed area to Cameroon

Nigeria formally handed over the resource-rich Bakassi peninsula to Cameroon after withdrawing its troops from the region. Many Bakassi residents are reported to be opposed to the transfer.

Wikipedia Current Events

•Terminal 18 of the Port of Seattle has been evacuated after bomb-sniffing dogs indicated that at least one container recently taken off a ship may contain explosives.

•Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visits the Yasukuni Shrine and draws protests from east Asia.

•Javier Arellano Félix, leader of

Wikipedia Current Events

the Arellano Félix drug cartel and brother of former FBI Ten Most Wanted listee Ramón Arellano Félix, is arrested by the United States Coast Guard in a boat in the Gulf of California off La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico.

•A Russian border patrol boat fired on a Japanese crab fishing boat near Kaigara Island, part of the Kuril Islands. One fisherman was killed and three others were detained by the Russian authorities.

•The International Astronomical Union proposes a new definition for a planet to be voted on August 24 which will include Pluto, Charon, 2003 UB313, and Ceres as planets.

•The Israeli ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker, criticises Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe for participating in an Aug. 6 Montreal march in which a few Hezbollah supporters also took part. The march was, however, a protest against war and not a show of support for Hezbollah.

•The Government of Israel says the withdrawal from South Lebanon will stop if Lebanese troops aren't deployed there within days.

•Ali Khamenei, Iran's Supreme Leader and the supreme religious authority to Hezbollah followers, praises Hezbollah resistance.

Google launches free city wide Wi-Fi in Mountain View, California

Google on Wednesday inaugurated a free city-wide Wi-Fi system in its home town of Mountain View, California. Google insisted that it had no plans to offer a similar service nationwide. Most residents of Mountain View, can connect to the Internet via a Mesh Wi-Fi network for free. Google said that its network "eventually will cover the entire city" and serve as "testing ground for future innovations."

The wireless network (Wi-Fi) covers 90% of Mountainview. It offers maximum data transfer rate of up to 1 Megabit per second. Though that is slightly slower than DSL.

The system costs about US\$1 million to build and uses 380 transceivers mounted on street-lights throughout the 31 km² city. Reviews of the network say that it works smoothly in open areas, but that connections can be patchy in enclosed spaces.

Chris Sacca, Google's head of special initiatives, said that "the main purpose of his company's backing local wi-fi access is to clear the way for broadband entrepreneurs and overcome legal roadblocks by established telephone and cable TV providers".

Mountain View, which has about 72,000 residents, is the largest U.S. city with totally free Internet access available throughout the

entire community.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The South Korean based Good Friends aid agency estimates that in North Korea 54,700 people have died due to massive flooding in July. The DPRK Government claims only "hundreds" have died.
- Former U.S. President Gerald Ford is admitted to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.
- The United Kingdom government is to seek Parliamentary approval to grant posthumous pardons for over 300 soldiers executed for cowardice during the First World War. The soldiers' families have long claimed that they were suffering from shell shock.
- New Jersey Transit says that service has been suspended between New York's Penn Station and Secaucus due to a suspicious item found on the tracks east of the Secaucus junction.
- Israel claims that Hezbollah fired 10 Katyusha rockets into Southern Lebanon with none reaching Israel.

Arrest made in JonBenet Ramsey murder case

An arrest has been made in the almost 10-year-old murder of JonBenét Ramsey, according to a law enforcement official. The suspect was detained in Bangkok, Thailand at the request of the U.S. government. The suspect faces charges in Colorado.

Local authorities in Boulder, Colorado declined to comment.

KUSA-TV, a Denver television station, claimed that the suspect had confessed to elements of the crime that were not public.

CBS News is reporting that according to their sources the suspect, a 41-year-old American man and second-grade schoolteacher, will be brought back to the United States this weekend.

CNN reports that a law enforcement source identified the suspect as 41-year-old John Mark Carr, a one-time school teacher.

JonBenét's father, John Ramsey, told 9NEWS in Denver, Colorado, that he has been notified of the arrest. Asked if he knew Carr, Ramsey replied, "To the best of my knowledge, no," the station's Web site reported.

On December 26, 1996, JonBenét Ramsey, a child beauty pageant queen, was found murdered in the basement of her parents' home in Boulder, Colorado, United States, eight hours after being reported missing. The case drew national attention when no suspect was charged and suspicions turned to possible family involvement.

Fire in Amherstburg, Ontario dies down

A huge fire at a plastics recycling plant fire forced hundreds of residents in Amherstburg, a Southwestern Ontario town, flee their homes.

It started early yesterday afternoon. Smoke was 20 metres high over the area and grew to roughly the size of two football fields.

Residents were evacuated from 360 nearby houses, but by 6:00 P.M. ET (UTC-5) were told it was safe to return after officials determined the smoke was not considered to be a health risk.

Dave Fields, the fire chief from nearby Windsor, said "80

firefighters were called in from other districts to battle the flames".

"If people are going to store materials like this, you can't be available to store them in these types of quantities. It's a disaster waiting to happen," said Chief Fields. Chief Fields blamed storage practices at Enviro-Tech for much of the problem, saying the amount of high-density plastic stored at the plant made fighting the fire nearly impossible.

Also, a toxic cloud of chemicals forced 1,500 employees and residents to flee after a fire engulfed the laboratory of a coatings plant north of Montreal at Boisbriand, Quebec. Thick black smoke swirled over the town located at the intersection of Highways 15 and 640.

More than 100 firefighters were called about 12:00 P.M. ET to get rid of the blaze on the third floor at Polyval Coatings Inc.

Fire Chief Christian Grand'Maison said early last night that "the fire wasn't yet under control but there were no longer concerns that it could flare up again". The evacuation order was lifted about 7:00 P.M.

People who live east of Boisbriand and nearby Rosemere have been asked to keep their windows closed until it's clear, while Environment Quebec is at the smoke scene and is testing the air quality.

Three people have minor injuries. One employee was burned on the arm. A firefighter and a resident were treated for smoke inhalation.

United Airlines Flight 923 makes emergency landing at Logan International Airport

United Airlines Flight 923 from London to Washington D.C. made an emergency landing at Boston's Logan International Airport following the pilot declaring an in-flight emergency.

The flight had 182 passengers and 12 crew members on board.

A spokesman for Logan International Airport, Phil Orlandella, said the flight was guided to Boston by two fighter jets.

"There was a supposed confrontation on board. There may have been a banned item on board and they are now searching the luggage," he said.

The spokesman for United Airlines said that the pilot for the flight declared an in-flight emergency.

Massport spokesman says that the passengers were removed from the plane and their carry-on items are currently being inspected.

Four Lotto 649 winners share jackpot

Three people in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and one person in Quebec won last week's Lotto 649. They will share the second-largest lottery jackpot in Canadian history as the lucky winners of Saturday's \$43.2-million Lotto 649 draw. They will each take home \$10.8 million.

"Two of the tickets were purchased in the GTA, and one in southwestern Ontario, despite the free ticket giveaway by the British Columbia lottery corporation to promote the contest", the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation said.

The six regular winning numbers for the Saturday, August 12, 2006 Lotto 649 draw were: 3 - 10 - 21 - 23 - 33 - 44 (Bonus number 43).

Eight Dollarama employees in downtown Toronto also held one of the winning tickets, worth more than \$10.8 million. They will take home about \$1.35 million each. They range in ages from 22 to 53.

The biggest Lotto win was \$54 million in a Lotto 649 draw in October 2005. It was won by 17 oil company workers in Camrose, Alberta. Each took home a cheque for \$3 million.

New Zealand 'Boobs on Bikes' parade approved

The Auckland 'Boobs on Bikes' parade for next weeks annual sex industry convention, Erotica Expo which features naked woman on motorcycles has been approved by Auckland City Council's events and promotion staff despite disapproval by Auckland Mayor, Dick Hubbard and 13 other Auckland City Council councillors.

The mayor and the other councillors have signed a petition to withdraw the permit. Hubbard said "I think such a parade down Queen Street is totally inappropriate because it's shamelessly promoting a pornography trade fair. It's particularly degrading to women."

However, the organiser of the expo, Steve Crow, says Mr Hubbard's opposition is morally based.

All other previous parades had been held informally. Steve Crow, organiser of the parade and expo said "He only asked the council and the police if they wished to be involved as a matter of courtesy,

and the parade will go ahead regardless. It's legal under New Zealand law. They can basically go to hell; we're going to do it." Crow said the only reason they asked for permission this year is to have police involvement for spectators safety.

A spokeswoman for the Mayor said "The proposed route for the tour would pass a kindergarten and school. It's the councillors that have got upset about it due to huge public reaction by people saying they didn't want it," the council has received numerous complaints to the parade.

Bob McCoskrie, Family First national director said "[We are] offering support for the topless porn girls by making bras and sweatshirts available. Typical of Auckland weather, there's a high likelihood it'll either be cold and/or wet. We're genuinely concerned for their welfare and health."

The Councillors are meeting today, August 16, to try and withdraw the permit that gives the parade green lights throughout Queen Street. Their decision is due sometime late today.

6 Canadian soldiers injured in Afghan attack

Six soldiers were injured, Tuesday, during a mortar attack on a Canadian outpost in Afghanistan. None of the injuries sustained are life threatening, according to officials.

One soldier was treated on base while five others were flown to a military hospital in Kandahar. Two of the soldiers are being kept for observation, the others were treated and released.

The attack occurred at Forward Operating Base Wilson which is

about 30 kilometres west of Kandahar in Zhari District Centre, an area that has been the target of recent Taliban attacks.

Canadian Press reports that according to its sources Taliban fighters from across southern Afghanistan have gathered in the area within the past 24 hours, preparing for battle with NATO and Afghan government forces.

New drug for smoking cessation is under investigation

A recent study published in the latest issue of the scientific medical journal, Archives of Internal Medicine reports on the potential use of a new drug varenicline to help smokers quit the habit. Varenicline received FDA approval for sale earlier this year.

Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of disease and death in the United States as well as other Western countries. The addictive habit causes approximately 440,000 deaths in the U.S. each year and costs approximately \$157 billion per annum in health-related economic losses. In 2000, 70 percent of those who smoked wanted to quit smoking. Each year over half of all daily smokers try to quit. But long term success rates are generally not over 40 percent.

In a multicenter, randomized, double-blind phase II clinical trial, 638 men and women aged 18-65 who smoked an average of 10 cigarettes per day during the previous year, without a period of abstinence of more than 3 months, were put on placebo, bupropion (another drug used as a smoking cessation aid, brand name Zyban®), or different treatment schedules of varenicline for 7 weeks. Subjects were tested

for continuous quitting by measuring exhaled carbon monoxide. After one year, the success rates were 14.4%, 6.3% and 4.9% for varenicline, bupropion and placebo, respectively.

Experiment on frozen sperm raises hopes of "restoring" extinct mammals

According to Japanese and American scientists, healthy offspring have resulted from the injection of sperm into female mice from male mice that have been in a deep freeze for 15 years. The mice, as a whole, were kept frozen in temperatures of -20 degrees Celsius.

Scientists at the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research Bioresource Center which is located in Tsukuba, Japan, say that cryogenic techniques were not used and that the mice were kept in a freezer.

Scientists also say that the sperm was not alive when it was thawed out. At least one out of every five females that were injected with the sperm, gave birth to healthy offspring which are also fertile.

"Obviously, those frozen [sperm] were all dead in the conventional sense. Motionless sperm had no chance whatsoever of fertilising in vivo or in vitro. Nevertheless, some of these, if not all, were ... genomically intact, because they were able to produce apparently normal offspring," said the researchers.

The idea behind the experiment is that scientists say that the results now make it possible to bring back prehistoric animals or extinct animals such as the woolly mammoth, but because any fully intact body found would have been

frozen for over 10,000 years and would likely be too damaged organisms and bacterias. Endangered species such as elephants could also be reproduced, but scientists also say that the chances of an experiment like that of being successful are still "slim."

"Restoration of extinct species could be possible if male individuals are found in permafrost. If sperm of extinct mammalian species, for example the woolly mammoth, can be retrieved from animal bodies that were kept frozen for millions of years in permanent frost, live animals might be restored by injecting them into oocytes [eggs] from females of closely related species," said Dr. Narumi Ogonuki, head of the team who made the discovery.

AIDS Conference: Clinton and Gates defend Bush program

On Tuesday, at the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Canada, both former President Bill Clinton and Microsoft founder/chairman Bill Gates defended President George W. Bush and his Administration's PEPFAR program.

Clinton said that the United States is spending more to fight HIV than any other government. He did criticize the program, saying that 33% of PEPFAR funds are dedicated to abstinence-only programs. Clinton said he does not believe that abstinence-only programs work. Also, he spoke out against a US law that requires organizations that apply for PEPFAR funds to pledge to oppose prostitution.

"I wish they would just amend the law and say 'we disapprove of prostitution but here's the money

- go save lives'," said Clinton.

"The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief has done a great deal of good, and President Bush and his team deserve a lot of credit for it," Gates said.

PEPFAR, which Bush unveiled in 2003, is to spend \$15 billion over five years in 15 target countries. It provides medicine to HIV patients, distributes condoms and funds programs run by many aid groups. It is the largest international health initiative in history initiated by one nation to address a single disease.

Ex-President Gerald Ford admitted to Mayo Clinic

Former President of the United States Gerald Ford, 93, has been admitted to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, tonight, for "testing and evaluation" according to a statement from his office.

"No further releases or updates are anticipated prior to early next week," the statement also said. When contacted, Ford's spokesman did not say what treatment he was getting at the clinic, and referred all other questions to the clinic.

John Murphy, the Mayo Clinic's spokesman, said only "'I can verify that the statement is correct and I have no other additional information."

Ford's activity has diminished since he suffered two small strokes five years ago. The 38th president spent 12 days in hospital this past January suffering from pneumonia.

Israel pulling back from Lebanon

The United Nations brokered cease-fire between Israel and

Hezbollah is largely holding as Israel has begun to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. UNSC Resolution 1701, which calls for a "full cessation of hostilities" in the Israeli-Lebanon war, was passed by the UN Security Council last Friday and was approved by Lebanon and Israel over the weekend.

Lebanon's defence minister, Elias Murr, says that the 15,000 troops Lebanon has committed to the peacekeeping operation will be on the north side of the Litani River by the end of the week. As part of the truce agreement, they must cross the river and exercise control over what has been Hezbollah controlled territory in southern Lebanon.

The head of the Israeli army says the IDF could complete its withdrawal from Lebanon in 7 to 10 days.

The new international peace-keeping force may number as many as 15,000, significantly larger than the existing force of 2,000, known as UNIFIL, which is expected to take up border positions in the mean time. The UN hopes for an advance force of up to 3,500 within the next 10 to 14 days. France, who is expected to lead the international force, is seeking a clearer mandate from the UN on the rules of engagement.

Over 1,200 people have lost their lives in the conflict. 1,110, mostly civilians, have died in Lebanon and 157 Israelis, mostly military, were killed. Israel says it killed 530 Hizbollah fighters while Hezbollah puts the toll at about 80.

Dell recalls potentially incendiary laptop batteries

Dell, the world's largest

manufacturer of home computers, is recalling 4.1 million lithium batteries used in laptop computers because of the risk of their bursting into flame. There have been at least six incidents since December of laptops catching fire because of overheated batteries.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission in the United States says it is the largest recall of electronic products in its history. Scott Wolfson, spokesperson for the CPSC, says the affected laptops should only be run off of a power cord and not the battery. Dell says that the computers are safe to use if the batteries are removed entirely.

At risk are those Dell Latitude, Inspiron, XPS and Precision laptops shipped between April 2004 and July 2006.

"In rare cases, a short-circuit could cause the battery to overheat, causing a risk of smoke and or fire," said Dell spokesman Ira Williams.

"It happens in rare cases but we opted to take this broad action immediately."

Customers with concerns can call a special toll free number, 1-866-342-0011 or go to <http://www.dellbatteryprogram.com> to determine if their batteries are subject to the recall.

CBC looks for Winnipeg news program host

The CBC is searching for a Winnipeg host for CBC Newsworld program CBC News at Six.

The CBC has advertised a host position on a web-based job classified listing. Monster.ca lists "On a continuing and regular basis, performs a leading role in

CBC News at Six for regional television in Winnipeg. The Host is involved in the development and execution of the program; the structure, direction and much of the content is regularly dictated by the experience, specialized knowledge and performance capabilities of the Host."

Previously Krista Erickson, Jennifer Rattray, Diana Swain, and Sandra Lewis were hosts of this regional program. Swain now hosts the Toronto program. The most recent host, Erickson, is now a reporter for The National.

Tanker spills 1000s of tonnes of crude oil off Nicobar Islands

A Japanese tanker has spilled an estimated 4,500 tonnes (1.4 million gallons) of crude oil in the eastern Indian Ocean, after colliding with a cargo ship, which it was trying to assist, the tanker's owners report.

A statement released by Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd, the owners of the tanker, Bright Artemis said that the tanker was attempting to rescue the crew of the distressed Singapore-registered cargo ship, Amar, when the two vessels came in contact about 470 km (290 miles) west of the Great Nicobar Island in the Indian Ocean at 1:00 p.m., (3:00 p.m. JST) on Monday. The collision opened a gash 1 meter in height and 5 meters in length on the single-hulled tanker's starboard side, spilling its crude oil cargo. The statement said that the spill has been contained, the crew of the Amar are safe on board another rescue vessel and no other injuries have been reported.

The tanker reported the location of the incident as 5'46"N, 89'04"E and the cargo ship Amar was on fire when the incident happened,

said the statement. It added that oil has been transferred from the damaged tanks to other tanks, the tanker is proceeding east at a reduced speed and that the Maritime Port Authority of Singapore and the Indian Coast Guard have been informed of the incident.

The Bright Artemis was manned by a crew of 23 including Croatians, Filipinos and a Canadian and was carrying close to 250,000 tonnes of crude oil from the Persian gulf to Japan, according to the company.

Indian Coast Guard officials told Reuters news agency that the spill lies outside India's exclusive economic zone and that they are watching the situation closely.

Bloomberg reports that shares of Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd. fell as much as 4.3% upon news of the event. Mitsui is Japan's second-largest shipping company.

Former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon develops double pneumonia

Former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon, 78, has developed double pneumonia and is being treated with "massive" amounts of antibiotics according to hospital officials.

"We are talking about pneumonia that is being treated with massive antibiotics. There is no change in the functioning of the brain tissue and no significant fall in vital signs," said officials at Tel Hashomer hospital in the Sheba Medical Center located in Tel Aviv, in a statement today.

Yesterday doctors stated that Sharon's urine output had "decreased significantly" and that a scan of his brain "showed a

deterioration in his brain function," said Anat Dolev, a Sheba Medical Center spokesman.

Yesterday the hospital reported that the condition of Sharon was getting worse.

Sharon has been in a coma since suffering a major stroke on January 4. Since being admitted to the hospital, he has undergone several rounds of surgery on his brain in an attempt to stop bleeding. Currently a respirator assists him in breathing.

Rae gains support in Canadian Liberal leadership race

Former Ontario premier Bob Rae received a boost today in his bid to win the leadership of the federal Liberal Party of Canada when rival candidate Maurizio Bevilacqua announced he was dropping out of the race in order to back Rae.

"I'm convinced that Bob Rae is the best person to lead the Liberal Party to victory. He has the experience and the intelligence and the vision to lead Canada into the 21st century," Mr. Bevilacqua said at a news conference, Monday.

Bevilacqua is a six-term Liberal MP representing the riding of Vaughan, Ontario and was seen as a centrist on economic issues.

His departure leaves 10 candidates who will vie for the position at the Liberal leadership convention being held this December in Montreal.

Bevilacqua, 46, had had trouble raising money in the campaign and was thought to be trailing the other candidates. He fell behind the front-runners in the race in terms of raising money and wooing support from senior

Liberals. He now becomes national co-chair of Rae's campaign as well as his economic advisor.

Rae is considered a front-runner in the race to succeed Paul Martin along with Michael Ignatieff, Gerard Kennedy and Stephane Dion. Rae, a former leader of the provincial New Democratic Party joined the Liberals in April after months of speculation about his possible candidacy. The winner of the December convention becomes Leader of the Official Opposition to Stephen Harper's Conservative government.

Australian company to make solar power with space technology

Solar Systems Pty Ltd, Hawthorn, Victoria, have announced an agreement with Boeing Australia Ltd for supply of Spectrolab solar cells. The agreement will result in the supply of 500,000 cells, capable of generating 11MW of electricity.

Spectrolab produces multi-junction solar cells, originally designed for powering satellites. The solar cells are three times more efficient than the cells used in typical domestic solar panels, and are capable of converting light energy to electrical energy with up to 34% efficiency according to NREL's National Centre for Photovoltaics. Solar Systems utilise Spectrolab's multi-junction solar cells to increase the output of their dish systems.

Solar Systems have already trialed the cells in one of their CS500 concentrating solar dishes installed at a solar power station in Hermannsburg, Central Australia, established to reduce the consumption of diesel in the remote community. Simply replacing the existing cells with

the Spectrolab multi-junction solar cells increased output from 24kW to 34kW.

Solar Systems is planning to use the technology in a solar power station it will build in northern Victoria, with a capacity of 154MW.

Victoria, Australia - fuel theft on the increase

Victoria, Australia – In the past year, petrol drive-off offences have increased by 41.6%, from 5,038 in 2004-05 to 7,135 in 2005-06. There has also been a large increase in number plate thefts, 31.9% in the past year. These thefts allow concealment of vehicle registration numbers during the commission of drive-off offenses.

Police Chief Commissioner, Christine Nixon, has said that new initiatives are being introduced to control the growing problem. "In particular we have recently introduced the 'safe plates' initiative which encourages the use of one-way screws on number plates", she said.

The slotted head of the screw allows an installer to turn the screw tighter for fastening the license plate in place, but the screw cannot be backed out with a screwdriver because the slot is shorn off in the direction needed to loosen the screw.

Heavy hailstorms leave Sydney appearing snowed in

Recent heavy hailstorms occurring at approximately 4 o'clock in the afternoon today left parts of Sydney with the appearance of being snowed in, with thick blankets of hail covering streets and sidewalks with layers of hail.

The hail was observed in the Central Business District of

Sydney, where cars were observed -- possibly sheltering from the worst of the downfall -- under awnings on Paramatta Road, and areas in the Inner West.

The Bureau of Meteorology's Sydney Harbour weather station recorded a drop in temperature with the storm: at 4pm the temperature was 17 degrees Celsius, while the temperature reached a low at 11 degrees half an hour later.

New Zealand Maori Queen dies

The New Zealand Māori Queen, Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu died on Tuesday at 5.32 p.m. (NZST) following a long illness. She was 75 years old.

The Māori Queen holds no constitutional function in New Zealand, but Dame Te Atairangikaahu was an avid supporter of cultural and sporting events; the 40th anniversary of her coronation was celebrated in May.

She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Waikato University in 1973, and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Victoria University in 1999. She was one of the first inductees of the Order of New Zealand when it was established in 1987.

In December 2005, she started dialysis treatment when her kidneys began to fail. Dame Te Ata received dialysis treatment three times a week and had been in hospital several times in the past year.

On 11 July 2006, Te Atairangi Kaahu suffered a possible heart attack and was admitted to intensive care in Waikato Hospital, Hamilton. She was discharged from hospital later in the month,

in time to celebrate her 75th birthday. She died at her home in Ngaruawahia.

New Zealand pilot selling uniform online

"Jeremy", an airplane pilot in Nelson, has put his uniform on sale for NZ\$1.00 at New Zealand auction site TradeMe. The pilot had lost his job when Origin Pacific Airways fired 230 staff because of financial difficulties and is now trying to "make ends meet this week," the pilot said. The auction has already reached 31 bids and reached \$101 as of 7.30 a.m. August 15.

'Jeremy', the pilot, said on the auction page, that he is offering "a rare piece of Kiwi aviation history,".

"This is an authentic Origin Pacific Jetstream pilot's uniform lovingly drycleaned for one last time before its unfortunate retirement. It's travelled many stormy nights and many sunrises and has seen almost 50,000 Kiwis safely to their destinations from Invercargill to the Far North. It has 778,000km on it, yet it looks as crisp today as it did when it was born," the pilot described on TradeMe.

One bidder had offered \$40 if he sold the uniform immediately but that offer was turned down in order to see the auction go until Sunday.

David Collier, Origin Pacific passenger services general manager, said "The uniform was Origin Pacific's property and the pilot should not be selling it, but I think it's probably one of those things you'd have to grin at and move on."

Jay, Waitakere, asked on the auction page if the uniform came

with a plane. The pilot replied "No, but if you want to start an airline I know where you can find a great bunch of people."

The auction is closing on August 20, Sunday.

Today in History

1807 - Robert Fulton started the first commercial steamboat service in the world.

1896 - Bridget Driscoll became the first person to be killed in a petrol-driven car accident.

1914 - World War I: Ignoring orders to retreat, Hermann von François led a successful counterattack defending East Prussia in the Battle of

Stalluponen and scored the first German victory in the Eastern Front.

1962 - East German border guards shot and killed Peter Fechter as he attempted to cross the Berlin Wall into West Berlin.

1988 - President Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan was killed in a plane crash.

August 17 is Independence Day in Indonesia (1945), Gabon (1969)

Quote of the Day

"One isn't born one's self. One is born with a mass of expectations, a mass of other people's ideas — and you have to work through it all."

~ V.S. Naipaul

Word of the Day

what with; adv

1. (idiomatic) Owing to; because of; as a result of.

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