



### Top Stories

#### Lehman Brothers files for bankruptcy



Credit: David Shankbone - GFDL

Lehman Brothers, a major American investment banker, has filed paperwork for bankruptcy. It would be the largest collapse of an investment firm in 18 years.

#### TV presenter Vernon Kay has to deny death claims after Wikipedia article claims he is dead

News reports have said that British television presenter Vernon Kay has been forced to state that he is not dead after an editor to the free content encyclopedia Wikipedia posted inaccurate claims that he was dead. After seeing these reports, Wikinews decided to investigate these edits further. Visit the article to see the results of Wikinews' investigation.



#### Large particle accelerators to explore the frontiers of physics

Large Hadron Collider (LHC), that started preliminary experiments on September 10, 2008 in CERN, Geneva, and the planned International Linear Collider (ILC) will carry out a series of



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experiments in future to validate the standard model of particle physics. The model predicts that Higgs boson particle gives mass to all fundamental particles and explains the existence of dark matter, or invisible matter in between galaxies.

#### IMF and EU approve aid for Georgia

The International Monetary Fund and the European Union approved aid packages to help Georgia recover from its conflict with Russia, which occurred in early August. The IMF loan, which is \$750 million loan, will allow Georgia to rebuild its currency reserves. The European Union also approved a €500 million in aid by 2010, which is expected to help internally displaced people (IDPs) and economic recovery in form of new infrastructure. Only €100 million of the EU aid will be given to Georgia this year.

### Wikipedia Current Events

Governor of Pando Leopoldo Fernández is taken into custody by the armed forces, on charges of hiring hitmen to attack pro-government protesters.

- The United States organises at least two evacuation flights from Bolivia as the political situation worsens.
- Fighting in Somalia has killed 838 people since June, according to local rights activists, bringing the total to have died in an

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insurgency that began early last year to 9,474.

- Russia's most liquid stock exchange MICEX and the dollar-denominated RTS suspend trade for one hour after the worst one-day fall in 10 years as Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin reassured markets there was no "systemic" crisis.
- The United States Federal Reserve agrees to lend the American International Group \$85 billion in return for an 80% stake.

#### Large particle accelerators to explore the frontiers of physics

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LHC is a 27 kilometer long circular high energy particle accelerator took more than 20 years and USD 9 billion dollar to build. In the next few weeks the machine will collide opposing beams of protons charged with approximately 7 TeV of energy resulting in cataclysmic conditions that will mimic the beginning of time, a re-creation of

the Big Bang. It is reported that the studies could also help treat diseases such as cancer, improve the Internet, develop systems for destroying nuclear waste and provide insights into climate change and open the door to travel through extra dimensions.

An upgraded version of LHC was announced, nicknamed the "super LHC". The new accelerator will perform ten times the number of collisions as the current LHC over the same time. The upgrade will feature a new injection system and enhanced detectors to cope with the increase in data packets from collisions.

The bigger International Linear Collider, nicknamed "Einstein's telescope", is planned by the International Technology Recommendation Panel (ITRP). The ILC will have a collision energy of 500 GeV and will collide electrons with particles of antimatter, called positrons, along a 30-40 km completely straight tunnel. ILC's two giant "guns" pointing at each other would be able to accelerate electrons and positrons to near-light speeds before smashing them together.

"The LHC smashes protons together to discover new particles but also generates lots of debris that obscures the fine detail. The ILC would be a much cleaner machine and tell us far more about their real nature." says Brian Foster, professor of experimental physics at Oxford University and European director of the project. The host country for the ILC has not yet been chosen but it is planned to have the machine constructed by late 2010. The new machine will cost an estimated USD 7 billion to build. Physicists hope that ILC might be able to resolve some of the questions

raised by Einstein's theories of relativity.

### **TV presenter Vernon Kay has to deny death claims after Wikipedia article claims he is dead**

News reports have said that British television presenter Vernon Kay has been forced to state that he is not dead after an editor to the free content encyclopedia Wikipedia posted inaccurate claims that he was dead.

He said that "I am alive and kicking. A few friends rang to check that I was all right. I wish I was on a yacht in Greece," in response to the claims.

After seeing these reports, Wikinews decided to investigate these edits further.

Wikinews learned that the first of these edits was made by a user contributing from the IP address 86.22.190.95. The IP address was from the United Kingdom and used by a user of the Virgin Media internet service.

The IP address added the claim at 10:05 UTC on September, 13 2008. They claimed that "Vernon Kay sadly passed away after falling off a yacht on Holiday in Greece."

The next user to add to the claims was contributing from the IP address 86.22.191.253, which was also from the United Kingdom and used by a user of the Virgin Media internet service. This user claimed that "his funeral will be held on Friday the 19th of September in Bolton," in addition to expanding on the report of his death.

At 11:11 UTC, over one hour after the claim was initially made, a new user, who identified himself as Woody55, removed the claims that

he was dead, saying that Kay is "not dead."

Just six minutes later, however, the claims were re-added. An edit war then took place with several contributors adding and removing the complaints over the next few days. The article was protected from editing by anonymous and new users by a Wikipedia administrator.

### **Wikinews visits the 2008 Reno Air Races**

The last pass is flown, the final lap completed, the winner has long since left the circle with "Gold Unlimited" race trophy. The only thing left of the 45th National Championship Air Races & Air Show, in Reno, NV is the awards dinner, which will take place away from the airfields and hangars, and the photos and memories of the event.

The week's festivities and hard fought races came to its climax on Sunday with the final races for the Biplane, Formula One, Jet, Sport, T-6, and Unlimited classes. This year saw some of the fastest races in its history as records were set in 4 classes; the Biplane Gold at 251 mph, the Jet Gold at 510 mph, the T-6 gold at 244 mph, and the Sport Class SuperSport Gold at 392 mph.

The highlight of the week was, of course, the Unlimited Gold Class race. The winner was Bill 'Tiger' Destefani in the P-51D Mustang, Strega. He finished the 8 lap, 66.9 mile course with a fastest lap of 483 mph. Additionally, this is Destefani's 7th championship as well as his last year of racing. The Second and Third places went to Dan Martin in Dago Red and Michael Brown in September Fury, respectively.

## Economics take over Canadian leaders' talking points

With Bay Street in turmoil in sympathy with Wall Street, Canadian party leaders traded slurs over the slowing economy and measures to secure it against the slump happening south of the border.

"We have the worst economy in the G8, our labour productivity has fallen for nine months straight and over the summer in July we saw the largest single month of jobs losses in 17 years," Stéphane Dion said as the Liberal leader worked through St. John's, N.L. Dion is hoping to sweep Newfoundland and Labrador's 7 seats, capitalizing on N.L. Premier Danny Williams's feud with the federal Conservatives over broken promises made by Stephen Harper in the Atlantic Accord.

Campaigning in Nova Scotia, New Democratic Party's Jack Layton lashed the Conservatives for failing to protect consumers. "Of course with Mr. Harper, we don't see any willingness to really address the need to stand on behalf of Canadian consumers. He won't even support the notion of the monitoring of gas prices, let alone the kinds of initiatives that really should be taken here in Canada to make sure that the consumers of investment products are being protected."

Harper was working the Liberal-held riding of Ottawa-Vanier, where he announced a program to allow entrepreneur's to extend their maternal leave up to 6 months using the Employment Insurance program with an estimated cost of \$147 million. He said the country wasn't ready for "wild experiments", but should adopt a cautious approach to the economy in uncertain times.

"Canada has been brought to the brink of a deficit for the first time in over a decade," Elizabeth May of the Greens said in a press release on their website on Monday.

"Stephen Harper's leadership deficit is driving us into economic deficit and his failure to manage the economy in uncertain times must not be allowed to continue."

The parties also threw out economic planks for their platforms: to support the fishermen of N.L as well as the environment, Dion announced a \$250 million dollar fund to help fishermen upgrade their equipment with "green" technology as well as \$70 million to retire licenses. The Greens suggested their financial plan, which includes embracing a low-carbon economy, would improve Canada's economic outlook. The NDP promised \$1 billion over 5 years for more nurses and doctors.

The backdrop to all these economic statements was a 515 point drop on the TSX as markets reacted to the bankruptcy filing of 158 year old financial firm Lehman Brothers, as well as a surprising drop in the Canadian dollar relative to the US dollar which itself lost ground against the Euro and other world currencies. Even as the dollar dropped, so did the price of oil futures and gold, partially explaining the Canadian dollar's weakness.

## IMF and EU approve aid for Georgia

The International Monetary Fund and the European Union approved aid packages to help Georgia recover from its conflict with Russia, which occurred in early August. The IMF approved a US \$750 million loan which will allow Georgia to rebuild its currency

reserves. The European Union also approved an aid package of €500 million in aid by 2010, which is expected to help internally displaced people (IDPs) and economic recovery in the form of new infrastructure. Only €100 million of the EU aid will be given to Georgia this year.

These loans are aimed to restore confidence in Georgia's economy and send a signal to international investors that Georgia's economy is sound. According to the IMF, international investors have been "critical to Georgia's economic growth in recent years."

Takatoshi Kato, Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chairman of the IMF executive committee, said the loan will "make significant resources available to replenish international reserves and bolster investor confidence, with the aim of sustaining private capital inflows that have been critical to Georgia's economic growth in recent years."

Georgia has requested \$2 billion in international aid to help it recover from the conflict. So far, the United States has pledged \$1 billion in aid. Further assistance and loans to Georgia are expected from other organizations. Kato noted that "...Georgia is expected to receive financial assistance from multilateral and bilateral donors and creditors in support of the reconstruction effort." It is expected that an international donors' conference will take place next month to solicit more aid for the country.

Georgia's government expects that economic growth will be more than cut in half as a result of the conflict. Last year, Georgia's GDP was 12.4% and it's predicted by the IMF that growth will be less than 4 percent.

**Lehman Brothers files for bankruptcy**

Lehman Brothers, a major American investment banker, has filed paperwork for bankruptcy. It would be the largest collapse of an investment firm in 18 years.

Lehman attempted to find a buyer over the weekend but it met with no success. The last remaining bidder, Barclays PLC bank pulled out Sunday afternoon. Barclays, a United Kingdom-based bank, had become the sole bidder after a consortium led by Bank of America pulled out early Sunday morning citing that it would need government support before considering a bid. The support would consist of backing bad debts owed by Lehman. Barclays cited a similar reason for withdrawing its bid.

As of Monday morning, no buyer has come through to take control of the firm. As a result, the firm filed for bankruptcy protection.

The main sticking point for potential buyers appears to be the unwillingness for the U.S. government to provide financial support. Hank Paulson, Treasury secretary, has repeatedly said that no government money will be given to Lehman or used in any takeover the firm. Government money was used in the takeover of Bear Stearns by JPMorgan Chase in March of this year. Bear Stearns suffered similar problems as Lehman.

A spokesmen for Barclays told the Financial Times, "the proposed transaction required a guarantee for the trading operations of Lehman Brothers that was potentially open-ended, and we were not willing to provide that guarantee."

Paulson, along with other government officials, proposed a solution that Lehman would get split into two separate entities. However, this proposal has been discarded by many of Wall Street banks.

Members of the G8 have reportedly been keep abreast of the situation by U.S. government.

The firm, which has over 25,000 staffers, has suffered bad results due to the subprime mortgage crisis.

**Wikipedia Current Events**

Six men have been found guilty of terrorism-related offences in Melbourne, Australia. Abdul Nacer Benbrika was found guilty of intentionally directing the activities of a terrorist organization while five other men were found guilty of being members of the same organization. Four other men were acquitted and the jury is still considering its verdict on two men.

- The United States government opens up a partnership with the Swedish municipality of Södertälje, a city of 80,000 that has received nearly 6,000 Iraqi refugees since the beginning of the Iraq war.
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov admits that he called Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili a "Fucking lunatic" in a conversation with British Foreign Secretary David Miliband.
- Hamas-Fatah conflict: Fierce fighting between Hamas security forces and the pro-Fatah Doghmush organised crime family leaves 5 dead in Gaza City.
- Ukraine's ruling coalition is

**Wikipedia Current Events**

formally dissolved after parties supporting Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, in alliance with the Party of Regions, pushed legislation limiting the powers of President Viktor Yushchenko resulting in his party's withdrawal from the coalition. Tymoshenko's party is expected to form an alliance with the Party of Regions or new elections will be held.

- The employees (not the members) of Oregon's largest teachers' union go on strike against the union itself.
- Malcolm Turnbull is elected as the new leader of the Federal Liberal Party of Australia and Leader of the Opposition following a leadership spill.

**Today in History**

- 1176 – Byzantine–Seljuk wars: The Seljuk Turks prevented the Byzantines from taking the interior of Anatolia at the Battle of Myriokephalon in Phrygia.
- 1787 – The text of the United States Constitution was finalized at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.
- 1939 – World War II: The Soviet Union invaded Poland from the east, sixteen days after Nazi Germany's attack on that country from the west.
- 1976 – Enterprise, the first Space Shuttle built for NASA, was rolled out of the manufacturing facilities in Palmdale, California.
- 1978 – President Anwar Al Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel signed the Camp David Accords after twelve days of secret negotiations at Camp David.
- September 17 is Constitution Day and Citizenship Day in the United States

**Quote of the Day**

The real crazies who are looking for a messiah... after an hour or so they realise I'm not it and go off and look somewhere else.

~ Ken Kesey

**Word of the Day**

ingenue n

1. An innocent, unsophisticated, naive, wholesome girl or young woman.

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