



Top Stories

Science academies urge teaching of evolution

The Interacademy Panel on International Issues (IAP), a global network of the world's science academies, has released a statement urging parents and teachers to provide children with 'the facts about the origin and evolution of life on Earth'.

Italy seeks indictment of U.S. marine

Italian prosecutors have asked a judge to indict a United States soldier for fatally shooting the Italian intelligence officer Nicola Calipari at a roadblock in Iraq a year ago.

Featured story

"Avast ye scurvy file sharers!": Interview with Swedish Pirate Party leader Rickard Falkvinge

The Pirate Party, a new Swedish political party first publicized in January, wants to legalize sharing music, movies, and other copyrighted content using the Internet. Party leader Rickard Falkvinge shares his thoughts about the prospects of the party and the future of copyright law.

Wikipedia Current Events

•The International Committee of the Red Cross admit the Israeli Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society. The resolution, ending 58 years of struggle, was passed by a 237-54 vote, over Muslim objections.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation raids terror suspects in Miami, Florida with 7 arrests made. They were charged on terrorism conspiracy, in connection of being in the early stages of planning attacks against Chicago's Sears Tower and possibly FBI and government buildings in the Miami area.
- Japan dispatches ships and planes to monitor developments in North Korea as that country prepares to test a long range missile.
- United States and coalition forces have found 500 pre-1991 chemical weapons since the 2003 invasion of Iraq. A Pentagon official has stated that the weapons were degraded beyond the point of use, but the report states they remain a danger and are still potentially lethal.
- After 16 years in office, Angelo Cardinal Sodano retires as Cardinal Secretary of State. He will be succeeded by Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone, until now Archbishop of Genoa.

Australia advances to next round in Group F after 2-2 draw with Croatia

Australia drew with Croatia 2-2 in a stunning drama-packed final Group F game in Stuttgart, Thursday.

The draw put Australia on four points and Croatia on two, which meant the Southern Hemisphere "Socceroos," as the team is

nicknamed, progressed to the Fifa World Cup round of sixteen.

The observer might struggle to know where to begin with the events witnessed by 52'000 in the Gottlieb Daimler Stadion.

Stjepan Tomas twice touched crosses into the Croatian penalty area with his hand; one penalty was given. In a parallel, Milan Dudic had done that for Serbia and Montenegro against the Ivory Coast the previous day; both penalties were awarded on that occasion.

The match made history for being the fourth time - the second time in the 2006 World Cup - three players had been shown a red card in a World Cup match. The other times were 1938 - Brazil vs. Czechoslovakia, 1954 - Brazil vs. Hungary, 1998 - Denmark vs. South Africa, and 2006 - USA vs. Italy.

English referee Graham Poll sent all three players off after they had accrued two yellow cards. In the mayhem of the last moments of the match, Croatia was desperate to get a winner while Australia did not want to concede.

Dario Simic was first to go for a bad challenge into the side of Harry Kewell to stop an Australian breakaway. Brett Emerton walked when he stuck his arm out to prevent an attacking pass.

Josip Simunic should have gone on 90 minutes when Poll flashed him

a second yellow card for what may be described as a rugby tackle in a last ditch attempt to stop another Australian breakaway.

The referee forgot he had booked Simunic on 61 minutes and, unlike the similarly-named Simic, stayed on until he was booked again three minutes later. In the Fifa match report, the last booking was officially recorded.

Another point of drama in a crazy second half saw Tim Cahill back off Niko Kovac until the edge of the Australian penalty area. Kovac took advantage of the space and hit a low shot at Australian goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac. Kalac's egregious attempt at the save seemed almost like a dive out of the way when the ball hit a bad bounce in front of him and it went into the net.

The game started spectacularly with arguably the best freekick goal the tournament had so far seen, scored by Darijo Srna. Right footed, 30 yards out, he curled it over the wall and past the outstretched right hand of Kalac into the top left corner of the Australian net.

On 37 minutes Poll spotted the first Tomas handball and Craig Moore converted the penalty easily down the middle. Stipe Pletikosa gave plenty of space for Moore to shoot, as he had moved a metre left during Moore's run up.

Pletikosa later made two outstanding saves, a reaction stop from Kewell and then to grab a low cross amidst flying legs on his goal line.

Australia had more shots at goal and ball possession in the match and their equaliser came 11 minutes from time. Marco

Bresciano's cross was flicked onward by John Aloisi and Kewell on the far post made a brilliant touch to control the ball and stuck it past Pletikosa.

Australia manager Guus Hiddink might think the match was a rather surreal affair, but the reality is he had taken Australia to the round of sixteen for the first time at the World Cup finals. Italy, winners of Group E, will meet them in the round of sixteen.

Brazil defeat Japan 4-1 in Group F

Brazil came from a goal down to beat Japan 4-1 in an entertaining last Group F game, Thursday.

Two goals from Ronaldo put his combined Fifa World Cup tournament tally at 14 - equal to German Gerd Muller and two more than fellow Brazilian legend Pele.

The game against Japan did not go the Brazilian's way until the second half. Yoshikatsu Kawaguichi had made five stunning saves to deny Ronaldo, Robinho and Juninho.

Inspired, Japan then shocked the 2002 World Cup champions when, against the run of play, Japanese left-back Alessandro Santos - "Alex" - found Keiji Tamada in the Brazilian area with only Dida to beat. The striker slammed the ball home.

Ronaldo leveled with a deserved equaliser just before half time when Cicinho headed Ronaldinho's ball across goal for Ronaldo to head past Kawaguichi.

The Japanese keeper saved 10 of 14 shots in a one-sided match but, despite his earlier heroics, was at fault for Juninho's go ahead goal which he seemed to lose in the

flight as it rifled in from 25 yards.

Ronaldinho sent Gilberto down Japan's right flank to score the third and Ronaldo wrapped up the victory with a stunning drive from outside the box.

The total of 15 fouls in the game was to that date the lowest of the tournament and indicates this was not a physical contest; rather, both teams focussed on passing and movement to create scoring openings.

"Modern football at its best" was the opinion of Gyorgy Mezey of Fifa's Technical Study Group.

Brazil topped Group F with nine points and would play the runner-up in Group E, Ghana, for the right to get into the World Cup quarter-finals.

Red Cross movement admits Israeli Magen David Adom

The Red Cross movement admitted the Israeli national emergency and medical relief service, the Magen David Adom (MDA) after a 58 year wait, despite objections by some Muslim member countries.

The Red Crystal emblem, into which the Star of David may be placed, made it possible for Israel's MDA to join the humanitarian network -- which makes up the world's largest relief agency -- after decades of isolation.

The decision had met with resistance from some Muslim countries opposing the Israeli group's admission, including representatives of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, as well as Pakistan and Tunisia delegates.

Miami win the NBA Title, beat Dallas 95-92

The Miami Heat won their first NBA Title in franchise history Tuesday beating the Dallas Mavericks 95-92. Dallas initially led the series 2-0. Miami then went on to a surprising turnaround and won four straight to win the title.

This is the first title for Alonzo Mourning, Gay Payton, and Dwyane Wade all won their first NBA Title. Pat Riley won the title 18 years ago and Shaquille O'Neal won the title 4 years ago. Of the most active NBA players, O'Neal has four has NBA Titles, the second most NBA Titles of active NBA players.

With 9.1 seconds left, Wade, who scored 36 points this game, missed two free throws giving Dallas one final chance to tie the game. A three-point field goal attempt by Dallas' Jason Terry hit the rim but failed to fall into the basket.

A champ championship parade is scheduled for 2 P.M. on Friday in downtown Miami, Florida.

San Jose mayor Gonzales indicted on six counts

Ron Gonzales, the mayor of San Jose, California, and his financial aide, Joe Guerra, were indicted by a criminal grand jury on June 22 on six undisclosed charges.

Gonzales and Guerra surrendered to the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department Thursday morning, where they were processed and released on bail. While the indictment has been sealed, the grand jury was investigating Gonzales's role in an \$11 million contract ammendment with Norcal Waste Systems. The County District Attorney has scheduled a press conference for 1:30 PDT

Friday on the indictment. Gonzales and Guerra will appear before the county's superior court for a hearing on Monday, June 26.

Garden at Elmwood and Forest in Buffalo, N.Y. dedicated

Buffalo, New York â Yesterday, a recently-planted garden and "Welcome to the Elmwood Village" sign at the corner of Elmwood and Forest Avenues in Buffalo, New York was dedicated to the community at 6 PM. The garden was planted by a group of local citizens known as the Elmwood Village Gatekeepers, who formed to maintain the green space on the corner which is unmaintained by Hans Mobius, the owner of the land and properties at 1109-1121 Elmwood.

"This is our neighborhood, and we donât want to see it go down-hill. The lawns are part of the look of this corner that we love, and we can do something about," said Joe Runfola an area resident.

The Gatekeepers are hopeful that the "annuals and the perennials planted in the garden can be enjoyed by all for years to come," said owner of Don Apparel with Patty Morris, Nancy Pollina.

Local artist Steven Myers and owner of Gateway Studios on Elmwood and Forest painted the new welcome sign.

"In the design, I wish to show the transition from green parks, to lively urban neighborhoods, to downtown, in the background. The four colors, red, white, yellow and black will also be incorporated in their pure form to represent the Native American medicine wheel, which teaches us that the four symbolic races are all part of the same human family," said Myers.

The newly formed group hopes to plant an elm tree at the proposed site in July.

So far, 2 of the 5 businesses on the proposed site have relocated or closed their doors. The group is hopeful that a lawsuit filed against the developer Savarino Construction Services Corporation and the City of Buffalo will stop the proposal from moving forward and hope that the garden can become a "community garden."

The preliminary hearing, which was sheduled for 9:30am today was initially postponed until July 20, 2006; however, attorney Arthur J. Giacalone, who is representing the petitioners of the lawsuit Nancy Pollina and Patricia Morris, Angeline Genovese and Evelyn Bencinich, owners of residences on Granger Place which abut the rear of the proposed site, Nina Freudenheim, a resident of nearby Penhurst Park, and Sandra Girage, the owner of a two-family residence on Forest Avenue less than a hundred feet from the proposed hotel's sole entrance and exit driveway, has said that the preliminary hearing has been postponed indefinitely and at the moment no new date has been set. According to Giacalone, Savarino Construstion has not yet presented their case and has not yet filed their papers.

Italy sink Czech Republic 2-0 in Group E

Italy began this Group E fixture knowing a draw would be enough to get into the round of sixteen, Thursday.

Despite having had to replace key central defender Alessandro Nesta, who was injured after 17 minutes, the Azzuri defeated the Czech Republic comfortably.

Italian fortunes were helped when on 46 minutes the Czech Republic had Jan Polak sent off for his second yellow card offense within a 12 minute period before half-time.

Before that Italy had gone ahead with Nesta's substitute rising well to meet and head down Francesco Totti's corner. Marco Materazzi had an exceptional game with Fabio Cannavaro and was awarded Fifa's Man of the Match.

It was thought Alessandro Nesta's groin injury meant he would miss the round of sixteen and possibly any later World Cup matches Italy would play.

For the Czech Republic 33-year-old Pavel Nedved worked very hard for little reward - other than perhaps a showcase final appearance at a World Cup against a very good side.

On 15 minutes Gianluigi Buffon was forced to make a double save from Nedved's drive and Marek Jankulovski's follow-up from a close angle.

In the second half Filippo Inzaghi came on for Alberto Gilardino and on a number of occasions found himself unmarked behind ten man Czech Republic's lines. He put his first chance - a free header six yards out - wastefully wide but rounded the keeper to score on a breakaway three minutes from time.

The result meant Italy would play the runner-up of Group F in the round of sixteen, while Karel Bruckner's Czech team would check out of their hotels.

Ghana beat United States of America 2-1 in Group E

In a game that on paper pitted

youth and talent versus experience and organisation Ghana came out on top with 2:1 the score at the final whistle, Thursday.

There was not much difference between the two sides, the youngest squad in the tournament versus the 2002 Fifa World Cup quarter-finalists, although the manner of the Ghana win might have left a sour taste in the mouth of USA coach Bruce Arena.

Ghana scored twice in the first half in circumstances such that the accuracy of German referee Markus Merk's decisions might have benefited from the television replay.

Claudio Reyna had appeared to be fouled as he was dispossessed with the ball in a last man defensive position. Haminu Draman ran on to goal with the ball and one-on-one passed it by Kasey Keller. Reyna was stretchered off for a blow to the knee; the USA captain came back on but was substituted before half time.

Landon Donovan took the USA captaincy following Reyna's departure.

The second Ghanaian goal was from a penalty. The ball was played into the USA penalty area and Razek Pimpong fell to the floor next to Oguchi Onyewu. The replay was not conclusive but did show the defender's arms were not in a position to push hard on the Ghana player who had appeared to make a rapid fall.

Though he was the last defender before the goalkeeper Onyewu was not cautioned for the challenge. Stephen Appiah converted the penalty inside right foot to top left

of the net, seconds before half time.

United States had drawn level from Clint Dempsey on 43 minutes when DaMarcus Beasley intercepted a defensive pass and weighted the perfect ball for the striker to run on too.

The crowd booed the referee when the half time whistle blew but in the second half their team did not do enough to put Richard Kingston, and the Ghana goal, under pressure. The USA got just three shots on target in the game.

Ghana conceded 32 fouls in the game and the pressure on their defence increased in the second half when they had to defend their lead.

From Eddie Lewis's short cross to the near post Brian McBride went closest to making the score 2-2 flicking a header onto a vertical. Donovan got in good positions, a freekick close to the penalty area and a run into the box, but in both cases his decision to pass badly and not shoot relieved the pressure for Ghana.

A feature of the game the Fifa Technical Study Group might look at was the number of Ghana players who spent a long time on the ground with injuries under challenges. There was five minutes of injury time at the end of the match. This meant the game ran well past the finish time of the concurrent contest between Italy and Czech Republic also in Group E.

The half-time kick-off also started five minutes behind the match Italy won to top the group. One point ahead of a Ghana team who had reached the round of sixteen in just their first Fifa World Cup

finals.

Australian government to provide Internet filters for families

Australian Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator Helen Coonan announced on Wednesday that the federal government would be spending AUD\$116.6 million on a package of measures to protect Australians from inappropriate material on the Internet. Dubbed "Protecting Families Online", the package includes free filtering software for all families.

The government claims that its National Filter Scheme will be central to the package. In addition to providing families with free filtering software, the government will also provide libraries with filters for Internet terminals. It is hoped that the filters will ensure that children using the Internet from libraries can do so without being exposed to inappropriate material.

As part of the package, the government's Internet safety and advisory agency - NetAlert will be located within the Australian Communications and Media Authority - the chief regulatory authority for telecommunications, radiocommunications, Internet and media services. The government will also give NetAlert an additional \$5 million to spend on advertising to promote its services.

In addition to the Protecting Families Online package, the government will again examine Internet Service Provider (ISP) level filtering. A trial will be carried out in Tasmania to determine its effectiveness. According to Senator Coonan it is the fourth

time the government has undertaken such a trial.

As part of the trial, the ACMA will be required to report on ISP level filtering around the world and work with NetAlert to investigate advances in filtering technologies.

Senator Coonan assured Internet users that the initiatives were only to protect children from inappropriate material and the government wasn't dictating what adults could access. "This is not a one-size-fits-all approach to protecting Australia families and we are not dictating to every Australian Internet user what they should and shouldn't see," she said.

Interview with BBC Creative Archive project leader

The Creative Archive project is a BBC led initiative which aims to make archive audio and video footage available to be freely downloaded, distributed, and remixed. The project is still in a pilot stage, and is only available to UK residents, but the long-term future of the project could have a major impact on the way audiences interact with BBC content.

The project is partly inspired by the Creative Commons movements, and also by a general move within the BBC to be more open with its assets. Additionally, educational audiences such as schools have expressed an interest in using BBC content within the classroom, both to watch and to create multimedia content from.

So far, clips made available under the licence have included archive news footage, nature documentary footage, and video clips content designed for educational uses. It's done very well with the

audiences we've directed them towards - heavy BBC users," says Paul Gerhardt, project leader. Users downloading the clips are also prompted to fill in a questionnaire, and so far 10-15% of people seem to be doing something with the material, although the BBC can't be sure what exactly that is.

One of the biggest limitations within the licence as it currently stands during the pilot scheme is that the material is only available for use by people resident in the UK. The BBC's Creative Archive sites use geo-IP filtering to limit downloads to the UK, but there is some confusion over whether people who create their own content using the material can upload their creations to their own websites. A question within the FAQs for one of the more recent selections of clips suggests that this isn't possible, saying "during this pilot phase material released under the terms of the Creative Archive Licence cannot be used outside the UK - therefore, unless a website has its use restricted to the UK only, content from the 'Regions on Film' archive cannot be published on it."

"We want people to make full use of this content, whether they cut and paste it or whether they share it, and we completely accept that we've got a bit of a contradiction at the moment by saying UK-only and yet encouraging people to put it on their sites to share it with others, because you can't expect people to have geo-IP restriction technology," admits Mr Gerhardt. "We're thinking hard about how to deal with this after the pilot - at the moment it's quite likely that we're probably going to need to find a distribution partner outside of the UK, so that if you're outside of the UK you've got roughly the

same experience as in the UK, but the content could be surrounded by sponsorship messages or advertising or whatever. Once we've done that then leakage from one to the other won't really matter very much.

The Creative Archive project has not been without critics from the commercial sector, worried that the BBC giving away their content for free would make it difficult for them to be able to make money from their own content. The BBC has explained to some of the commercial players that the content would be limited during the pilot, would not be available in broadcast quality, and that watermarking technologies would be trialled so that content could be recognised when it crops up elsewhere. The BBC is also investigating a business model for the future where there would be a close relationship between public access to low-resolution content and a click through to monetising that content if you want to buy a high-resolution version. People who want to play around with the material might discover they have a talent and then find they need to get a commercial license to use it properly, Mr Gerhardt explains, and the project wants to make it easy for this to happen.

Before the project can go ahead with the full scale launch, it will have to go through a public value test to assess its overall impact on the marketplace, and commercial media companies will have a chance to input at this point.

For ease in clearing the rights, all of the content available under the pilot project is factual, but in the future the project could include drama and entertainment content. The BBC may also, in the future,

work the Creative Archive licences into the commissioning process for new programmes. This raises some really interesting ideas if you have a documentary series, you could use the Creative Archive to release the longer form footage, for instance that would create a digital legacy of that documentary series, Mr Gerhardt explains. The other interesting thought in the longer term would be for the BBC, or another broadcaster, to contribute to a digital pool of archive material on a theme, and then invite people to assemble their own content out of that. We could end up broadcasting both the BBC professionally produced programme accompanied by other programmes that other people had made out of the same material.

One of the ways that the Creative Archive licence differs from the other copyleft licences like Creative Commons, aside from the UK-only limitation, is that the licence currently allows the BBC to update and modify the licence, which may worry those using the licence that their rights could suddenly become more restricted. The licence at the moment is a draft, and we've given warning that we may well improve it, but we wouldn't do that more than once or twice. The ambition is that by the time we scale up to the full service we would have a fixed licence that everyone was comfortable with, and it wouldn't change after that.

The ambition is to think about creating a single portal where people can search and see what stuff is out there under the same licence terms, from a range of different suppliers. The idea is that if we can create something compelling like that, we will attract other archives in the UK to contribute their material, so we'd

be aggregating quite a large quantity.

The Creative Archive project has captured the interest of many Internet users, who are growing increasingly, used the idea of being able to remix technologies and content. Some groups have been frustrated with the speed at which the project is developing though, and with some of the restrictions imposed in the licence. An open letter to the BBC urges the dropping of the UK-only limitation, the use of open formats, and to allow the material to be usable commercially.

Mr Gerhardt has publicly welcomed debate of the licence, but makes it clear to me that the whole BBC archive will never all be available under the Creative Archive terms. We will make all our archive available, under different terms, over the next five to ten years, at a pace to be determined. There would be three modes in which people access it some of the content would only be available commercially, for the first five year or so after broadcast, say. The second route is through a view again strategy where you can view the programmes, but they'd be DRM-restricted. And the third mode is Creative Archive. Over time, programmes would move from one mode to another, with some programmes going straight to the Creative Archive after broadcast.

Others who disagree with the UK-only restriction within the licence include Suw Charman, from the Open Rights Group, who has said it doesn't make sense in a world where information moves between continents in seconds, and where it is difficult for the average user to exclude visitors based on

geography.â On the project generally, though, she said âI think that it is a good step along the way to a more open attitude towards content. It is a toe in the water, which is far preferable to the attitude of most of the industry players, who are simply burying their heads in the sand and hoping that lawsuits and lobbying for new legislation will bolster their out-dated business plan.â

Other organisations currently participating in the Creative Archive scheme include the British Film Institute, the Open University and Teachers TV. Two artists have been awarded scholarships to create artworks using BBC archive material, and BBC Radio One has held a competition asking people to use the footage in creative ways as backing visuals to music. The process of making the BBC's archive material fully available may be a long one, but it could end up changing the way that people interact with the UK's public service broadcaster.

Science academies urge teaching of evolution

The Interacademy Panel on International Issues (IAP), a global network of the world's science academies, has released a statement urging parents and teachers to provide children with 'the facts about the origin and evolution of life on Earth'. The statement is signed by 67 of the 92 member academies of the organisation, and notes that in some schools around the world, 'testable theories' about evolution are being 'concealed, denied or confused by theories not testable by science'.

The statement contains a four 'evidence-based facts', for which it is said that no scientific evidence

has ever contradicted. These include the Earth being approximately 4.5 billion years old, life on Earth being at least 2.5 billion years old, and commonalities in all living organisms indicating a common primordial origin.

The news follows developments, mainly in America, where proponents of 'intelligent design' (ID), which suggests that some complex biological features indicate the presence of an intelligent designer. Opponents of this movement argue that it is simply a disguise for creationist beliefs, and that it doesn't qualify as a scientific theory.

The teaching of religion in schools is against the Establishment clause of the constitution of the United States. Despite this, George Bush has in the past remarked that he believes intelligent design should be taught in schools. The President has not shown any sign of plans to personally intervene in the legal debate however.

In December 2005, following legal case between the parents and the school district of Dover (Pennsylvania, USA), the judge decided that intelligent design was a religious view, and that it was unlawful to teach it as an alternative to evolution within the classroom. The IAP statement suggests that the science academies believe that ID is still being taught within some schools, however.

A Gallup poll conducted in May concluded that 46 percent of Americans believe that God created man in his present form sometime in the past 10,000 years, with 13 percent believing mankind evolved with no divine

intervention and 36 percent saying that mankind developed over millions of years from lesser life forms, but with God guiding the process.

The IAP statement acknowledges limitations in current understanding, but argues that the process of science allows it to be open-ended and subject to correction and expansion as new understanding emerges.

85-year-old jailed for shoplifting in New Zealand

An 85-year man, Reginald Hugh Donovan has been jailed for a month by the Christchurch District Court for shoplifting. He is the oldest person in New Zealand to be sentenced to prison.

Mr Donovan has been previously banned from many stores for shoplifting and has been convicted about 50 times for it.

The Christchurch District Court judge, Colin Doherty, said to Mr Donovan "You are a recidivist and incorrigible thief. You steal predominantly from local supermarkets. The extent of your offending is not great in monetary terms, but you persist."

He has always promised to stop shoplifting after receiving sentences of supervision and community work.

Mr Donovan was found stealing small items and he did not have enough money in his pocket to pay for those items. He suffers from deafness, dizzy spells, chronic breathing difficulties and the after-effects of a disabling accident.

Today in History

1713 - After Queen Anne's War, French residents of Acadia were given one year to declare allegiance to Britain or leave Nova Scotia.

1887 - Banff National Park was created, becoming Canada's first national park.

1894 - The International Olympic Committee was founded at the Sorbonne in Paris.

1941 - Lithuanian 1941 independence: Members of Lithuanian Activist Front declared independence from the Soviet Union.

1985 - A bomb destroyed Air India Flight 182 above the Atlantic Ocean, killing all 329 on board. June 23 is Victory Day in Estonia, Jani held in ancient Latvia, Saint Jonas' Festival in Lithuania.

Quote of the Day

"We thought: we're poor, we have nothing, but when we started losing one after the other so each day became remembrance day, we started composing poems about God's great generosity and â our former riches."

~ Anna Akhmatova

Word of the Day

zygodactylous; adj

1. Having two toes pointing forward and two toes pointing backward.

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(toll-free in the U.S.)
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+44-871-218-6397
(U.K. / Europe)

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