



Top Stories

Bush starts off Africa trip in Benin



U.S. President George W. Bush, accompanied by his wife Laura, began his five-nation trip to Africa today in Benin, where he met with President Yayi Boni and participated in a joint press conference. Topics that were discussed included malaria, cotton, and the crises in Kenya and Darfur.

Natalee Holloway's mother prepares civil lawsuit against Joran van der Sloot

Beth Twitty, missing U.S. teenager Natalee Holloway's mother, is preparing a civil lawsuit against Joran van der Sloot, major suspect in the teenager's death. On her behalf, Dutch lawyer Bram Moszkowicz is investigating whether Van der Sloot can be charged with unlawful action.

English FA Cup news: February 16, 2008

Four games were played in the fifth round of the English FA cup on February 16, 2008. In several shock results, Bristol Rovers, Chelsea, Barnsley, and Manchester United have all

Top Stories

qualified for the Quarter Finals of the cup. Information on each match can be found in the main article.

Featured story

'Top Model' winner Jaslene Gonzalez on her career and being a Latina role model

Wikinews talks with America's



Next Top Model's first Puerto Rican winner, Jaslene Gonzalez, about her childhood, what makes her a strong individual, and what television show her abuela

would want her to go on. This is also the first time one of our interviews can be read in Spanish at Wikinoticias.

Wikipedia Current Events

United States presidential election, 2008: A majority of Michigan's Republican delegates say that they will support John McCain following the withdrawal of Michigan primary winner Mitt Romney from the race. McCain has also won the allegiance of a majority of Louisiana delegates.

- A street racing accident kills eight people and injures four in Accokeek, Maryland.
- The President of the United States George W. Bush arrives in Benin on the first leg of a five-nation African tour.
- 37 people are killed in a suicide

Wikipedia Current Events

car bombing in Pakistan's tribal region after a meeting of the Pakistan People's Party, reports say.

- Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi confirms Kosovo's independence to be declared on Sunday, February 17th.
- Toshiba plans to withdraw from HD DVD production, ending the format war in Blu-ray Disc's favor.

Hydrated protons pair off

Chemists modeling the structure of strongly acidic solutions have found that hydronium ions can associate into unusual ion pairs.

Gregory A. Voth and Sergei Izvekov of the University of Utah, in collaboration with Feng Wang of Boston University, were examining the structure of highly acidic solutions (pH 0 to 1) of hydrochloric acid using sophisticated computer modeling. It is known that in water such acids dissociate into positive ions (cations) and negative ions (anions), with the H+ part solvated by water molecules to form cations such as hydronium (H3O+). It might be expected that positive ions such as these would repel one another, but it turns out that the ions unexpectedly associate into pairs at acid concentrations of 0.43 - 0.85 M . The pairing disappears at higher concentrations. The authors note that "cation pairs are stabilized by a nonclassical charge

delocalization of the excess proton charge defects over multiple water molecules". They explain the phenomenon in terms of the amphiphilic nature of the hydronium ion.

Recent work by Wallace et al. indicated the presence of hydronium ion pairs in crystals, but this is the first time such an association has been predicted for an aqueous solution

Wikinews attends a 'Dialogue with Decisionmakers'

Two weeks ago, on February 1st, it was the second day of the national environmental Focus the Nation teach-in. One of these events, which took place at the same time at other educational institutions across the country, took place in the city of Lynn at the campus of North Shore Community College.

Wikinews accredited reporter Patrick Mannion was there in attendance along with Congressman John F. Tierney of Massachusetts's 6th congressional district and Lynn's State Senator Thomas McGee. One of Lynn's two representatives, Robert Fennell, also attended; the other representative Steven Walsh sent an aide. The representatives for the nearby cities of Salem and Beverly, John Keenan and Mary Grant along with various local area mayors and city councilors also attended the event.

John F. Kerry, the senator for Massachusetts was supposed to attend but could not due to voting on the economic stimulus package in Washington D.C.. However, Senator Kerry did record a video statement DVD for the event in which he addressed the gathered crowd. North Shore's president, Wayne M. Burton, hosted the event.

Senator McGee started things off by talking about the need to recreate the North Shore Technical High School to include a focus on environmental jobs and the need to improve the Essex Agricultural and Technical High School which is deteriorating, but is known for it's agricultural teaching which would help to save the dwindling farming areas north of Boston.

McGee urged people that should get more involved with their local farming co-ops and that farmland needs to be recognized and redeveloped. He noted that obesity in young people is a problem and that schools are developing partnerships with local farms to provide more healthy meals and to show students whats going on at their local farm.

Representative Keenan commended the college for holding this dialogue and Al Gore along with his movie, An Inconvenient Truth. Keenan noted the need for Salem's coal-fired power station for the need to switch to clean coal.

Walsh aide's brought up the fact he is committed to ending paper waste at the Massachusetts State House.

"Global warming does not recognize boundaries." —Roseann Bongiovanni, Chelsea city council president

The city council president from Chelsea, Roseann Bongiovanni, who is also the associate executive director of the local community organization, the Chelsea Collaborative, asked the various reasons for the crowd in why they became concerned about global warming. The audience noted the

melting of ice sheets, air quality, Hurricane Katrina and Al Gore.

Bongiovanni then noted that Chelsea and neighboring East Boston have no green space or waterfront due the industrialization of both areas, noting that 100% of the jet fuel for planes at Logan Airport, 70% to 80% of heating oil and that the trucks delivering the oil are spewing diesel. She also noted the large salt pile in Chelsea used for the deicing of highways in the Commonwealth and said that it is located there "illegally."

She further noted the company, Energy Management Inc., behind the controversial Cape Wind project, proposed building a diesel power plant across the street from a Chelsea elementary school and that air quality in Chelsea is bad. She closed her dialogue by noting that "Global warming does not recognize boundaries."

Mary Grant said she was interested in hearing ideas and noted the redeveloping of Beverly's high school to include more solar panels and a new wind turbine and that the school would be powered by 50% of it.

One person asked the need to lower the level of bureaucracy in government as she was "running around city government" in order to have a bee farm in her backyard.

Robert Fenell, the owner of Lynn's Capitol Diner who is notable for keeping chickens at the establishment located in downtown Lynn just two blocks away from the college noted that people should start going organic and going back to nature, that people should switch to more energy efficient lighting and grow gardens in their backyard.

After Fennell spoke it was time for questions and answers, and questions were given by various audiences members including Mannion himself, who asked about the MBTA's Blue Line and rapid transit and others asking various questions such wither or not to include a green curriculum in state education or asking for the politicians to talk more on some of their positions.

After questions and answers finished, the video statement from John Kerry began to play. Kerry noted that there are still skeptics of global warming and climate change in Congress who "test the science" despite the efforts and research of Al Gore and the United Nations and noting that "the White House is the last place for change."

He then went on to say that the world needed a new international treaty on climate change and noted that America is horrendous when it comes to energy efficiency. Kerry also noted that the Bush administration resisted the change and the points of the climate conference in Bail; "Luckily, time is almost up," added Kerry.

Kerry went on to mention the need for massive new research on new energy and capturing carbon and noted he was working with Alaska's senator, Ted Stevens on pushing for sequestering plants.

Kerry continued the theme of environmental conservation and change by topping off his statement by reminding the crowd of first Earth Day and how it lead to the creation of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and the Environmental Protection Agency and it noted it happened because of people's

actions.

Wikinews interviews Brad Lord-Leutwyler, independent candidate for US President

While nearly all cover of the 2008 Presidential election has focused on the Democratic and Republican candidates, there are small political parties offering candidates, and those who choose to run without a party behind them, independents.

Wikinews is interviewing some of these citizens who are looking to become the 43rd person elected to serve their nation from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

Our third interview is with Henderson, Nevada's Brad Lord-Leutwyler, a professor of logic and critical thought at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Capitalisation and formatting is that of the candidate, not Wikinews.

Interview

Why do you want to be President? I do not WANT to be the President. The major party candidates have two fatal flaws: They cannot "make change happen" because they will always have to fight the other party in congress, and they are all so indebted to their contributors that they are going to have to "pay back" the FIFTY to ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS they raised with special favors. OBAMA is guilty of doing it already, as are McCain and Clinton. NOT I. CHANGE WILL ONLY COME FROM AN INDEPENDENT PRESIDENT. Congress will KNOW that the People have had enough if I am sent to Washington, and they WILL make the change we demand for fear of WE THE PEOPLE voting them out of office too: they love their cushy jobs, and WE need to make them fearful of losing them.

I WILL END THE WAR
I WILL SECURE THE BORDER
I WILL WIPE OUT POVERTY
I WILL FIX THE EDUCATION CRISIS
I WILL GET UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE.

Have you ever run for political office before?
NO

Have you ever been a member of a political party, other than the one you're currently in?
I AM NOT A MEMBER OF A PARTY NOW. I used to belong to the democratic and republican parties until BOTH of those parties put the interests of their party above that of the people.

Have you ever campaigned for another political candidate?
NO

What is your current job?
COLLEGE PROFESSOR -Teacher of Logic and critical thought at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

What skills or ideas do you bring from this position, or previous positions, that will benefit the Oval Office?
ALL OF OUR IDEAS ARE POSTED AT WWW.VOTEFORBRAD.COM. They are not designed to benefit the oval office. They are designed to benefit ALL AMERICANS.

Obviously, the next American President and his or her administration will face many diverse issues. But if you were to narrow identify the three most important issues, what would they be? How will you address these issues?
1) WAR/NATIONAL SECURITY- End it NOW. Bring the troops home. See WWW.VOTEFORBRAD.COM for details.
2) ECONOMY - Banks and

financial/investment institutions have had the last seven years to prove how they will behave under relaxed regulation. They created the sub-prime debacle in the process. They cannot be trusted to act in a responsible manner which takes into account the best interest of the American people. Rather, they act in a greedy and selfish fashion. These key institutions need greater regulatory oversight. Also, government spending needs to be brought under control. Obama says that he will pay for his plans with the money he saves by ending the war. THIS IS A LIE! The war is funded by deficit spending. Stopping the war and then spending the money is STILL DEFICIT SPENDING.

3) POVERTY/EDUCATION - Education and poverty are intimately linked. Thomas Jefferson knew it. MLK knew it. I learned it from them. When you deny proper education, you create poverty, you weaken your economy, you weaken your defenses, you WEAKEN your nation. NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND must be eliminated and replaced with an intelligent plan, not a specious, knee-jerk fool's errand.

Campaigning for the American presidency is one of the most expensive exercises in the world. How do you deal with the cost and fundraising?

WE HAVE OVER 3,000,000 supporters and we have not spent a dime. Word of mouth on the internet is our primary way of promoting the campaign. IT IS OBSCENE to be spending 150 MILLION DOLLARS on a campaign. It is also irresponsible and immoral. I REFUSE to do it.

Do you have a running mate yet? Who are they? What are you/were you looking for in a running mate?

WE ARE DRAFTING GEN. COLIN POWELL AS OUR RUNNING MATE.

Can you win the 2008 Presidential election? Can any third party or independent candidate ever win? ANY person can win the Presidency. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE need to take responsibility for their government, STOP FALLING FOR EMPTY SLOGANS and start THINKING about who they are voting for and why. As soon as Americans THINK about those issues, the major parties will be in serious trouble.

If you can't make it into the Oval Office, who would you prefer seeing taking the presidency? Colin Powell.

What should the American people keep in mind, when heading to the polls this November?

Vote for the best candidate with the best team of thinkers. Republicans voted for Bush because they did not want Kerry, NOT because they loved Bush. Now, MOST republicans regret their choice. Democrats do the same thing. THE BEST CANDIDATE and team is found at WWW.VOTEFORBRAD.COM. If you vote with your BRAIN and NOT with irrational fear (i.e. "If I vote for Brad, I might be helping candidate XXX win." is irrational, illogical and IS WHY WE ARE IN THE MESS WE ARE IN.

Wikinews interviews Steve Kissing, independent candidate for US President

While nearly all coverage of the 2008 Presidential election has focused on the Democratic and Republican candidates, there are small political parties offering candidates, and those who choose to run without a party behind them, independents.

Wikinews is interviewing some of these citizens who are looking to become the 43rd person elected to serve their nation from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

Our second interview is with Cincinnati, Ohio's Steve Kissing, a divorced father of two who is a creative director at an advertising agency.

[edit]
Interview

Why do you want to be President? In a very real sense, I don't want to be President of the United States. It's not something I've been planning or hoping to do. (Though I have long-fantasized about "sleeping with" my wife in the Lincoln Bedroom.) But I know, at the very core of my being, that true and dramatic change is required and that someone, a non-politician, must step forward. Rather than stand on the sidelines and wonder why no one was volunteering to lead the revolution, I thought it only fair and responsible to toss my own hat into the ring.

I want to help bring about a true sea change, one that will lead to a better America, and a better world. Specifically, I want to help lay to rest, permanently, the political class and establishment. This blood-sucking behemoth, which many of us have resigned ourselves to living with, is more concerned about power than prosperity, more interested in power than peace, more vested in power than eradicating poverty.

Have you ever run for political office before?

I have never run for a political office, outside of student government. I consider this a strength, not a weakness.

We keep expecting politicians to

bring about real change as it relates to health care, education, the environment and other key concerns of all Americans. But real change rarely comes from our politicians who often seem more eager to appear on the Sunday morning talk shows than to get real, bi-partisan work accomplished. This is also why one of my slogans is: "Elect a person, not a politician."

Over the years (I am 44 years old), I have voted for Republicans, Democrats and Independents. I have done a small bit of campaigning for candidates running for local offices at the city or county level. But it has been years since I have done so.

What is your current job? What skills or ideas do you bring from this position, or previous positions, that will benefit the Oval Office? I have spent nearly 25 years in the advertising industry, and I am currently a creative director at an ad agency called [thinkbarefoot.com Barefoot], located in Cincinnati.

Through my profession, I have come to appreciate that how things are communicated is just as important as what is being communicated. Sometimes the words we choose or the method we select to share an idea gets in the way of people appreciating it and embracing it. Why is this important? Because a President who is attentive to not only what he is saying, but how he is saying it, is apt to be more effective at rallying people to a common cause.

My work in advertising, for which I have won many awards, has demanded that I generate creative solutions, and help inspire them in others, virtually every single day. I know how to "think outside the box." Why is this important? We all know that our country and world

face major challenges, to put it mildly. Our only hope in overcoming these challenges is our ability to generate innovative solutions.

Identify the three most important issues, what would they be? How will you address these issues?

Global warming. I endorse tax incentives and government grant programs to support and reward those private-sector initiatives aimed at developing renewable energy sources, or improving the efficiency of traditional, carbon-based energy sources.

In addition, I have proposed that NASA be "repurposed" for two to three decades to help fight global warming. What I envision is asking the very bright scientists and engineers at NASA to direct their gaze down at Earth rather than up in the stars. This way, we can tap into their collective brainpower to help develop new technologies to improve energy efficiency and to slow global warming.

I have long been a fan of NASA and space travel, and I understand and appreciate the many benefits of space exploration. But the need is so great to slow, and eventually halt, global warming, that drastic measures are required.

National Security. As President, I would keep a healthy military and intelligence budget, all along making sure that we are training and caring for our soldiers as they prepare and wait for duty, as they are assigned and as they return and adjust to civilian life. Our record on this hasn't been pretty of late. I would also raise the pay of all military personnel. Finally, I would make sure that we have the best-equipped fighting force in the world.

I would work quickly to secure our borders by putting additional measures in place: monitored fencing; more border crossing

guards; small, mobile groups of elite soldiers to "spot check" our borders; more resources for the Coast Guard to protect our shores; and more human and technical resources to monitor those who come to play or work in our country.

We need to talk more with other nations, especially those we consider enemies or those that are particularly influential in world affairs. As such, I will invest in a more robust diplomatic core, particularly with China and the Middle East.

I will also work with diplomats as well as community and religious leaders to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding among the great faiths of the world, particularly, though not exclusively, between Christianity and Islam.

Finally, as noted above, I will be an advocate for new technologies and more eco-friendly ways of living that can drastically reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Education and Healthcare. I combine these issues because, if America is to remain a vibrant nation, our citizens must be strong and nimble when it comes to both mind and body.

I support vouchers and privatized education. Let's allow the free market and competition improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our educational system.

We need to also better compensate our teachers, but we must also hold them to higher standards of excellence. Teachers have an important, tough job, but too many have "tuned out". I would love our culture to evolve to the point where teaching is given the respect, admiration and financial incentives that, say, doctors and lawyers do.

We absolutely need universal health care, but the free market should remain at the helm, with

private companies competing for the government's business. In addition, our national healthcare program must focus on patient education, motivation and preventative health. Treating people via the emergency room for conditions that could have easily been prevented with some attentive care, need to be eliminated.

Campaigning for the American presidency is one of the most expensive exercises in the world. How do you deal with the cost and fundraising?

The fact that it costs so much to run for President should alarm every American. The huge sums of money required to be a viable candidate only serve to keep politics and politicians focused on money, and those who provide it and the special interest they represent.

I am hoping to rely on my own creativity and that of my supporters to get our message out. With any luck, our "untainted" message will breakthrough. I'm not foolish enough to expect that this will be easy, or that it's likely. But my longing for a different kind of politics, and a different kind of politician keeps me hopeful.

Do you have a running mate yet? Who are they? What are you looking for in a running mate? I do not have a running mate, but I am seeking nominations on my website (kissing4prez.org). I'm looking for someone who shares my fundamental belief that politics as usual needs to go, and fast. I am looking for someone with a proven track record in generating creative thoughts and solutions; someone who is open-minded and willing to make compromises; some who is hopeful and optimistic. Since my campaign doesn't have a significant budget,

I would love to have a vice-presidential candidate who has some forum, be that via celebrity, a popular blog or even just being in a band. Personally, I would love to have a candidate who is a person of color, and, ideally, a non-Christian. In fact, I would be most pleased to have a Muslim on my ticket.

Can you win the 2008 Presidential election? Can any third party or independent candidate ever win? The odds are miniscule, at best, that I can win this election. I know that. I'm not a moron. Nor am I delusional. Or high (at least not at this moment). But I forge on, helping raise awareness for the issues that I think are most pressing. And I want to help encourage people to say bon voyage to the status quo brought to us (and protected) by professional politicians and those who stuff their pockets. People are so frustrated with politicians and politics as usual that I do believe an independent or third-party candidate can indeed win.

If you can't make it into the Oval Office, who would you prefer seeing taking the presidency? Someone who is not a professional politician. Someone with big ideas. Someone with "balls." Someone ● with humility.

What should the American people keep in mind, when heading to the polls this November?

Two words: Steve Kissing

English FA Cup news: February 16, 2008

Four games were played in the fifth round of the FA cup on February 16, 2008. Information on each match can be found below. Bristol Rovers, Chelsea, Barnsley and Manchester United

have qualified for the Quarter Finals of the FA Cup.

Bristol Rovers 1–0 Southampton

The match started at 12:30 (UTC) and no goals were scored in the first half although there were shots taken by both side. Bristol Rovers scored in the 84th minute from a free kick. The match was calm, with no aggression between the fans, although chants like "you're not singing any more," were sang by both sides at various points in the game. Both the South Stand and the Visitors Terrace contained Southampton supporters, with the other stands continuing Rovers supporters.

Statistics

Goals

- Goal scored by Lambert in 83rd minute (Bristol Rovers)

Bookings

- Wright got given a Yellow card in the 89th minute (Southampton)
- Hammill got given a Yellow card in the 88th minute (Southampton)
- Euell got given a Yellow card in the 84th minute (Southampton)
- Viafara got given a Yellow card in the 51st minute (Southampton)

Liverpool 1–2 Barnsley

At 32 minutes into the match the first goal was for Liverpool. The goal was scored by Kuyt and it was set up by Babel. Barnsley scored a goal at both 57 and 90 minutes into the game with them being scored by Foster and Howard respectively.

Statistics

Goals

- Goal scored by Kuyt in 32nd minute (Liverpool)
- Goal scored by Foster in

57th minute (Barnsley)
Goal scored by Howard in 90th minute (Barnsley)

Bookings

- Alonso got given a Yellow card in the 60th minute (Liverpool)
- Carragher got given a Yellow card in the 86th minute (Barnsley)
- Van Homoet got given a Yellow card in the 63rd minute (Barnsley)

Chelsea 3–1 Huddersfield Town

The first goal was scored 18 minutes into the game with the goal going to Chelsea. Two minutes later another shot was taken although it was saved by the Huddersfield goalkeeper. Huddersfield equalized in the injury time of the first half, making the score at half time 1-1.

Statistics

Goals

- Goal scored by Lampard in 17th minute (Chelsea)
- Goal scored by Foster in 59th minute (Chelsea)
- Goal scored by Kalou in 69th minute (Chelsea)
- Goal scored by Collins in 45th minute (Huddersfield)

Bookings

- No Yellow cards issued in the match.

Manchester United 4–0 Arsenal

The match kicked off at 17:15 (UTC) and the first goal was scored at only 14 minutes into the match. The second goal was scored five minutes later by Darren Fletcher with a shot from the penalty area. The third goal for Manchester United was scored by Nani at 39 minutes into the game. At this point many reporters on the match said that Arsenal were unlikely to win. The fourth goal was scored in the 74th minute of

the match. During the 89th minute a shot was saved by Lehmann, the Arsenal goalkeeper.

Statistics

Goals

- Goal scored by Rooney in 16th minute (Manchester United)
- Goal scored by Fletcher in 20th minute (Manchester United)
- Goal scored by Nani in 38th minute (Manchester United)
- Goal scored by Fletcher in 74th minute (Manchester United)

Bookings

- Fedianand got given a Yellow card (Manchester United)
- Rooney got given a Yellow card (Manchester United)
- Fletcher got given a Yellow card (Manchester United)
- Eduardo got given a Yellow card (Arsenal)
- Silva got given a Yellow card (Arsenal)
- Adebayor got given a Yellow card (Arsenal)
- Eboue got given a Yellow card in the 49th minute (Arsenal)

Bush starts off Africa trip in Benin

U.S. President George W. Bush, accompanied by his wife Laura, began his five-nation trip to Africa today in Benin, where he met with President Yayi Boni and participated in a joint press conference. This is Bush's second visit to Africa and the first time any US president has visited Benin. Topics that were discussed included malaria, cotton, and the crises in Kenya and Darfur.

At the press conference, held at Cadjehoun International Airport in Cotonou, Yayi thanked Bush for

coming to visit and praised him for his "great concern for Africa, its well being, and of the development of its people." Bush then commended the government of Benin for their "fight against corruption" and "firm commitment to the investment in its people".

"Your fight against corruption is visible and easy for the people to see," Bush said. "This is such a good lesson ... because leaders around the world have got to understand that the United States wants to partner with leaders and the people, but we're not going to do so with people that steal money, pure and simple." Benin is one of the recipients of the Millenium Challenge Account, which aims to foster economic growth in countries that are deemed to have effective governments and economic freedom.

On the topic of malaria, Bush mentioned the Malaria Initiative, which intends to provide a mosquito net for every child to prevent the spread of the disease. He also mentioned initiatives to facilitate the spread of HIV and AIDS. "We can save lives with an aggressive, comprehensive strategy," Bush said. "And that's exactly what you're putting in place here in Benin."

"The United States wants to partner with leaders and the people, but we're not going to do so with people that steal money, pure and simple."
—George W. Bush

The economy was also an important issue. President Yayi said he and President Bush discussed diversifying Benin's economy away from its dependence on cotton. "He shared his vision with us, and he is

encouraging us to diversify the sources of solutions to the problem that we have today, namely the cotton industry." Yayi says it is hard competing with cotton markets in Asia and the United States. Bush said the World Trade Organization is willing to help Benin's economy, but he also suggested exporting more cotton-based products in addition to raw cotton.

Bush said the United States will help facilitate a peacekeeping force in Darfur, but will not send troops to the region. "I made the decision not to [send troops], upon the recommendation of a lot of the groups involved in Darfur, as well as other folks ... once you make that decision, then there's not many other avenues except for the United Nations and the peacekeeping forces."

When asked about the situation in Kenya, Bush said he has sent Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to visit the country on Monday to support former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in mediating the conflict. "Kenya is an issue ... and that's why I'm sending Secretary Rice there to help the Kofi Annan initiative - all aimed at having a clear message that there be no violence and that there ought to be a power-sharing agreement," said Bush.

White House national security adviser Stephen Hadley said Rice's visit will only last a few hours. "It's basically to go in, give some impetus, but then step out and let Kofi Annan continue his diplomacy," he said. At a press briefing aboard Air Force One, one reporter questioned what could be accomplished in a few hours and asked why the President didn't go to Kenya instead. Ambassador Jendayi Frazer answered with,

"Secretary Rice's engagement on Kenya has been much longer than a few hours. She has been talking to President Kibaki and Raila Odinga before the election, right on the eve of the announcement, immediately after that. And so she's been very much engaged over the last three or four months on dealing with electoral crisis."

"The purpose of her going is to back Kofi's mediation, it's not to take over that mediation," Frazer continued. "President Bush does not need to go to Kenya at this point. At the right moment in time, the President will engage, but right now it's occurring in a very systematic way to back Annan's mediation, not to try to supplant Annan's mediation."

After spending three hours in Benin, Bush flew to Tanzania, where he will stay for three nights. He will then continue his trip in Rwanda, Ghana, and Liberia.

'Blaspheming' movie should be prohibited says Iran government

Iran's Minister of Justice Gholam-Hossein Elham has requested that Dutch politician Geert Wilders' Qur'an film named *Fitna* should be prohibited by the Dutch government, Iranian press-agency IRNA reports. Elham wrote a letter to his Dutch colleague Ernst Hirsch Ballin stating that: "you can stop the process of this satanic and conspiracy movement based on the European Convention on Human Rights".

Freedom of speech cannot be the reason to allow this film, they say. "We also respect freedom of speech, but the insult of holy and ethical values is totally unacceptable," Elham writes. "The rights of Muslims all over the world are violated by this blaspheming

movie." The Qur'an is the holy book for some 1.5 billion Muslims worldwide.

Wilders announced his "shocking" movie to be ready in March 2008.

Dutch diplomat Feith appointed EU Special Representative in Kosovo

Dutch diplomat Pieter Feith was appointed today in Brussels, Belgium as Special Representative for the European Union in Kosovo. Feith will be the highest ranking E.U. representative in Kosovo, and will remain in function until February 2009. He will be in close contact with E.U. Secretary-General Javier Solana and the ministers of foreign affairs from the E.U. countries.

Dutch minister of Foreign Affairs Maxime Verhagen is pleased by Feith's appointment. "The Special Representative for the E.U. in Kosovo is a figurehead. It is good news that the choice for this very important function is made for a Dutchman at this time," says Verhagen. "I am convinced that Pieter Feith will approach the situation with good sense."

Feith, 63, started his career at age 25 at the ministry of Foreign Affairs. He worked at the Dutch embassies of Syria, Germany and Sudan, at the United Nations headquarters in New York and at NATO in Brussels. In 2004 he represented E.U. in Darfur and prepared an E.U.-mission in Iraq that trained police-officials and judges. A year later Feith was in charge of the E.U. operation in Aceh and supervised the peace negotiations between the Indonesian government and the rebels.

Wikinews interviews Frank McEnulty, independent candidate for US President

While nearly all cover of the 2008 Presidential election has focused on the Democratic and Republican candidates, there are small political parties offering candidates, and those who choose to run without a party behind them, independents.

Wikinews is interviewing some of these citizens who are looking to become the 43rd person elected to serve their nation from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

First off is Long Beach, California's Frank McEnulty (b. 1956), a married father of two with an MBA (Venture Management) and BS (Accounting/Finance).

Interview

Why do you want to be President? My name is Frank McEnulty and I am running as an independent candidate for President of the United States in 2008. Crazy right? Well maybe, but I am just way too fed up with how the two major parties are running (or should I say ruining) politics in this country and I feel the need to try and do something about it.

I've noticed over the past several years that most of the political ads are pushing a party, rather than ideas or an individual. "Vote for me, I'm a Republican" or "Vote for me, I'm a Democrat" is all one seems to hear any more. What do these people stand for? Nothing until the party tells them to or else they get cut off from the fountain of money.

Do these candidates have independent thoughts? Maybe, but they never voice them in public because it might not be in line with party doctrine.

Do they ever vote for a bill, law or policy because it is the right thing

to do for the country? Only if the party tells them it is okay to do so. Usually, if a Republican introduces a piece of legislation it must be wrong per the Democrats because the Democrats didn't come up with it.

Usually, if a Democrat introduces a piece of legislation it must be wrong per the Republicans because the Republicans didn't come up with it.

What's wrong with just working together to do what is right for the country regardless of what party you are affiliated with?

If you're as disillusioned with how the political process seems to be working as I am let's get together and make them see how upset we are. None of us can do it by ourselves, but if enough of us band together we can and will make them sit up and take notice. Please visit my website at www.frankforpresident.org to see where I stand on a lot of today's important issues and pass this email along to all your family members and friends, co-workers and everyone else you know. Together we will make a difference because:

"ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IN AMERICA"

Have you ever run for political office before? (President, senate, congress, city councillor, school trustee... etc.) Have you ever been a member of a political party, other than the one you're currently in?

No [I haven't run for before]. Yes, for years I was a member of the Republican Party back when it believed in fiscal responsibility and smaller government. For the last 10 years I was registered as an Independent and I recently became a member of the New American Independent Party. Have you ever campaigned for another political candidate?

No.

What is your current job?

My current job is President and CFO for a group of small, privately owned companies. Although I have managed companies that have been involved in a wide cross section of different industries, the vast majority of my work experience has been in various sectors of the real estate industry.

What skills or ideas do you bring from this position, or previous positions, that will benefit the Oval Office?

During my career I have been called on many times to straighten out problems and get things moving in the right direction. I am a problem solver who can make the tough decisions to get things done and back on track. The problem with almost all politicians these days is that they are politicians and only care about what they need to do to win the next election. What this country needs are statesmen who will look at the big picture and do what is right for all Americans. You don't make everyone happy doing that, the same as you can't always make everyone happy in your business, but if you keep the long-term view it will turn out better for all concerned and make for a stronger more vibrant country that benefits everyone.

Obviously, the next American President and his or her administration will face many diverse issues. But if you were to narrow identify the three most important issues, what would they be? How will you address these issues?

First, the biggest problem facing us now and for generations to come is our dependence on foreign sources of oil and oil in general. We need to immediately start a

"Manhattan Project" for energy independence. We put a man on the moon back in the "dark ages" of technology and I firmly believe that we have the brain power to come up with solutions to the world's energy problems if only we apply ourselves and our resources to the task. We are quickly on our way towards spending \$1,000,000,000,000 (that's a trillion) of your tax dollars on the war in Iraq. If that money had instead been pointed towards new research and development into fuel cells, hydrogen, solar, wind and other technologies, I believe we would already be well on our way to major break-throughs in renewable and alternative energy solutions.

The world and the United States would be much better off if we weren't all relying on a small region of the world for the lifeblood of our economies. The only way to bring the price of oil down is to make it less valuable and the only way to do that is to develop alternative energy sources that can replace oil in everyday life. Not only would this be good for the country and for the future, but it would also go a long ways to reducing Greenhouse gas emissions.

For that reason, I am proposing the following Energy Plan for the United States (and the world) in the following 3 steps.

Short Term - Conservation and Alternative Power

Five to Thirty Years - A Strong Nuclear Program

Long Term - We Need New Technologies - A Manhattan Project for Energy Independence

Please see my website at <http://frankforpresident.org/FRANKemails.htm#email11> for more details on this and other policies my administration will be following.

Second, the next biggest problem

facing us now and for generations to come is our fiscal irresponsibility.

There are fewer topics concerning our current political landscape that get me more upset than the fiscal irresponsibility of our Congress and President. As President, I promise to veto any and all bills that include the barrels of pork as discussed below. If we don't get our country back on a footing of fiscal responsibility soon, we are going to leave a bankrupt, second level economy to our children and grandchildren. The President is our leader and he needs to act like one and do what is right for the country now and in the future.

Under the "fiscal restraint" of the Republicans our deficit has ballooned and spending has increased (even ignoring the war in Iraq) at a greater pace than at almost any time in the history of our country. There was the hope and, as we were promised by the Democrats during the last Congressional elections, that they would show some fiscal restraint and get the country back on a path of fiscal responsibility, but the current Congress has shown they can even outspend the spendthrift Republicans. Without a truly Independent President our spending will never go down as they will always be trying to buy votes for the parties.

Third, the next biggest problem facing us now is illegal immigration.

The facts are simple. The President and his administration have conspired with the large business and agricultural interests in our country to artificially depress and hold-down wages. They have done this at a tremendous cost to all law-abiding, tax-paying American citizens and it needs to stop now! It is also in the process of bankrupting a large number of our states, counties and cities because

of the cost of dealing with illegal immigrants and their families. If the illegal immigration problem had not occurred most state and local governments would be in a financing surplus situation and wages across the board for entry level jobs would be higher.

The problem of illegal immigration actually has a very simple solution. Start enforcing the penalties against the hiring of illegal immigrants and you will remove the major attraction that draws people to this country illegally - jobs. Without jobs and the prospect of a much better life the vast majority of people will stay home.

As President I would do one thing to ensure that this situation doesn't happen again, I would make sure our laws are enforced. First, I would instruct all agencies under my jurisdiction to strictly enforce and apply the rules against hiring illegal immigrant workers. Second, I would direct that all instances of hiring of illegal aliens be subject to penalty by jail time - real jail time, not a "country club" jail. It's real simple for an employer to pay a fine and move on - that's just a cost of doing business. It's not so simple to ignore the threat of real jail time in a real criminal jail. No one wants to face that prospect.

Third, there would be no Federally funded benefit programs available to illegal immigrants further removing incentives to come here illegally.

Fourth, I believe we need to change the Constitution so that only those born of American citizens become citizens of this country upon birth. The founders of our country could and would have never envisioned the fact that there are hundreds of thousands of babies being born each year in United States hospitals solely so their parents

can use their anchor babies as an excuse to demand to stay here and take benefits from the rest of us.

It's really that simple. If the laws are enforced and there aren't any jobs or free government benefits for illegal aliens then there will be no reason for them to sneak across the border and come here.

Campaigning for the American presidency is one of the most expensive exercises in the world. How do you deal with the cost and fundraising?

The Internet is a wonderful vehicle for getting the word out about my campaign. The Internet is the base and then I rely on individuals to tell those they know and before long you build up a real snowball effect. The vast majority of the money spent by the major candidates is a complete waste of money. When was the last time that someone listened to an entire political campaign ad, didn't hang up on a computer generated phone call or actually read the campaign literature that was received in the mail before tearing it up? Unfortunately, today's major party politics believe in spending vast quantities of money, but rarely spending it smart. Sounds like how our government operates as well.

What are you/were you looking for in a running mate?

I will be looking for someone who is smart, wants what is best for all Americans, is a moderate, a fiscal conservative and will put forth the time and effort to run in a real campaign. I also believe that my running mate needs to be a business person because the government is a business and needs to run more like one. I'm not worried about being outsiders in the Washington scene, because I believe that gridlock is good for

the following reason. If there is gridlock, then only legislation that makes sense for all Americans and benefits the vast majority of all Americans will get passed. We've got hundreds of thousands of laws. We don't need new ones every day.

Can you win the 2008 Presidential election?

I am willing to admit that my chances of winning the 2008 Presidential election are slight, but there is still a chance for the simple reason that I do not see a candidate on either the Republican or Democratic side who is looking to do what is best for all Americans and I strongly believe that most Americans are still looking for that person to lead them as their President.

Can any third party or independent candidate ever win?

Yes, I believe the odds of a third party or independent candidate improve with every Presidential election. People are becoming more and more frustrated with what they perceive as a complete lack of interest on the part of politicians, including their President, with what is best of the country. The more noise the third party and independent candidates make, the more people will realize there is another choice and the better their chance becomes of winning the White House.

If you can't make it into the Oval Office, who would you prefer seeing taking the presidency? None of the current candidates from the two major parties are suitable to be President at this time. Right now, and I have heard this from a lot a people, it will be a choice of hold your nose and vote for who you think might do the least amount of damage. None of the major candidates remaining

(who have a chance per the newspapers) have any desire to do what is right for America in the long-term and do what is right for all Americans and not just what will get their party members elected and reelected. Hard, unpopular decisions need to be made to get our country back on a decent track and no politician from a major party will take that track.

What should the American people keep in mind, when heading to the polls this November?

That this is your country and there are options. Just because the Democrats have this person and the Republicans have that person doesn't mean there isn't someone else better out there. A Presidential election is always important and this one is more important than most recent ones due to our current fiscal, energy and other troubles. Do a little work, see who is truly best for America and then vote that way. The person may not win, but if enough people do this a message will get sent that even the major parties will have to listen to eventually.

2008 Taipei International Book Exhibition: More events, more visitors in the weekend

In the weekend of the 2008 Taipei International Book Exhibition at the Taipei World Trade Center, several participating publishers from Comic Hall (Hall 2) and General Book Hall (TWTC Hall 1) successively held several signing, meeting, and seminar events for different reading populations. Especially in the Comic Hall, several fans had waited for a long time before the opening hour.

In the Signing Area of Comic Hall, due to several notable Japanese authors arriving for the signing events, the organizers restricted

the flow of participants through the signing area. Not only the Comic Hall, since several entertainers from Taiwan came to the TWTC Hall 1, several media and drama fans expected some signing events in Hall 1.

With several signing, meeting, and seminar events this weekend, good weather in Taipei, and the 2008 Taipei Lantern Festival held in the Xinyi Shopping Area and Taipei City Hall Square, the TBFF predicted that the peak of visitors will be determined with those events above, weekend hours, and extensions of the opening hour.

Controversial operetta singer Heesters back in the Netherlands after 45 years

For the first time in over 45 years, Dutch operetta singer Johannes Heesters sings in his home town of Amersfoort today. Heesters is, at age 104, the oldest performing artist in the world. Despite his advanced age, he is still active in Germany and Austria both on stage and television.

Heesters has been controversial since he moved to Germany in the 1930s. He continued to perform in Nazi Germany during the Second World War, and was accused of paying a visit to perform at the Dachau concentration camp. Nazi leader Adolf Hitler attended his shows more than once.

Hostile attitudes toward Heesters did not ebb after the end of the war. In 1963 he was cast in a Dutch production of *The Sound of Music* as Captain von Trapp, but the Dutch audience boycotted the show. He went back to Germany, but is still a Dutch citizen.

Heesters' biggest wish was to perform in Amersfoort once again. His past is however not forgotten,

and there will be organised protest actions against Heesters in Amersfoort before, during and after his show. For security reasons the Amersfoort police will check visitors to the concert for dubious objects.

Hein van Kasbergen, spokesman for the committee "Heesters Raus" ("Heesters, get out!" in German) says: "Heesters is like the inventor of the A-bomb: he has blood on his hands and with his shows he has extended the war."

According to researcher David Barnouw of Dutch Institute for War Documentation, Heesters was not a major war criminal, and there is no proof that he performed in the Dachau camp. "It is nonsense to suggest that there was a warm relationship between Heesters and Adolf Hitler," says Barnouw.

National Hockey League news: February 16, 2008

Atlanta Thrashers @ New Jersey Devils

New Jersey scored first on a Zack Parise goal late in the first period. Brian Gionta would give the Devils a 2 goal lead in the second period, but Atlanta would cut their deficit in half less than a minute later with an Ilya Kovalchuk goal. Todd White would tie the score on a power-play goal. The Devils would retake the lead in the third period on a goal by John Madden, but the Thrashers would score on a Marian Hossa goal with 19 seconds left to send the game to overtime. After a scoreless 5 minutes of 4-on-4 hockey, the game went into a shootout. After nine rounds ending with a tie, it was Pascal Dupuis who scored on Martin Brodeur. Johan Hedberg stopped Arron Asham to give the Thrashers their first win against the Devils this season.

Washington Capitals @ Florida Panthers

Rostislav Olesz made his return to the Panthers lineup after injuring his hand on January 16, and scored the first goal 5:52 into the game. Alexander Semin would score on an a Washington power-play early in the second period to tie the score at one goal a piece. Tomas Fleischmann earned his two-year contract extension by giving Washington their first lead of the game in the opening minute of the third period, his 7th of the season. Nathan Horton would re-tie the score 3 minutes later, but the Panthers would retake the lead on a Kamil Kreps goal at 8:27 in the third. David Booth would salt the Panthers victory with an empty net goal in the final minute of the game. Florida now sits tied with two other teams, including Washington, with 60 points in the Southeast Division.

Columbus Blue Jackets @ Detroit Red Wings

Rick Nash put the Jackets on the board first, and Fredrik Modin added another for Columbus a few minutes later, assisted by Nash. It was then Nikolai Zherdev who put the Blue Jackets ahead by 3 less than two minutes later. Modin would score his second goal of the night, and Nash his third point of the game with a second assist, at 11:18 in the second period to add to Columbus' lead. Detroit would then replace their goaltender Chris Osgood, for the second straight game, with their backup goalie Jim Howard (Dominik Hasek, who is usually Detroit's backup goaltender is out due to an injured hip flexor). Pavel Datsyuk would put Detroit on the board early in the 3rd period with a power-play goal. Columbus would answer with a Ron Hainsey goal to put the Jackets back up by 4, a lead that would hold through the rest of the

game, and give the Detroit Red Wings, the top ranked team in the NHL, their fifth straight loss.

Dallas Stars @ Anaheim Ducks

Teemu Selanne made his return to the Honda Center after coming out of retirement during Anaheim's 9 game road-trip. Chris Kunitz put the Ducks on the board first early in the game. Mike Ribeiro scored on a 5-on-3 power-play to tie the score for the Stars. With Dallas on the power-play in the second period, Stephane Robidas gave the Stars their first lead of the game with a slap-shot from just inside the blue-line that Anaheim goaltender Jean-Sebastien Giguere didn't see coming. Late in the second period, Dallas would take advantage of their second 5-on-3 power-play when Robidas scored his second goal of the game in the closing minutes of the second period. Kunitz would score his second goal, which deflected off the skate of Stars defender Nicklas Grossman and past goaltender Marty Turco, to cut the lead in half. An empty-net goal by Steve Ott in the final seconds of the game iced the Stars 8th victory in 9 games, and snapped Anaheim's 5 game winning streak.

Calgary Flames @ Los Angeles Kings

The Calgary Flames are 3-0-0 in their season series with the Los Angeles Kings. Kevin Dallman started the scoring for the Kings, his first goal of this NHL season, his second career goal as a King. Alexander Frolov and Derek Armstrong assisted. Daymond Langkow would tie the score just over a minute later, but Los Angeles would answer with a Brian Boyle goal at 6:02 in the first period, also assisted by Frolov and Armstrong. Teddy Purcell scored his first career NHL goal at 8:59 to put the Kings up by 2. Dustin Boyd

would cut Los Angeles' lead in half with a Dustin Boyd goal at 12:59. Patrick O'Sullivan would score a short-handed goal to increase the Los Angeles lead by 2. Armstrong would increase that lead a few minutes later, which was assisted by Frolov, to give each their 3rd points of the game. Anze Kopitar would also score for the Kings, assisted by O'Sullivan, to give Los Angeles a 4 goal lead just after the halfway point of the game. Calgary would answer with a goal by Owen Nolan at 5:15 in the third period, but couldn't come up with more goals, despite outshooting the Kings 25-5 in the third period.

Other news

Pittsburgh Penguins will be playing without center Kris Beech, who was placed on injured reserve on Friday with a broken wrist. He was hit by Carolina Hurricanes player Glen Wesley late in the third period in Pittsburgh's 2-4 loss to the Hurricanes Thursday. Carolina captain Rod Brind'Amour was also injured in this game with a torn ligament in his knee.

Chris Simon of the New York Islanders skated with his team on Wednesday for the first time since his 30-game suspension for stepping on Pittsburgh's Jarkko Ruutu's foot on December 15. The first game he would be eligible to play in is the February 21 game against the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Former president Bush, Romney back McCain

Former President George H. W. Bush is reported to have offered his endorsement to Senator John McCain in the 2008 U.S. presidential election. This comes as former Presidential candidate and Governor of Massachusetts Mitt Romney announced his support for McCain on Friday after a bitter primary battle with the

Senator, which ended after Romney exited the race following less than stellar results on Super Tuesday.

Romney, who once referred to McCain as a "liberal Democrat", had a change of heart as he stood by the Senator's side and described McCain as "...a man capable of leading our country at a dangerous hour." McCain accepted the endorsement and thanked the governor. Romney will hand McCain the 280 delegates he won while participating in primaries and caucuses during his campaign.

The endorsement from the 83-year-old former president and father of current President Bush ends his official neutrality on the 2008 presidential race. However, a correlation may exist from the proximity of the endorsements as the Washington Post reports that Bush gave "indications" earlier in the race that he was on Romney's side, citing the facts that many Bush aides worked for Romney and that Romney's 2007 "Faith in America" speech was set at the George H. W. Bush presidential library. Nevertheless, the backing marks the second from a former President in the 2008 race, assuming that Bill Clinton supports his wife, Hillary.

Obituaries: 16 February 2008

The following were some of the deaths reported over the last 12 days:

Feb 8: Phyllis A. Whitney, mystery writer, 104

American mystery writer Phyllis Ayame Whitney died on February 8, from pneumonia. She was 104.

She was born on September 9, 1903 in Yokohama, Japan.

Whitney wrote more than seventy

novels. In 1961, her book *The Mystery of the Haunted Pool* won an Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America for Best Juvenile novel, and she duplicated the honor in 1964, for *The Mystery of the Hidden Hand*. In 1988, the MWA gave her a Grand Master Award for lifetime achievement.

Feb 15: Steve Fossett, Adventurer, 63

Steve Fossett, the US adventurer who set world records in the Fields of Aviation and sailing was confirmed dead on February 15. Although he has been missing since September he was only recently declared dead by a Chicago judge. His body has not yet been discovered.

Six students of Northern Illinois University

Steven Phillip Kazmierczak killed himself after firing shots which killed and injure 16 others in a shooting at the Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois, United States. He was enrolled at the university in the spring semester of 2007.

Today in History

1801 – The U.S. House of Representatives elected Thomas Jefferson as President and Aaron Burr as Vice President of the United States, resolving an electoral tie in the 1800 presidential election.

1854 – Britain recognized the independence of the Orange Free State in the present-day Free State Province, South Africa.

1936 – The Phantom, one of the first modern comic book superheroes with the hallmark skintight costume and a mask with no visible pupils, made his first appearance in a daily newspaper comic strip.

1995 – In the presence of the four guarantor countries of the Rio

Protocol, Ecuador and Peru signed a peace declaration confirming a ceasefire, leading to the official end of the Cenepa War eleven days later.

2003 – The London congestion charge, a fee that is levied on motorists travelling within designated parts of London, came into operation.

Quote of the Day

A voiceless song in an ageless light
Sings at the coming dawn
Birds in flight are calling there
Where the heart moves the stones
It's there that my heart is calling
All for the love of you.
~ Loreena McKennitt ~

Word of the Day

castigate v

1. To punish severely; to criticize severely; to reprimand severely.
2. To revise or make corrections to a publication.

About Wikinews
To view a copy of the CC-BY license, visit: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/ or send a letter to Creative Commons 543 Howard Street, 5th Floor San Francisco, California, 94105, USA
To view a copy of the GFDL, visit: http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html
Wikipedia Current Events http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Current_events Today in History http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page Quote of the Day http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Main_Page Word of the Day http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Main_Page
About Wikinews Print Edition
For more information about Wikinews Print Edition visit: http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Wikinews:Print

About Wikinews
We are a group of volunteer journalists whose mission is to create a diverse community where citizens from around the globe (including you) can collaborate to report the news on a wide variety of current events. By making our content perpetually available for free redistribution and use, we hope to contribute to a global digital commons.
Got news and no computer? Call the Wikinews Hotline +1-866-653-4265 (toll-free in the U.S.) +1-202-742-5918 (outside the U.S.) +44-871-218-6397 (U.K. / Europe)
License
This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License. Articles published in this Print edition were created by Wikinewsies. Other content released under the GNU Free Documentation License.