



### Top Stories

#### Body of James Kim found in Oregon wilderness

CNET reporter James Kim has been found dead in the southwestern Oregon wilderness after getting lost with his family on November 25. Kim, 35, was found at 12:00 noon Wednesday, half a mile from Rogue River.

#### BSE Sensx hits all-time high of 14,000

The BSE Sensx touched yet another milestone today by crossing the historic 14,000 mark.

### Featured story

#### Australian MPs suggest for Australia and New Zealand become one

A committee of Australian MPs have suggested that Australia and New Zealand become a single nation in the future. The suggestion follows an investigation into harmonising the countries legal systems. Prior to 1901, New Zealand was considered one of the seven British colonies of Australasia, six of which united to form Australia in 1901.

### Wikipedia Current Events

•The Iraq Study Group, a bipartisan group chartered by the United States Congress states that the situation in Iraq is "grave and deteriorating" and called for a change in strategy including the removal of most United States troops by early 2008.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- The Australian House of Representatives passes private members legislation allowing therapeutic cloning after a conscience vote. The Australian Senate had already approved the bill prepared by Senator Kay Patterson meaning that it will become law.
- The United States Senate confirms Robert Gates as the next United States Secretary of Defense by 95-2. Gates will be sworn in on December 18.
- Philippe Douste-Blazy, the Foreign Minister of France, says that the United Nations Security Council will impose sanctions on Iran for its nuclear program. However, the five permanent members of the Security Council as well as Germany have failed to agree on what the sanctions should be.
- Fijian military Commodore Frank Bainimarama, the leader of the coup, usurps Ratu Josefa Iloilo as President of Fiji. He promises to ask the Great Council of Chiefs to reappoint Iloilo to the office in one week's time.
- Bainimarama appoints Jona Senilagakali as interim Prime Minister of Fiji.
- The Fijian military deports deposed Prime Minister of Fiji Laisenia Qarase to his home island in the remote Lau Group. The military has also arrested senior Government officials.
- The Fiji Times resumes

### Wikipedia Current Events

- publication after the military promises to refrain from further attempts at press censorship. Editors immediately blast the coup as illegal.
- The United Kingdom joins the United States, Australia and New Zealand in halting defence foreign aid.
- Bainimarama fires Fiji police commissioner Moses Driver, who had declared that the Fiji Police will stand up to the Fiji Military. Bainimarama warned against a popular uprising against the coup.
- NASA announces a special press conference on Wednesday, 6 December, considering recent pictures suggesting the presence of water on the surface of Mars.
- A large explosion occurs near downtown Milwaukee, killing 3, injuring 37 others and leveling a factory compound.
- Officials of the Islamic Courts Union in power in Bulo Burto, Somalia, declare that, under their interpretation of Sharia, all people in the city must pray five times a day, or they will be beheaded on sight.
- James Kim is found dead in Oregon after spending 11 days in the wilderness.

#### Factory explodes in Milwaukee, USA

At approximately 8:25 AM CST December 6, 2006 a factory owned by a company known as the FALK

Corporation exploded in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The blast could apparently be felt up to thirty miles away. A plume of smoke was seen rising from the explosion site, and the area around where the factory was is reported to smell of burning wood.

The explosion apparently occurred when a container of 72,000 gallons of propane exploded, destroying the building. Three people are confirmed dead and forty-six injured, with one person suffering life-threatening injuries, according to a press conference with Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Milwaukee Police Chief Nan Hagerty at 5:00 PM CST broadcast on WTMJ-TV in Milwaukee. Local news reports state that the three dead were aged 37, 49, and 38.

With a population of 596,000 (according to the 2000 Census), Milwaukee is the 19th largest city in the United States.

### **Body of James Kim found in Oregon wilderness**

CNET reporter James Kim has been found dead in the southwestern Oregon wilderness after getting lost with his family on November 25. Kim, 35, was found at 12:00 noon Wednesday, half a mile away from the Rogue River.

His wife Kati Kim, 30, and her two young children were found alive on December 4th after they waved an umbrella to a private helicopter. Kati and her two children were airlifted out of the area and transferred by ambulance to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass. Kati suffered frostbite on two toes, but it is expected that she will be in good condition.

The Kim family left San Francisco on November 17 on a road trip to

the Pacific Northwest. After, they planned to go back home to San Francisco but were stranded in a storm that led to their disappearance.

They stayed warm while they were stranded by using the car heater and then burned tires when they ran out of gas. Kim walked into the Oregon mountains Saturday to get help for his wife Kati and his children. Pieces of map and some clothing were found on the mountains Tuesday by rescuers. It is believed that Kim was marking his trail for them. The wet clothing included two gray sweat shirts, a red T-shirt, a sock, and a blue girl's skirt.

"They were laid out in a well defined area, in a pattern," Lt. Gregg Hastings of the Oregon State Patrol said.

Fog caused the police to wait till midday. "This is frustrating. We are so close," one rescuer said. "There are people pouring their heart and soul into this. We are not going to quit until we find him."

Kim's family are not yet available for comment.

### **Iraq Study Group Report: Iraq could be on a slide towards chaos**

The Iraq Study Group presented its report at 12.00 GMT today. It warns No one can guarantee that any course of action in Iraq at this point will stop sectarian warfare, growing violence, or a slide toward chaos.

The Report opens with plea for open debate and the formation of a consensus in the United States about the policy towards the Middle East.

The Report is highly critical of almost every aspect of the present policy of the Executive towards Iraq and it urges an immediate change of direction. First among its 78 recommendations is that a new diplomatic initiative should be taken before the end of this year to secure Iraq's borders against hostile interventions and to re-establish diplomatic relations with its neighbors.

The Group points out that it is in the interest of its neighbors, that there should be stability in Iraq. To this end, it proposes the formation of an Iraq International Support Group to include not only those countries, but also key states in the region, the member states of the UN Security Council and other countries such as Germany, Japan and South Korea. The US contribution should be led at least by the Secretary of State or even the President himself. Urgent attention should be directed to establishing Arab-Israeli peace on all fronts.

The Study Group recognizes that the establishment of permanent US military bases in Iraq would be a major impediment to establishing stability in the country. The role of the armed forces should be redefined and between 10,000 and 20,000 troops (compared with 3,000 to 4,000 now) should be deployed to the task of developing the combat capability of Iraq armed forces. The aim should be to withdraw all US combat forces early in 2008.

The Report is critical of the US intelligence services and urges that more resources should be devoted to training those about to serve in the theatre in the language and culture of the region. It asserted that government is still largely ignorant of the insurgency

in Iraq or of the role of the militias.

The Group considered, but rejected, options involving the partitioning of Iraq and asserted the importance of creating and maintaining a democratically elected government of Iraq as an independent sovereign state.

### **US Senate confirms Robert Gates as new Secretary of Defense**

The United States Senate voted overwhelmingly today to confirm Robert Gates as the new Secretary of Defense, replacing outgoing Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. The vote came a day after the Armed Services Committee voted unanimously to recommend Gates's confirmation.

Senators from both parties praised Gates for bluntly stating that the United States was not winning the war in Iraq, and that new strategies were needed. "Dr. Gates spoke with candor -- a candor that has been sorely missing from the Department of Defense under this administration," said Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA). "He recognized the high price that our troops are paying for the current policy." Republican Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania said that Senators saw "the possibilities of a new chapter ... but it is up to the commander in chief to structure a change in policy."

Gates was approved by a vote of 95-2, with dissenting votes coming from Republican Senators Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and Jim Bunning of Kentucky.

President Bush named Gates, now aged 63, who had served as Director of the CIA under his father, President George H.W. Bush, the day after Democrats

won control of both houses of the incoming 110th Congress in an election marked by frustration over the continuing war in Iraq.

### **France24 non-stop news channel on air today**

The launch of France's new 24 hour TV news channel, France24, saw the new jointly owned channel start by going online. A streaming broadcast became available on the internet from 19:29 GMT today. Future plans are to have the new channel available on cable and satellite with English and French reporting. Coverage in Arabic and Spanish is among the ambitious future plans for the channel.

Founded by a joint venture between private group TF1 and the public France Télévisions the new channel is managed by Alain de Pouzilhac, former Havas head. Employing 170 journalists and a total of 380 people, France24 is funded by 86 million euro of public money.

The motto of the new freely-available international channel is "Un regard Français", aiming to promote a French world-view the channel was a project with the blessing of the country's president, Jacques Chirac.

As a free channel streaming over the Internet and available by satellite the following are the carriers who have agreed to broadcast transmissions: Hot-Bird 7A, Astra 1KR, EuroBird (Europe), ArabSat, NileSat (Maghreb, Middle-east), NSS7 (bandeC) (Africa). In the United States it will be available on the Comcast network, and over the air into Washington D.C. A variety of government Internet sites such as the Department of State, and international entities will carry the channel's content. It is not known

when it will be available in Canada.

The content sources will be from France2 and TF1 desks, AFP, RFI and RFO.

### **Australian MPs suggest Australia and New Zealand unification**

A committee of Australian MPs have suggested that Australia and New Zealand become a single nation in the future. The suggestion follows an investigation into harmonising the countries legal systems.

The two countries are separated by 1900 Km (1200 miles) of sea. Australia has a population of 20 million, while New Zealand has a population of 4 million.

Prior to 1901, New Zealand was considered one of the seven British colonies of Australasia, six of which united to form Australia in 1901.

The committee, which had representatives from both sides of Australian politics found that there were close ties between the two countries. People are free to move between the two countries without visas and there is a high-degree of co-operation between governments. The committee's report said "While New Zealand ultimately chose not to join the federation, it is still included in the definition of the states in the Australian constitution.

"This historical context forms a backdrop to the closeness and breadth of the relationship between Australia and New Zealand today.

"While Australia and New Zealand are, of course, two sovereign nations, it seems to the committee that the strong ties between the

two countries - the economic, cultural, migration, defence, governmental, and people to people linkages - suggest that an even closer relationship, including the possibility of union, is both desirable and realistic."

Chairman of the committee, Peter Slipper said Australia now wished for another committee to be established to look at integration between the two nations in the future. Such a committee would be poised to look at monetary and national union.

The committee acknowledged that despite legal harmonisation being relatively easy, the merger of the two countries could be difficult. "The committee is also mindful that the harmonisation of laws is very much the art of the possible. Thus the merger of Australia and New Zealand or the progression to a unitary system of government in Australia, however desirable, might not be easy to achieve," the committee's report said.

The suggestion has received a cold reception in New Zealand. New Zealand's citizens have regularly rejected suggestions that their country be part of Australia, a sentiment echoed by Prime Minister Helen Clark. Mrs Clark said she had no intention of placing the proposal on the government's agenda.

"It won't be on our agenda 105 years later", she said.

New Zealand's Foreign Minister, Winston Peters dismissed the proposal calling it a case of "parliamentary adventurism". He said despite the two countries close relationship, the two countries were too geographically separated. "New Zealand is 1200 miles (1900 km) away from

Australia and that's 1200 reasons why I don't go along with that committee, nor will New Zealanders," Mr Peters said.

### **Apple launches iTunes in New Zealand**

Apple Computers announced today that it's long awaited iTunes store is available to New Zealanders. They also launched the online Apple Store New Zealand which provides Apple products, such as iPods, Mac minis, etc. New Zealand is number 22 on the number of countries who have the iTunes store and the tenth music download store in New Zealand.

The launch means that New Zealanders can now download music to transfer to their iPods, legally. However the music is only available to iPod's as converting the music to the MP3 standard for other MP3 players is illegal in New Zealand. Some music download sites in New Zealand support MP3 formats, like Digirama which sell their music tracks for \$1.75.

The New Zealand iTunes store provides the most digital music tracks in New Zealand at around two million and each song costs NZ\$1.79 or a music video costs \$3.59 of which there around thousands, an album will usually cost about \$17.99 and a game will cost \$7.99. The music tracks also include New Zealand artists such as Brooke Fraser, Tim Finn, Fat Freddy's Drop, etc and also includes international exclusive albums such as Red Hot Chili Peppers, Ben Harper, etc.

Eddy Cue, vice president of Apple, said: "We're thrilled to bring the iTunes Store and the online Apple Store to our customers in New Zealand just in time for the holidays."

There were rumours surrounding the launch of a New Zealand iTunes store this week.

The podcast section on iTunes also covers a wide range of podcasts, equalling over 65,000. The New Zealand podcasts include such companies as TVNZ (Television New Zealand), Radio New Zealand and The Voice Booth.

It is commonly believed that the reason the store was halted until now was because Apple has to make separate contracts with each recording company in each country.

iTunes is likely to become the dominant music download store in New Zealand, following the trend of other countries.

The special edition iPod nano has also been released in New Zealand. The special edition is red in colour instead of the normal white and black colours. The special iPod is available only on the online store at the same price as the normal iPod nanos but some of the profit goes to help fight HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Renaissance is New Zealand's distributor of Apple goods and will still keep its contract despite Renaissance not being directly involved in both of the new online stores. Renaissance said: "New Zealand will now come under Apple's worldwide pricing model."

### **Former Senator John Edwards takes major step towards running for U.S. president**

Former North Carolina Senator and Democratic Vice-Presidential Candidate John Edwards took a major step in declaring candidacy for the 2008 U.S. Presidential election by naming former congressman David Bonior his

campaign manager. David Bonior has close ties with labor organizations, something Edwards can relate to because he represented many labor unions during his career as a lawyer.

Bonior represented Detroit's northern suburbs for 26 years in the House, rising to be the No. 2 Democrat before stepping down in 2002 for an unsuccessful campaign for Michigan governor.

Since leaving Congress, Bonior has been a professor of labor studies at Detroit's Wayne State University and chairman of American Rights at Work, which promotes employees' rights to unionize.

Bonior is currently the chair of American Rights at Work.

### **Chess champion is "Fritzed" by computer**

Russian chess grandmaster, Vladimir Kramnik lost the final match of his man versus machine match against the Deep Fritz chess program. The six game match in Bonn, Germany had a final result of 4-2 for the German-developed chess program which runs on readily available computer hardware.

The first match which concluded on November 25 was a draw, Kramnik lost the second game to the computer with some indications that he overlooked a mate in one win. Third through fifth matches were all draws.

Kramnik, whilst the current world chess champion is actually ranked third in the world. A contributory factor in this is his health problems. The world champion suffers from a rare form of arthritis which makes sitting playing in tournaments extremely painful for him.

### **NASA unveils plans for moon base**

NASA has unveiled plans to set up a self-sustaining settlement at the South Pole of the Moon by 2020.

The plan calls for four-person crews to begin the construction on a rotating basis with week-long stays, advancing toward a permanent presence by 2024. Initial infrastructure would be brought to the Moon from Earth; as work progressed, the settlement would provide hydrogen and oxygen mined from the lunar surface to make water and rocket fuel.

While NASA plans to use American astronauts in the construction and maintenance of the base, plans are underway for a multinational effort. Canada has been asked to provide astronauts for assistance, and NASA has since entered talks with the European Space Agency, Australia, China, France, Germany, England, India, Italy, Russia, South Korea, and Ukraine to see how those nations and space agencies may be able to contribute to costs, logistics and other efforts. NASA did not release figures on how much the settlement will cost to build and maintain, but have been searching for both public and private funding from around the globe.

NASA says that the base will serve as part of a mission to learn about the Moon and places beyond. It is also seen as part of a long-range plan to send astronauts to Mars.

This will be the first manned mission to the moon since 1972.

### **Today in History**

1732 - The Royal Opera House opened at Covent Garden in London.

1815 - Michel Ney, Marshal of

France, was executed by a firing squad near Paris' Jardin du Luxembourg for supporting Napoleon Bonaparte.  
 1941 - World War II: The Imperial Japanese Navy made its attack on Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii.  
 1949 - Chinese Civil War: The government of the Republic of China relocated from Mainland China to Taipei on the island of Taiwan.  
 1995 - The Galileo spacecraft arrived at Jupiter, a little more than six years after it was launched by Space Shuttle Atlantis during Mission STS-34.

### **Quote of the Day**

I know that every good and excellent thing in the world stands moment by moment on the razor-edge of danger and must be fought for.

~ Thornton Wilder

### **Word of the Day**

arbitrary; adj

1. Determined by impulse rather than reason.
2. Chosen for no reason or at random.

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