



Top Stories



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Featured story

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Wikipedia Current Events

Civil unrest in Kenya (2007–present): At least nine people have been killed in western Kenya, reports say, in violence apparently linked to last month's disputed elections.

- Taiwan's Premier Chang Chun-hsiung will stay in power, as the president rejected his resignation.
- Troops close in on Darra Adam Khel in Pakistan after fierce clashes.
- Novak Đoković wins the mens title of the 2008 Australian Open.
- Prophet and president of the Mormon Church, Gordon B. Hinckley, dies at age 97 to natural causes.

Viktor Schreckengost dies at 101

Viktor Schreckengost, the father of industrial design and creator of the Jazz Bowl, an iconic piece of Jazz Age art designed for Eleanor Roosevelt during his association with Cowan Pottery died yesterday. He was 101.

Schreckengost was born on June 26, 1906 in Sebring, Ohio, United States.

Schreckengost's peers included the far more famous designers Raymond Loewy and Norman Bel Geddes.

In 2000, the Cleveland Museum of Art curated the first ever retrospective of Schreckengost's

work. Stunning in scope, the exhibition included sculpture, pottery, dinnerware, drawings, and paintings.

Disabled U.S. spy satellite to fall to Earth

An unresponsive United States reconnaissance satellite is in an uncontrolled, decaying orbit and will re-enter Earth's atmosphere in late February or early March.

According to Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the U.S. National Security Council, "Appropriate government agencies are monitoring the situation."

The satellite is out-of-control, and therefore there is no possibility to guide it to re-entry over an ocean or unpopulated area. On the one hand, since most of the earth's surface is water or unpopulated, death or property loss due to any falling fragments, which may result from the satellite entering the atmosphere, is statistically unlikely. On the other hand, it cannot be ruled out entirely. It is currently unclear as to where the satellite will re-enter, and whether any debris will survive atmospheric re-entry. The mass of the satellite is unknown.

"Numerous satellites over the years have come out of orbit and fallen harmlessly. We are looking at potential options to mitigate any possible damage this satellite may cause," said Johndroe.

Concerns have also been raised that some materials used in the

satellite's construction could be hazardous if they reach the ground. The satellite contains quantities of toxic hydrazine fuel, which is used for maneuvering, although this is likely to burn up on re-entry. Some of the optics aboard the satellite may contain beryllium, which is also toxic.

As the satellite was part of a classified U.S. military program, no other details, including its name, have been made public. The only such satellite which is publicly known to be out of control is identified by the codenames USA-193 and NRO L-21. It was launched in December 2006, by a Delta II rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base. Ground controllers lost contact with the USA-193 satellite shortly after it reached orbit. Amateur observers have been tracking USA-193 for some time, and believe that its orbit is decaying, however it is unclear whether USA-193 is the satellite in question.

Former Indonesian President Suharto dies at 86

Suharto, second president of Indonesia, has died today in a Jakarta hospital at the age of 86. The cause of death was announced as multiple-organ failure. He had been in the hospital since January 4, when he was admitted with failing kidneys, heart and lungs.

A week of national mourning was declared by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. In a televised address, the current president described Suharto as "one of Indonesia's best sons and national leaders who has done very great service to his beloved nation" and called for all Indonesians to pay their respects.

The president is to oversee a state funeral after Suharto's body is

taken to his family mausoleum in Surakarta, Central Java by a fleet of seven Air Force planes.

Suharto was born Raden Suharto on June 8, 1921 in Kemusu Argamulja, Java, Indonesia. He was president of Indonesia from 1967 - 1998.

Suharto is survived by two sons and one daughter. His eldest daughter, Tutut, said, "My father passed away peacefully. May God bless him and forgive all of his mistakes."

At least 45 killed in new wave of violence in Kenya

At least 45 people have been killed in a new surge of violence that began after Kenya's disputed December 27 presidential election. Some sources have said that there have been over 80 deaths in the last 3 days. The latest deaths come as former U.N. secretary-general Kofi Annan is in Kenya to try to broker a compromise.

Police had imposed an overnight curfew in the city of Nakuru, about two hours north of Nairobi, after new violence broke out on Friday. The killings appear to be ethnically motivated, as Kikuyus seek revenge for attacks against their fellow tribesmen in recent weeks.

Officials estimate that nearly 800 people have been killed since the vote, which saw President Mwai Kibaki, a Kikuyu, defeat opposition candidate Raila Odinga by just 230,000 votes. Odinga supporters from the Luo, Kalenjin and other smaller ethnic groups claim the election was stolen, and international observers say the vote was flawed.

Widespread anger at the election results sparked violence in Nairobi's slums and parts of the

west, and tens of thousands of Kikuyus fled their homes. The violence had largely died down in recent days, but has erupted again in Nakuru.

Police also said Saturday that at least 15 people have been killed in the town of Molo, west of Nakuru. The two towns are in the Rift Valley, an ethnically mixed area that has seen violence in the past over land and resources.

"The Kalenjins had already pushed and got the Kikuyus earlier so what they are doing is the Kikuyus are trying to revenge and get back their places, get back their houses" —Jimmy Mucheru, resident of Nakuru

"The Kalenjins had already pushed and got the Kikuyus earlier so what they are doing is the Kikuyus are trying to revenge and get back their places, get back their houses," said Jimmy Mucheru, who is a local safari guide in Nakuru. "There is not much hope for peace because the two groups are really after each other."

The new wave of violence came as former U.N. secretary-general Kofi Annan was in Kenya trying to resolve the crisis. In a news conference on Saturday, he urged followers of the two leaders to remain calm. He said he saw several camps for people who have been displaced by the crisis.

"What we saw was rather tragic" —Former UN secretary general, Kofi Annan

"What we saw was rather tragic," he noted. "We visited several IDP camps, we saw people pushed from their homes, from their farms, grandmothers, children, families uprooted. And I think it is important that all Kenyans

respond with sympathy and understanding and not try to [seek] revenge."

On Thursday, Mr. Annan managed to secure the first face-to-face meeting between Mr. Kibaki and Mr. Odinga, a move hailed as a breakthrough. But the two sides have shown no willingness to negotiate issues of substance. Mr. Kibaki insists he is the legitimate president of Kenya, while Mr. Odinga is demanding a new vote.

Mr. Annan urged people to give more time to Mr. Kibaki and Mr. Odinga to work out a solution.

"No one should take the law into his or her own hands," he added. "Allow the leaders the opportunity to resolve these issues - and as I said - including the long-term issues. And we are here to help them, that was the purpose and objective of that meeting."

Mr. Annan told reporters it is unacceptable that no one has been held accountable for the violence, though he did not apportion blame.

Earlier this week, the New York-based Human Rights Watch reported what it said was evidence that the opposition had organized some attacks. Mr. Odinga's team has denied those claims.

National Hockey League to open 2008-09 season in Stockholm and Prague

The National Hockey League has announced in a press conference earlier this week that it will open the 2008-09 NHL season with two series' in Europe. On October 4 and October 5, the New York Rangers and Tampa Bay Lightning will play in Prague, Czech Republic at the Sazka Arena, and the Ottawa Senators and Pittsburgh

Penguins will play in Stockholm, Sweden at the Stockholm Globe Arena.

Each of the four teams will also play exhibition games in Europe. The Rangers will play against Metallurg Magnitogorsk of Russia's elite league in the IIHF-sanctioned Victoria Cup. The Senators will play against Frolunda of Sweden's elite league. The Lightning and Penguins will play exhibition games in Germany and Finland respectively.

This will be the second season in a row that the NHL season kicks off with regular season games being played in Europe; at the start of the current 2007-08 season, the Los Angeles Kings and Anaheim Ducks played games at London's O2 September 28 and September 29.

Obama wins South Carolina primary

Barack Obama has won the South Carolina Democratic primary, with 55 percent of the vote.

Hillary Clinton came in second with 27 percent of the vote, while John Edwards was third with 18 percent.

"Tonight, the cynics who believed that what began in the snows of Iowa was just an illusion were told a different story by the good people of South Carolina," Obama told his supporters.

"In nine short days, nearly half the nation will have the chance to join us in saying that we are tired of business-as-usual in Washington, we are hungry for change, and we are ready to believe again," he said, referring to Super Tuesday, which will be on February 5. 24 states will be holding primaries or caucuses on that day.

Clinton reportedly called Obama to congratulate him on his victory.

"I have called Senator Obama to congratulate him and wish him well," she stated.

A CNN exit poll showed Obama with 81 percent of the black vote, in a primary where 55 percent of voters were black. The exit poll also showed Obama with 24 percent of the white vote, while Edwards and Clinton received 39 percent and 36 percent of this demographic, respectively.

'The Regime' hacks 711chan.org in response to 'Anonymous' attack on Scientology; takes web site off line

Wikinews has learned that a new entity calling itself The Regime used keylogging to gain an administrator password to 711chan.org, a site popular with the open vigilante group "Anonymous" that has recently been attacking Scientology online.

"This website has been deleted due to copyright claims from the Church of Scientology."
—Message at 711chan.org as of 9:57 p.m. EST on Saturday.

At 9:57 p.m. (eastern time) the site 711chan.org, was replaced, allegedly by The Regime by the title Church of Scientology along with a statement on the home page stating "This website has been deleted due to copyright claims from the Church of Scientology." A search performed using Google, on 711chan has returned the number one result of the apparent hack. All that remains of 711chan.org is an apparent message to the members of the site to "run" and "hide."

"711chan is full of fucking fail for siding with Gaia. I'm out of here, faggots. Enjoy your Gaia," said the message, which currently is only available in a cached version.

At 1:45 a.m. on January 27, the site was replaced with "And now a message from our sponsors. YOU SUCK 711chan will be back online shortly. I love you guys for helping me out. <3 plasma," acknowledging the possibility 711chan was back in control of their site. The site's name has been changed to "Church of 711."

The Regime's first attack went along with a message posted to 711chan's website (quoted below) saying that "This site has not been blessed by The Regime and is deemed lame", believing Anonymous to be self-proclaimed hackers (although this title was primarily used by the media). It also refers to Anonymous' attempt to bring down the Church of Scientology (named 'Operation Chanology'), saying that "chanology is lame, scientology is lame". It thereafter declared that the message board where Anonymous had been discussing Operation Chanology had been removed. Minutes later, 711chan stopped responding to queries.

The legitimate administrators of 711chan regained control after only three minutes, but it took nearly six hours to restore the site with recent additions missing. However, The Regime took the site down again twelve hours later, claiming to have removed the backups and stating, "all your db are belong to us" (an allusion to the phrase "all your base are belong to us").

A new video posted to YouTube by someone who claimed to be The Regime shows a logo and uses a

computer animated voice to threaten 711chan.org and their affiliates. The Regime, however, denies making the video saying "we are in no way responsible for making, nor are we tied to that video in any way."

The video declares, "Dear 'Anonymous'. We are The Regime. Your attacks on Scientology have not gone unnoticed." The video's text description states that "Your attacks on Scientology have not gone unnoticed, we have the money, resources and tools to put an end to your SP behaviour and so called hacking activities. You have soiled the good name of LRH and now it is you that have *our* attention."

"You have soiled the good name of LRH and now it is you that have *our* attention." —"Re: Message to Scientology", video posted to YouTube.

The acronyms in the text description are Scientology jargon "suppressive person" (a person who criticizes Scientology) and Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard. Both terms were also used recently in a leaked internal Church of Scientology video featuring Tom Cruise promoting his beliefs. The video goes on to state that "Anonymous" has been declared "Fair Game" (another Scientology term).

The title of The Regime video, "Re: Message to Scientology", is a reference to the video "Message to Scientology", which was posted by "Anonymous" to YouTube on Monday. The original "Message to Scientology" video has been viewed over 1,000,000 times since it was posted.

"We have your IP addresses, your documents and secret plans. We

own your 711chan, your IRC, and we are taking care of your raid forums. Call off your attacks on our religion immediately, or 4chan YTMND, something awful and your other bases will be brought to ruin. Do not underestimate us. You are out of your league. You have been warned," added the video.

In an exclusive interview with Wikinews, the group is only called The Regime. When asked what their mission was, they stated "we have none."

Wikinews also asked who or what was in charge of their group and they replied, "At one point, this would have been a complicated question as there were many tiers and positions of authority, however now leadership is confined to a single council." They are also not affiliated with any other group and act alone with "no contacts with groups or individuals outside of itself." They also refused to describe their group as a whole. They also stated to "define affiliated" when Wikinews asked if they were part of the Church of Scientology.

Their motivations are still not clear. When asked what motivates their group to do what they do, they replied, "What motivates any human to do anything? Money, Power, Respect? Choose one," but also state that they will continue their attacks "if necessary."

Wikinews also asked if The Regime was in any way affiliated with the Church of Scientology, including working for or against their beliefs or being a 'branch of The Church' The Regime simply replied, "We are not Scientologists, this is all we have to say on the subject."

Sources within the "Anonymous" group have played down the

actions of The Regime who - when announced on the IRC channel the group utilizes for communications - were said to be "... a bunch of gloryhunters ridin [sic] on our tails". Another user of the IRC channel, calling himself "Anonz", was quoted as telling other members of the group "... It's funny how they call us scriptbunnies yet use scripts themselves." The general consensus was that "Anonymous is not impressed."

Chamber of Commerce defeats Buderim XI in Australia Day Match

Buderim, Queensland – The Maroochy Chamber of Commerce has defeated the Buderim Cricket Club by 48 runs in their Australia Day Twenty20 cricket match.

Batting first, after losing the toss, the Chamber of Commerce scored slowly in the first few overs but scored around 10 an over for the rest of the match. They were bowled out for 162 off 18.3 overs.

In reply, Buderim batted with some enthusiasm and were on target to win the game within the 20 overs but were bowled out for 114 in 15.2 overs.

Maroochy Mayor Joe Natoli provided some commentary for part of the match. He noted, with a hint of sarcasm that the Mayors XI "failed to qualify" for the match. The lack of sledging was noted by other commentators.

The match was included in an overall Australia Day celebration at Buderim Mountain State School which included Sunshine Coast Idol, kids' rides, barbecues and food stalls.

Today in History

1077 – Walk to Canossa: Pope

Gregory VII lifted the excommunication of Henry IV after the Holy Roman Emperor made his trek from Speyer to Canossa Castle to beg the pope for forgiveness for his actions in the Investiture Controversy.

1573 – The Warsaw Confederation was signed, sanctioning religious freedom in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

1820 – A Russian expedition led by naval officers Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen and Mikhail Petrovich Lazarev approached the coast of Antarctica.

1855 – A train on the Panama Railway made the world's first transcontinental crossing, a 48-mile (77-km) trip from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean across the Isthmus of Panama.

1986 – The NASA Space Shuttle Challenger disintegrated 73 seconds into its tenth mission, killing all seven crew members.

Quote of the Day

For the sincere friend
Who gives me his frank hand.
And for the cruel man who pulls
out of me
the heart with which I live,
I grow neither nettles nor thorns:
I grow a white rose.
~ José Martí ~

Word of the Day

skedaddle *v*
1. To move or run away quickly; to flee.

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