



Top Stories

Comedian Mochrie to host Canadian "5th Grader" game show

Second City alumni Colin Mochrie will host



Canada's Are You Smarter Than a Canadian 5th Grader? adaptation

First signs of recovery from horse flu outbreak



As of 08:00UTC travel restrictions on horses were lifted in Western Australia, racing to resume over the weekend.

Featured story

Pakistan test fires nuclear-capable cruise missile



Pakistan successfully test fired a new cruise missile on Saturday

that is capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Wikipedia Current Events

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) claim to have captured a Sudanese army base in the Kordofan province of Sudan.

•A NASA internal investigation finds no evidence of heavy drinking or drunkenness amongst astronauts prior to missions.

•The United States Senate

Wikipedia Current Events

Republican Party leadership requests that Senator Larry Craig of Idaho stand aside from his Senate committees until the United States Senate Select Committee on Ethics makes a ruling on his situation. Senator Craig agrees.

•John Holmes, the United Nation's emergency relief coordinator, warns that refugees of the Darfur conflict are arming themselves and may soon be able to defend themselves if the Sudanese government renews its attacks.

•Two Palestinian children are killed in an explosion in the Gaza Strip, reportedly caused by Israeli tank fire.

•A 15-year-old boy has been arrested in connection with the murder of British schoolboy Rhys Jones.

•Ten people are trapped alive in a collapsed apartment building in Baku, Azerbaijan with at least eight people having died.

•The Taliban release twelve South Korean hostages of the 19 they have been holding.

•A curfew is imposed in the Indian city of Agra after angry mobs clash with police resulting in one death and 50 police are injured.

•Prison officers in the United Kingdom call a surprise 24-hour strike.

•The United States releases seven Iranians hours after detaining them in a Baghdad hotel.

Arung Samudera refloated and under tow to Brisbane

Arung Samudera, the Indonesian naval tall ship that was recently grounded off Queensland, Australia, has been salvaged from the beach at Inskip Point and is currently being towed to Brisbane for repairs.

The 35m vessel has been stranded since last Thursday, when she was grounded whilst on her way to the APEC meeting in Sydney. The ship is expected to berth in Brisbane near the naval barracks at aproximatly 11am (AEST).

The tri-masted sailing training vessel, built in New Zealand, is believed to be seaworthy, but has serious damage to her keel and rudder. After the completion of repairs, the ship is expected to continue to Sydney, although it will not reach it in time for the APEC meeting.

The ship's 18-man crew are said to be "very happy" with developments. According to the Australian Navy's Commander Forbes Peters, Indonesian officials are as pleased as the ships crew, with Peters saying "The naval attache and the first secretary to the ambassador are on site here and they cuddled Lieutenant Commander Larry Cook. They are over the moon and I'm sure the commanding officer is as well, even though he's currently at sea on his ship."

U.S. Senators call for Idaho Senator Larry Craig to resign

Republican Senator McCain of Arizona, Republican Senator Coleman of Minnesota, and Republican Representative Peter Hoekstra of Michigan are all calling for the resignation of Republican Senator Larry Craig of Idaho.

Senator McCain said, "My opinion is that when you plead guilty to a crime, you shouldn't serve. That's not a moral stand. That's not a holier-than-thou. It's just a factual situation." And Senator Coleman said, "Senator Craig pled guilty to a crime involving conduct unbecoming a senator. He should resign."

Craig has agreed to a temporary leadership reassignment according to a statement from the Senate's Republican Leadership saying, "Senator Larry Craig has agreed to comply with Leadership's request that he temporarily step down as the top Republican on the Veteran Affairs Committee, Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, and Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests. This is not a decision we take lightly but we believe this is in the best interest of the Senate until this situation is resolved by the Ethics Committee."

Craig plead guilty to a charge of disorderly conduct after allegedly trying to initiate in a sexual experience with a male undercover law enforcement officer in a Minneapolis airport.

Meanwhile, Craig said, "I did nothing wrong." Craig also said he plead guilty to a lesser charge in an effort to keep his arrest as quiet as possible. Craig said, "While I was not involved in any inappropriate conduct at the Minneapolis airport or anywhere

else, I chose to plead guilty to a lesser charge in hopes of making it go away...It's clear, though, that through my actions I have brought a cloud over Idaho. For that, I ask the people of Idaho for their forgiveness... I am not gay. I never have been gay"

Craig, 62, is in the middle of his third term and is seeking re-election next year.

Teenager arrested for stabbing twin brothers

Two 11-year-old twin brothers were found stabbed in their home in Penn Hills, Pennsylvania on Tuesday. Their older brother is being charged with the stabbings, one of which was fatal.

Grandfather Lovett Williams said Tyrel was found upon his dead brother, Tyron. "Blood [was] everywhere," Williams said. Williams went looking for the boys because they did not show up to meet with him after the school day. Williams recalled the horrifying dialogue, "I called them and called them and called them, and finally Tyrel goes, 'Pappy, we're up here, we're in the attic'...He says, 'Pappy, I'm dying.' He says, 'I'm dying, and my stomach hurts, and my chest hurts."

While Tyron was pronounced dead at the scene, Tyrel underwent hours of surgery at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh and is expected to survive.

Williams allegedly told police that Tyrel said his 18-year-old brother, Troy Lavalley Hill, was their killer. Troy Hill was babysitting the children.

The boys have a 3-year-old sister who was not home at the time of the stabbing.

Search parties worked throughout the night on Tuesday looking for Hill but he did not turn up until a neighbor spotted the suspect on Loretta Drive in Penn Hills.

Troy Lavalley Hill reportedly has a history of emotional problems.

Neighbors say they will miss Tyron. "They were great athletes, straight-A students, just good, little boys...It's tough," said neighbor Don Taylor. Another neighbor added, "Wonderful neighbors, just the sweetest kids I've ever known."

Grief counselors were on duty at the childrens' middle school, Linton Middle School.

There is no word on a motive in the case.

Grandfather Williams said, "I don't know how I'm going to make it...I moved here so I could be with my grandsons. I hope I can survive. As long as [Tyrel] makes it, I might make it, too."

Prison officers' strike ends in England and Wales

Prison officers in England and Wales are on strike today as part of a continuing dispute over pay rates with employers, the Ministry of Justice.

The Prison Officers' Association (POA) announced the strike, the first in its history, at 0600 (BST) on the morning of the 29th of August, just an hour before it was due to start. As the morning progressed, officers at most public prisons across the two countries locked prisoners in their cells (a "lockdown") and walked out, aiming to remain on strike until 0700 on the 30th.

The strike has been condemned by the Ministry of Justice, as a breach of the Industrial Relations Act, with Justice Secretary Jack Straw calling it "deeply regrettable and wholly unjustifiable". Immediately following the announcement of the action, the Ministry commenced proceedings to gain a High Court injunction against the POA. Such an injunction was granted by Mr Justice Ramsey, who said that there was "overwhelming case" for it, after the court heard evidence that a Joint Industrial Relations Procedural Agreement, agreed to prevent industrial action, had been broken.

Despite the court proceedings, the strike continued largely unabated, and was expected to run its full course.

Inmates were at one point reported to have been seen on the roof of Liverpool Prison, however the situation was brought under control without any escapees.

In Wormwood Scrubs Prison, London, all 1,300 prisoners were being looked after by just eight governors, while at Cardiff, as prisoners, locked in their cells, shouted "You're breaking the law" to the officers standing in the car park. As a result of the lack of staff, prisoners could not be transported to court, were fed in their cells, could not be visited and could not take part in any rehabilitation or community service courses. In addition, 900 prisoners had to be accommodated elsewhere, unable to be admitted to public prisons.

This evening, this strike was called off by the POA, who issued an order to all of its members to return to work, with further pay discussions expected to come on Friday.

Comair Flight 5191 co-pilot, pilot's widow sue FAA, airport & chart manufacturer

The co-pilot and the widow of the pilot of Comair Flight 5191 have sued the United States Federal Aviation Administration, Blue Grass Airport where the crash occurred, and Jeppesen Dataplan Inc, the manufacturer of the airport charts the pilots were using and a subsidiary of Boeing.

The co-pilot was the only survivor in the disaster, which killed 49 people one year ago on August 27, 2006. The aircraft crashed after attempting takeoff on the wrong runway, which was only for general aviation and therefore not long enough for use by commercial airliners.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) determined last month that the primary cause of the accident was most likely pilot error. However, First Officer James Polehinke and Amy Clay, widow of Captain Jeffrey Clay, alledge that all three organisations they are suing were also negligent.

Despite this, one lead investigator has named other contributing factors, including staffing defincencies in the control tower, an air traffic controller suffering from fatigue, airport charts that were out of date and the fact that vital documents warning pilots of a route change due to construction work did not reach the aircraft's flight crew.

In addition to the other three companies, Polehinke is also suing the company that designed the lighting system in use at the airport.

The NTSB's official probable cause for the disaster is as follows: "The National Transportation Safety

Board determines that the probable cause of this accident was the flight crewmembers' failure to use available cues and aids to identify the airplane's location on the airport surface during taxi and their failure to cross-check and verify that the airplane was on the correct runway before takeoff. Contributing to the accident were the flight crew's nonpertinent conversations during taxi, which resulted in a loss of positional awareness and the Federal Aviation Administration's failure to require that all runway crossings be authorized only by specific air traffic control clearances."

Nokia launches internet music store

Nokia Inc., the international mobile phone manufacturer headquartered in Finland, has launched their own online music and game downloading service to the public.

They are hoping to challenge other phone manufacturers who offer similar downloading services and also other online stores such as the Apple iTunes store.

Along with this announcement Nokia also revealed they will release new handsets that are better suited as multimedia players.

Nokia's chief executive, Olli-Pekka Kallasvuo, said: "Looking into the future, we will deliver great devices, combined with compelling experiences and services, to make it easy for people to unlock the potential of the Internet."

The service, named the "Nokia Music Store", will charge between 6 and 10 euros for a game while a single music track will cost 1 euro and 10 euros for a whole album.

The service will initially be available on Nokia's N81 and N95 models, but the media is anticipating the service to become available on more models soon after launch.

Fred Thompson campaign staffer leaves, and Thompson's political past scrutinized

Yesterday Linda Rozett, left Republican Fred Thompson's "exploratory committee" after serving as communications director for the past several weeks. Referring to Rozett's departure, Thompson said, "I don't know what the story is".

Whereas, the day before reporter Jo Becker explored Thompson's past, noting Thompson's past as a Republican counsel "sometimes straddled a fine line between investigating his targets and defending them." Becker explained that while "he famously asked the question" that revealed the Watergate/Nixon taping system, "Mr. Thompson was also an active participant in the White House's efforts to deflect blame from the president and discredit his accusers, plotting strategy with Mr. Nixon's lawyers and leaking them information."

The Politico reported that the staff troubles in recent weeks and "fundraising -- is likely to look a bit wan" caused "rumblings are raising questions more broadly among Republican insiders about whether Thompson has the discipline and zeal to wage a winning campaign."

Greece declines Finland's offer of helicopters, personnel to help fight forest fires

Greece has declined Finland's offer of three firefighting helicopters and 25 firefighters.

The offer had been made as a

result of a request by Greece for aid with the forest fires Greece is currently experiencing. Greece had stressed at the time that the most urgent need was for fixed-wing aircraft with water-bombing capabilities, assets Finland does not possess.

The Greek authorities said that the equipment Finland had offered was not suited to the task it had been proposed for. Ole Norrback, current Finnish ambassador to Greece, has already said that Finland is in a better position to aid with reforestation efforts once the fires have been quenched.

Comedian Colin Mochrie to host Canadian "5th Grader" game show

Canadian comedian Colin Mochrie has been named host of Are You Smarter Than a Canadian 5th Grader?, according to a Wednesday afternoon press release from Global TV, which is producing and airing the series.

Based on the American series Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader, the program quizzes adults on material found in textbooks for children in grades 1 through 5.

Colin commented, "I have been from one end of this country to the other and met adults of all ages, and let me tell you... those 5th Graders have nothing to worry about."

Mochrie is best known as an improv comedian on both the British and American versions of Whose Line Is It Anyway?, but the Second City alumni has starred in Canadian comedy show This Hour Has 22 Minutes, Blackfly and Getting Along Famously. He tours North America with Whose's Line co-star Brad Sherwood, performing at numerous locales.

"We're delighted to have Colin on board as our Canadian quizmaster. His unrivalled wit and ability to engage and entertain audiences will be front and centre, and we look forward to all of the fun."

-- Barbara Williams, Senior Vice President of Programming and Production for CanWest MediaWorks

The American series is hosted by Jeff Foxworthy. Thirteen other countries run or will run their own adaptations.

Mochrie will donate a portion of his paycheck to CanWest Raise-a-Reader, a family literacy program run by the host media conglomerate.

Only five episodes will be taped in Toronto, initially.

UK PM's speechwriter awaits sentence

An English lawyer has pleaded guilty to perverting the course of justice. He faked a legal judgment and sent it to a father who was pleading in Taunton family court to be able to remain involved in his child's upbringing. The lawyer, London barrister Bruce Hyman, now awaits his sentence. The judge indicated that he could receive a prison sentence. Bruce Hyman is well-known in media circles, having produced The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy on BBC Radio. He also produced a series with Clive Anderson, at Above the Title Productions, called Unreliable Evidence.

The father, a former City financier, had attended a series of court hearings in order to make suitable arrangements to see his child following an acrimonious divorce. Shortly before one of these hearings he received an email, ostensibly from a self-help group

to which he belonged, which had attached a Court of Appeal case that appeared favourable to an application he had made for the judge to stand down from the case. The father, who was representing himself, duly showed the case to the judge. At this point, Bruce Hyman, the lawyer representing the former wife, claimed to the judge that the case was a forgery, which indeed it turned out to be.

After confirming that the self-help group had not sent him the email, the father then embarked on some detective work his own. The fraudulent email was traced via its header to a dial-up internet connection and a phone number belonging to a shop in London. The shop was able to recover CCTV footage which showed a man sending the email from an Apple laptop. The man turned out to be Bruce Hyman.

Sentencing of Hyman is due in Bristol Crown Court on the 19th of September.

English Premier League 2007/08: Clubs seek Brazilian stars

The Premier League's Brazilian numbers could be getting larger as Manchester City and West Ham joined Chelsea in trying to sign a Brazilian superstar.

Yesterday, Chelsea captain John Terry urged Roman Abramovich to buy Ronaldinho from Barcelona, Manchester City were preparing to out-bid West Ham with a £12m bid for Inter Milan's Adriano.

On Tuesday, it was reported that Roman Abramovich had met twice with Ronaldinho's brother, Roberto de Assis Moreira, and given him a trip on his private jet and hosted him at Lanesborough Hotel in

Mayfair, London.

Abramovich held the second meeting with Moreira at his Knightsbridge house on Saturday morning and is understood to have put an offer to him that would make Ronaldinho the highest paid player in Europe.

Sven Goran Eriksson, who held talks with Adriano's representatives on Tuesday, is aware the player does not want to go on loan and City are trying to stretch their budget to give Adriano wages of around £70,000 a week.

Adriano said: "I don't want to go out on loan again. I've already been at Parma, and at that time it was right for my career but now I really must leave for good and that's that."

A statement by West Ham said: "We are investigating the possibility of a loan deal at this stage."

Adriano has slipped down the pecking order at Inter and fellow Serie A side Lazio would take him depending on his attitude.

Nelson Mandela statue unveiled in Parliament Square, UK

A statue of former South African leader Nelson Mandela has been unveiled in a ceremony attended by UK premier Gordon Brown and the Lord Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone in Parliament Square.

In a speech Gordon Brown, who had private "catch up" talks with Mr Mandela on Tuesday, paid tribute to the 89-year-old, calling him the "greatest and most courageous leader of our generation".

The statue was unveiled and Mandela was assisted to a podium by Mr Brown and others, where he made a speech. Addressing Mr Brown, Mandela said he wished him "strength and great wisdom for your term of office".

He went on to say it was an honour to have a statue in Parliament Square alongside Winston Churchill and Benjamin Disraeli, and he hoped it would "symbolise all those who have resisted oppression, especially in my country".

Mandela then announced that his international AIDS campaign, called "46664" after his prison number during his 27-year incarceration in South Africa, was to hold a concert in Hyde Park, London, on 27 June 2008, in honour of his 90th birthday. He declared he would be returning to England to see it. Mr Mandela ended his speech with his trademark "I thank you" before a musical gospel-style group performed.

UEFA Champions League 2007/08: Fear can drive Celtic - Strachan

Celtic manager Gordon Strachan says the 5-0 thrashing of Hearts will make no difference to the Champions League second-leg tie against Spartak Moscow.

"If we were playing a bad side then you could say everything was going for us, but we are facing a right good side," he said about Wednesday's tie. It's good that everybody knows what good players they are and know that the task in front of us is not easy. When I played, I always had a fear of the opposition that kept you going."

Strachan says that fear would help

Celtic be wary of Spartak and avoid any mistakes after the 1-1 draw in Moscow.

"If you don't have fear or respect, whatever you want to call it, then you have a problem. There is nothing wrong with a bit of fear now and again."

Strachan also stressed that the money that Celtic would earn if they reached the UEFA Champions League Group Stages will not weigh heavily on his players' minds.

"It is important for us to be in the Champions League. We would like to continue and enjoy the experience. But it's not for us to worry about the financial side of things. Ours is to worry about the game and we have to deal with it. The players don't think about finances or things like that."

First signs of recovery from horse flu outbreak

As of 1600 hours local time (08:00UTC) Western Australia became the first state to resume normal internal movement of horses. The decision to lift restrictions was taken after all horses known to have entered the state in the two weeks prior to the outbreak of Equine Influenza in New South Wales were tested and confirmed not to be infected.

Western Australian Agriculture and Food Minister Mr Kim Chance said "The 15 imported horses from New South Wales, three from Queensland and one from South Australia have now all tested negative to equine influenza..."

Mr Chance said that the restrictions on bringing horses into the state were still in place and that horse owners should remain vigilant about Biosecurity. Anyone

traveling to WA that has been in contact with horses should shower, change their clothing and foot wear and disinfect any equipment.

The sports governing body in WA, Racing and Wagering Western Australia recommenced track work from 1600 with harness racing to resume Friday and thoroughbred racing to resume on Saturday at Belmont Park.

Additional thoroughbred race meeting has been scheduled for York/Beverley on Tuesday 4th September. The cards for Belmont on the 5th and Northam on the 6th have been ammended.

F-Secure detects security flaw in Sony memory sticks

Security firm F-Secure announced on Monday they have confirmed a flaw within the software provided by electronics giant Sony in their MicroVault USB memory sticks.

F-Secure had received a report that their DeepGuard software was highlighting an issue when the memory stick was connected.

After closer analysis by F-Secure it was identified that the software was creating a hidden directory within the users computer that neither the user or anti-virus software could detect. They say that the issue is similar to the one in 2005 where Sony DRM software allowed malware to be hidden from users.

Mcafee, another major security firm, said: "The apparent intent was to cloak sensitive files related to the fingerprint verification feature included on the USB drives."

"As with the Sony BMG case we, of course, contacted Sony before we decided to go public with the case.

However, this time we received no reply from them," said F-Secure in a blog post.

Transfer: Aston Villa sign Zat Knight from Fulham

Aston Villa have finalised a £3.5m deal for Fulham defender Zat Knight.

Knight joins Villa's defensive ranks and will have to beat off competition from Olof Mellberg, Martin Laursen and Gary Cahill for a centre-back spot.

Officer dies after accident in President Bush's motorcade

A police officer was killed after a motorcycle accident in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The officer, forty-year-old Germaine Casey, was driving his motorcycle in a motorcade as President Bush was leaving the city heading to the Albuquerque Airport following a fund raiser for Senator Pete Domenici.

The vehicle was traveling at a high speed when it hit a curb, then crashed into a tree. Casey was taken to Albuquerque Hospital where he was pronounced dead. President Bush passed the accident scene on his way out of Albuquerque. Bush issued a statement thanking the officer for his service.

Trish Hoffman, of the Albuquerque Police Department, said the single vehicle crash was under investigation and that it was still too soon to pinpoint a cause.

Wal-Mart owes back taxes, according to State of Wisconsin

According to the state of Wisconsin, Wal-Mart has avoided paying millions of dollars in state taxes by paying rent on 87 Wisconsin properties. The Wisconsin State Department of

Revenue call this behavior "abusive and distortion of income."

Wal-Mart is doing this by setting up one subsidiary to run all its stores and setting up another subsidiary to own its real estate. The operating subsidiary then pays the rental cost to the real estate subsidiary and takes a tax deduction for the rent. This money will, however, end up in the corporation's own pocket.

As a result of Wal-Mart's actions, the state tax auditors say that Wal-Mart owes more than \$17.7 million in back corporate income taxes, interest and penalties from 1998-2000.

The Wal-Mart corporation claims that they are doing nothing wrong, rather they are taking advantage of an overlap of state and federal tax laws in an effort to reduce their taxes and costs.

Today in History

1813 – Napoleonic Wars: French General Dominique Vandamme and thousands of his soldiers were captured in the Battle of Kulm by forces of the Sixth Coalition under Field Marshal Michael Andreas Barclay de Tolly.

1835 – European settlers landing on the north banks of the Yarra River in Southern Australia founded the city of Melbourne.

1862 – American Civil War: James Longstreet and Stonewall Jackson led their Confederate troops to a decisive victory against Major General John Pope's Union Army at the Second Battle of Bull Run in Prince William County, Virginia.

1918 – Fanny Kaplan shot and wounded Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin, helping to spark the Red Terror in the Soviet Union, a repression against Socialist-Revolutionary Party members and

other political opponents.

1999 – The people of East Timor voted for independence from Indonesia in a United Nations-supervised referendum.

August 30 is St. Rose of Lima's Day in Peru; Victory Day in Turkey.

Quote of the Day

Live, and be happy, and make others so. ~ Mary Shelley

Word of the Day

curtail; v

1. To limit or restrict.
2. To shorten or abridge the duration of something; to truncate.

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+1-866-653-4265
 (toll-free in the U.S.)
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