



Please note this print edition does not include the article titled "Mark Rocket first New Zealander to book Virgin space flight".

New Zealand riot police use batons to disperse unruly pub-crawl **August 21, 2006**

The annual 'Undie 500' road-trip, in which 400 Canterbury and Otago university students took part, turned into a riot when students started throwing bottles around and lighting fires. The riot started in Dunedin on Castle Street North, which is known for its parties. In the Undie 500 road-trip, students go from Christchurch to Dunedin and along the way stopping at five pubs. It is the biggest pub crawl of its kind in Australasia.

The police found students watching the New Zealand Fire Service battling the fires they had lit.

Maggie Kleist, an Otago University student, said: "The police were so outnumbered, and people were just getting each other worked up more and more and more and it was yeah, pretty intense."

Riot police then turned up to move students away with batons but more bottles were thrown and more fires were lit. "At this stage police moved the crowd with the use of batons," Allan Grindell, Police Senior Sergeant said.

Paul Chong, Students Association

president, said: "Couch-burning and bottle-smashing aren't serious enough offences to justify bringing in baton-wielding police."

Allan Grindell said: "Many in the crowd were heavily intoxicated and drinking from bottles and cans."

An unnamed student said: "This is just out of control."

Sergeant Wayne Pitcaithly says 95 arrests were made. The police continued to dispersed crowds for 45 minutes.

"People were throwing bottles, everyone was getting arrested, the riot police came, and they were hitting people with their batons," said Canterbury Student Josh Binns.

New Zealand man sentenced to life in prison for murder **August 22, 2006**

James Junior Lawrie, 26-year-old, has been sentenced to life in prison at the Auckland High Court for a minimum of 16 years after he killed the Uptown Mini Mart owner 58-year-old Bhagubhai Vaghela on 19 June, 2005.

Vaghela was found dead at the scene by ambulance officers.

Lawrie had entered the store planning on stealing phone cards from the New North Road shop. Instead he shot Vaghela in the chest at point-blank range when he activated the alarm and Lawrie panicked.

Lawrie had pleaded guilty to the charges laid against him even though he could not remember most of the incident. The court was told today by the prosecutor Ross Burns that he had smoked one kilogram of methamphetamine (P) two months prior, which is worth NZ\$1 million. The P had fuelled six previous aggravated robberies in the attempt to gain more money for his P habit. Lawrie has had 32 previous convictions of which nine were relating to violence.

Roger Chambers, Lawrie's lawyer, said: "Lawrie's late expression of remorse is genuine, in spite of a pre-sentencing report that said he had no recognition of the trauma he had caused to his victims. He pleaded guilty to some pretty horrendous crimes - and knew that any expression of remorse was likely to be laughed at. For Lawrie, prison is home."

Burns said, "Mr Vaghela had come to New Zealand to enjoy a well-deserved and planned retirement. He was a kind, considerate and gentle man who put his family first." His wife had now gone back to India where she has been ill, while the rest of the family struggle with the death. "His son had said: 'This world is a far worse place without my father being here'," the court was told by Burns.

Lawrie had shown no remorse, Burns said.

New Zealand Governor-General sworn in August 23, 2006

New Zealand's nineteenth Governor-General was sworn in today. The Honourable Anand Satyanand succeeds Dame Silvia Cartwright as the personal representative of New Zealand's Head of State, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of New Zealand. Dame Silvia concluded a five year term in office.

A fanfare of trumpets and a 21 gun salute by the 16 Field Regiment from Linton marked the start of ceremonies. Satyanand arrived at Parliament at 11.45am (NZST).

His investiture began with an Indian and Maori welcome, followed by the constitutional swearing in. A commission of appointment was read, and the Oath of Allegiance and the oath of office taken.

The appointment was then proclaimed, at which point Satyanand became the 19th Governor-General of New Zealand.

There was Royal New Zealand Navy led Tri-service Royal Guard of Honour comprising 100 men and women drawn from the three services (Royal New Zealand Air Force and New Zealand Army) and their respective Queen's Colours and escorts, and the Band of the Royal New Zealand Navy and the Royal New Zealand Air Force Trumpeters were also attendance.

Following the ceremony the new Governor-General laid a wreath; at the National War Memorial in honour of New Zealand's war dead; a tradition that all new Governor-Generals undertake on the day of their swearing-in.

A 24-person Guard of Honour, Catafalque Guard, bugler and

drummer from the New Zealand Defence Force also attended the commemorative service.

He says he is deeply honoured to have been asked to serve as Governor-General and says there will be a great deal of pride within the Indian community about his appointment.

After the ceremony the vice regal party moved into Parliament House where presentations were be made in the Grand Hall; followed by a reception in the Banquet Hall.

Satyanand was born and raised in Auckland. He studied law at the University of Auckland law school. He has practiced law, been a judge, an ombudsman.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Helen Clark, said that he has a very good and deep understanding of the law, government, an interest in international affairs and has contributed to many community activities.

Anand Satyanand's parents were Indo-Fijians. Satyanand is the first Governor-General of Asian descent. Satyanand married in 1970 and has three adult children.

Present at the swearing-in ceremony were the Vice-President of Fiji, His Excellency Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi, and the Honourable Mr Justice Sir Moti Tikaram. Also present were some of his former colleagues.

Prime Minister Clark said, "I thank you for agreeing to serve New Zealand in this way. On behalf of the government and people of New Zealand, I welcome you both to your new roles as you take up life and work at Government House, and wish you well for this period of service to New Zealand."

Peter Dunne, leader of the United Future party, said "I warmly welcome his appointment and I believe that with his Asian, Fijian, Indian and Kiwi background he will do an excellent job for the increasingly diverse society that is New Zealand today."

Winston Peters, New Zealand First party leader and Foreign Minister, said, "He is the right person to carry out the diverse role of the Queen's representative in 21st century New Zealand. Judge Satyanand has the experience, respect and demeanour to fulfil the various demands of this most important constitutional role in the manner we expect in New Zealand."

When asked by the media in April his view of New Zealand becoming a republic, Satyanand said "I am an admirer of our country's present constitutional arrangements and the mechanisms which enable a straightforward change of government and our connection with our historical past."

Thousands watch Boobs on Bikes parade in Auckland August 23, 2006

Thousands of spectators lined Queen St. in central Auckland, New Zealand to watch a parade of around 20 female porn stars riding topless on motorcycles. The girls, wearing studded knee-high leather boots and leather pants, braved a winter chill, nippy wind and objections by some city officials, in a shot at promoting an Auckland Erotica Expo happening later this week.

Auckland Mayor Dick Hubbard described the parade as "morally repugnant."

Allegations that New Zealand school administers corporal punishment

August 24, 2006

South Auckland Tyndale Park Christian School have been asking parents of the pupils for permission to administer corporal punishment. The parents are informed that corporal punishment is illegal in New Zealand schools but it quotes the Bible "we ought to serve God rather than men". Strapping children has been illegal since 1989.

"When this law was changed. . . exceptions were not given based on whether a school believed it was serving 'God rather than men'. The Education Ministry should investigate allegations that trustees and staff at an Auckland school have sought permission from parents to strap children. It appears to me the school is deliberately breaking the law," Green Party Member (MP), Sue Bradford, said.

Today the New Zealand Herald reported that they had obtained documents that outline the school's "corporal correction" policy. The policy states that the strap must be given on the hand after consultation with another staff member and while that staff member is present. The child will then either be spoken to, prayed with or both.

Bradford said: "A full investigation was needed to ascertain whether any students at the school had been assaulted."

Tyndale Park Christian School is a private Christian school that caters for students ranging from Year 1 to Year 13. The costs range from NZ\$708-\$1070 per term.

Jan Brinkham, school manager, said: "Our enrollment policy is between the

parents who enroll children here and ourselves. We are not a state school; we are not bound by a particular enrollment policy," but declined to talk or comment to the New Zealand Herald about the schools corporal punishment. "This is between the parents that enrol their children at our school and that is where the buck stops. It's got nothing to do with anyone else except our parents," he added.

The Education Review Office (ERO) and the Ministry of Education said that they were unaware of the policy and that private schools are not legally obliged to produce documents to government bodies.

ERO last year said in a report: "The school manager should ensure that parents are clearly informed that the school administers no corporal punishment."

Charlene Scotti, ERO area manager of review services said: "Some schools had policies to call parents in for cases where corporal punishment was required, but were careful not to include staff in punishing students."

Bruce Adin, Ministry of Education northern regional manager, said: "The legality of the Tyndale Park document was unclear, but if school staff strapped a student it would be illegal."

"Corporal punishment in schools was made illegal years ago because it was considered to be brutal and unnecessary," Bradford said.

Air New Zealand Screen Awards winners announced

August 25, 2006

The winners of the annual 2006 Air New Zealand Screen Awards were announced on Thursday, 24 August night.

The movie: The World's Fastest Indian, about an Invercargill motorcycle enthusiast who set a world speed record in 1967 on his Indian motorcycle, won altogether seven awards. The awards were for best-

- Director, Roger Donaldson,
- Leading actor, Sir Anthony Hopkins,
- Film, Gary Hannam and Roger Donaldson (producers),
- Screenplay, Roger Donaldson,
- Editing, John Gilbert,
- Sound, Tim Prebble, Gethin Creagh and Michael Hedges and
- Production design, J Dennis Washington & Rob Gillies.

However both Donaldson and Hopkins were not present at the ceremony to receive their awards.

John Gilbert, The World's Fastest Indian editor, said: "The movie is successful because people can relate to the main character."

The film No. 2 won four awards, they were for best:

- Actress, Ruby Dee,
- Supporting actor, Rene Naufahu,
- Supporting actress, Mia Blake and
- Original music, Don McGlashan.

Ruby Dee, American actress was also absent from the ceremony.

The River Queen scored two awards, including best:

- Cinematography, Alun Bollinger and
- Costume design, Barbara Darragh.

In the television section the *The Insider's Guide To Love* won six awards, including the best:

- Contribution to design, Nic Smillie,
- Actor, Gareth Reeves,
- Actress, Kate Elliott,
- Director in a drama/comedy programme, Nathan Price,
- Camerawork in a drama, Simon Baumfield and
- Original music, David Long.

Television series *Interrogation* won three awards, for best:

- Supporting actress, Claire Chitham,
- Script for a single episode of a drama series or serial, Fiona Samuel and
- Editing in a Drama programme, Lisa Hough.

Television comedy series *bro'Town* won three awards for best:

- Comedy,
- Production design, Ant Sang and
- Script in a Comedy, Oscar Kightley, Mario Gaoa, David Fane, Shimpal Lelisi & Elizabeth Mitchell.

Drama series *Outrageous Fortune* won two awards, for best:

- Drama programme and
- Drama series

TV Series *The Promise* won two awards, for best:

- Documentary and
- Camerawork in a Documentary, Wayne Vinten.

The following twelve shows also won an award: *High Times*, *Koi*, *Holly's*

Heroes, *Dancing With The Stars*, *Westfield Style Pasifika 2005*, *Busted At The Border*, *The Market*, *Off The Rails -- A Love Story*, *Lifting Of The Makutu*, *The Living Room Series 3*, *From Cannon's Creek to Jacob's Pillow* and *Earthquake*.

Deadline to release "Muslim prisoners" passes, journalists still being held captive August 26, 2006

A midnight deadline to release "Muslim prisoners" has passed and two Fox News journalists are still being held captive in Gaza.

The two journalists, American Steve Centanni, 60, a reporter for Fox News and New Zealander Olaf Wiig, 36, Centanni's cameraman were kidnapped from their press vehicle on August 14. Ten days later, the two journalists appeared in a video allegedly made by the kidnappers. In the video, the journalists say that they are being treated well.

Hamas government spokesmen say that they expect "good news" about the fate of the journalists in the "next two days."

"I hope that we can hear good news within the coming two days," said spokesman for Hamas, Ghazi Hamad.

According to the Interior Ministry, "negotiations are not the effort."

"I want to clarify that the efforts are not negotiations, but we want to get to positive results which is their release and that is all. We will continue our efforts and contacts to secure the release of the kidnapped journalists. We can confirm that they are safe and sound but we cannot give fuller details for the time being because we want our efforts to be crowned with success," said Abu Hilal, spokesman for the Interior Ministry.

Holy Jihad Brigades claims responsibility for the kidnappings and has demanded the release of all "Muslim prisoners" being held in the United States and in exchange would release the journalists. The United States immediately rejected the offer.

Wife of Wiig, Anita McNaught, recently appeared on TV calling for the release of the journalists.

South Africa lose to the All Blacks at rugby in Pretoria August 26, 2006

Despite the All Blacks having already clinched the 2006 Tri Nations in rugby union, the first of the remaining three fixtures was played in Pretoria, South Africa on Saturday August 26. The Springboks (South Africa) lost the fifth Test in a row, whilst the All Blacks continued their streak of wins. The final score was 45 to 26, and played at Loftus Versfeld. It was the first win in South Africa for the All Blacks since 2003.

Richie McCaw knocked on the kick off from Butch James, offside All Blacks then lead to an early penalty kick to Percy Montgomery, giving South Africa a three-nil lead. James kicks another penalty two minutes later giving them a six to nil lead. Daniel Carter then gives the All Blacks their first points with a penalty kick of his own. Fourie du Preez scored the first try of the match in the 10th minute for South Africa. Montgomery misses the conversion and the South Africa now lead 11 to three. After a period of no scoring, Carter kicks another penalty goal in the 18th minute to reduce the gap to 11 to six. Neemia Tialata scores the All Blacks first try off a Carter kick. Carter converts, and the All Blacks move ahead to 13 to 11. On halftime the All Blacks are given a penalty,

60m away from the South African line. An ambitious Carter goes for the kick, and is successful, and the All Blacks go into the break 16 to 11.

Carter gets the first points of the second half with another penalty goal in the 43rd minute. Luke McAlister extends the All Blacks lead a few minutes later with a try of his own, and with Carter's conversion, the All Blacks now lead 26 to 11. A subsequent penalty goal to South Africa by Montgomery reduces this to 26 to 14. The All Blacks start to move further away with the game when Sitiveni Sivivatu scores in the 55th minute, although Carter misses the conversion, the All Blacks move to a 31 to 14 lead. A try to Mils Muliaina and a subsequent Carter conversion makes the score 38 to 14. South Africa start to make a comeback when Jaque Fourie scores a try. André Pretorius misses the conversion, and the score is now 38 to 19 to the All Blacks. Fourie scores again in the 70th minute, and with the Pretorius conversion, the score is now 38 to 26 with 10 minutes remaining in the match. However Rico Gear seals the victory in the 75th minute with a try. Carter converts and the All Blacks win 45 to 26.

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