



### Top Stories

#### Rescue workers search wreckage of Brazilian air crash

Brazil's National Civil Aviation Agency has confirmed that flight 1907 crashed on Friday, just over 1,000 miles north-west of Rio de Janeiro killing all on board. Rescue workers and air force personnel are searching the wreckage for bodies.



#### 2,887 ecstasy tablets intercepted at New Zealand International Mail Centre

2,887 ecstasy (Methylenedioxy methamphetamine) tablets were intercepted yesterday morning (NZDT) at the Auckland, New Zealand International Mail Center in a joint operation between New Zealand Customs officials and the New Zealand Police.

### Featured story

#### Contract to buy properties on site of Buffalo, N.Y. hotel proposal extended

Sam Savarino, CEO of Savarino Companies, the development company to be in charge of building the Elmwood Village Hotel at Forest and Elmwood Avenues in Buffalo, New York has told Wikinews in an exclusive interview that the contract to buy the properties from 1109-1121 on Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo has been "extended."



### Wikipedia Current Events

- The Dow Jones industrial average reaches another record high close, rising above 11,850 for the first time.
- A United States Appeals Court in Cincinnati, Ohio rules that the U.S. government can continue to use its warrantless domestic wiretap program pending the Justice Department's appeal of a federal judge's ruling outlawing the program.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Food and Drug Administration searches two spinach packaging companies in the Salinas Valley in California for evidence related to a recent outbreak of E. coli in the United States and Canada that made 200 people sick.
- The European Union imposes an anti-dumping tariff on leather shoe imports from the Far East - 16.5% on imports from China and 10% on imports from Vietnam. China supplies about 1.25 billion pairs of shoes to the EU each year.
- American Roger Kornberg wins the 2006 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for describing the essential process of gene copying in cells, research that can give insight into illnesses such as cancer and heart disease.
- A former page states that he was warned of Representative Foley's advances by a departing page in 1995. Among his claims are that Foley made him uncomfortable and offered to buy him ice cream

### Wikipedia Current Events

- on several occasions.
- House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert states that he will not resign from his position in the wake of the scandal.

### Hubble discovers 16 new planets



An artist's impression of one type of planet Hubble recently detected

By peering some 20,000 light years into the star-swarms of the Milky Way's central bulge, astronomers using the Hubble Space Telescope have turned up 16 possible new planets crossing the faces of their stars, two of which have been confirmed. Each one of the candidates is a roughly Jupiter-size body that orbits its host star in just 4 days or less. Five of the possible discoveries whip around their stars in less than an Earth day — causing the astronomers to group them into a new class of "ultra-short-period planets."

In results published in this week's edition of the journal Nature the team of astronomers, headed by

Kailash Sahu (Space Telescope Science Institute), used Hubble's Advanced Camera for Surveys to monitor a portion of the galactic bulge in Sagittarius continuously for seven days, shooting one picture every six minutes. They found more than 180 planet candidates; sifting out the best 16 was tough. The biggest source of false alarms was transits by Jupiter-size red dwarf stars. Processing the data took an entire year. "This was the most complex project I have worked on," says Sahu.

This discovery now allows scientists to be relatively certain planets need elements heavier than hydrogen and helium to form. These are typically found in stars that formed after others died, creating a dependence on location and formation. A previous search in 2000 by Dr. Ron Gilliland turned up no planets, even though he assumed they would find as many as 17. The currently accepted reason is that Gilliland's study focused on a stellar nebula, where all of the stars had formed at the same time, and therefore there was a very low abundance of heavier elements.

Sahu knew some scientists would be skeptical of his findings and so he confirmed two of the planets by using the Very Large Telescope (VLT) in Chili to measure the movements of the stars caused by their orbiting partner, a technique known as measuring the radial velocity of the star. Although Sahu believes that at least fifty percent of the candidates have to be planets, he cannot be completely certain. "I think a lot of people will take issue with that," says Dr. Sara Seager, Staff Scientist of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, on

Sahu's uncertainty. "There are lots of nasty tricks nature can pull on us."

More rigorous confirmation will have to wait for new technology, specifically NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, to be launched in 2013. Even so, Seager believes this is still "tremendously exciting. It doubles the amount of transiting planets found!" With two other transiting extrasolar planets announced in September, the confirmed SWEEPS finds brings the number of known — and confirmed — transiting planets to 14.

### **New allegations over the US e-mail scandal hit the Republican party**



*Mark Foley*

The United States media has revealed a possible romantic relation between a young congressional worker and Mark Foley. The media has also revealed that warnings on Mark Foley's conduct has gone as far back as 1995.

Mark Foley, a member of the House of Representatives caucus on missing children, resigned from his post last week after it was revealed that he had sent messages of sexual nature to young men on his staff, the youngest of which has been said to be 16-years-old.

Mark Foley's lawyer has said that his client denies having sexual contacts with a minor and the has checked into a rehabilitation center for alcoholism. His lawyer has also said that his client has declared being gay and that he was abused at a church in his early teens.

The United States president, George W. Bush, said that he was disgusted by Mark Foley's actions; but he defended the Republican House Leader, Dennis Hastert, who has refused to resign over his failure to address the issue sooner.

This has become a dominant issue as the mid-term polls are a month away.

### **2006 Nobel Prize in chemistry for insight into cells**

Roger D. Kornberg of Stanford University won the 2006 Nobel Prize for chemistry "for his studies of the molecular basis of eukaryotic transcription". Kornberg's prize-winning work explains how information encoded in genes is used to produce the proteins that keep cells functioning.

Eucaryotes are a multi-celled organisms, such as animals, plants and fungi, which have their genetic material stored in nuclei within their cells. In order to use their genetic information, eucaryotes must extract bits of the coded information. This occurs via the formation of messenger RNA, which consists of copies of a particular gene within the DNA strand. Protein biosynthesis takes place when proteins are built from the information transcribed with the messenger RNA. Eucaryotic transcription is vital for life. If the transcription is interrupted, as can happen when cells are exposed to certain toxins, the cells will die.

Kornberg documented eucaryotic transcription with snapshots of the process in action. He created the snapshots by crystalizing cellular material partway through transcription, and exposing them to x-rays that produced patterns revealing the intermediate structures. Kornberg's work is vital

for our understanding of life at the molecular level, and may lead to novel drugs and medical treatments.

Kornberg's father Arthur Kornberg won the Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine in 1959 for explaining how organisms make DNA from amino acids.

### **US Nationwide Pollution Permit Restrictions Upheld**

The US Army Corps of Engineers decision to place restrictions on issuance of nationwide pollution permits has been upheld by a federal court. In *National Association of Home Builders v. Army Corps of Engineers*, the District Court for the District of Columbia found that the Corps of Engineers had not acted in an "arbitrary" or "capricious" manner in changing the terms and conditions for issuance of a national pollution permit, including reducing the size of area into which pollutants may be discharged from 10 acres to 1 acre, raising the threshold for requiring additional permits from 1 acre to 1/10 acre,

A nationwide permit allows an organization to engage in certain industrial activities on a national basis (such as mining and construction), reducing the amount of paperwork and filings needed for otherwise minor environmental impacts, as opposed to an ordinary permit for a specific location which will engage in activities which generate water pollution.

Due to concerns over the amount of discharge taking place in waterways, the Corps of Engineers began in the 1980s to reduce the authority granted by nationwide permits and to bar use of the permits in certain ecologically

sensitive areas.

Some industry groups, including the plaintiff in the above case, The National Association of Home Builders, sued the Corps of Engineers in 2000 over the change in an attempt to block its implementation. Environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, were given permission to intervene in the case in support of the actions of the Corps.

Environmental groups were pleased with the decision, but are concerned over other actions of the Bush Administration, such as the attempts to weaken provisions of the 2002 Clean Water Act to allow additional dumping of construction and mining waste into waterways as fill material.

### **2,887 ecstasy tablets intercepted at New Zealand International Mail Centre**

2,887 ecstasy (Methylenedioxymethamphetamine) tablets were intercepted yesterday morning (NZDT) at the Auckland, New Zealand International Mail Center in a joint operation between New Zealand Customs officials and the New Zealand Police. The tablets were being sent to a 32-year-old man living in Timaru from a man living in the United Kingdom. The Timaru man is being charged with importing a class B drug, a controlled substance.

Altogether the tablets had a street value of an estimated NZ\$173,000.

The Timaru man has appeared in the Timaru District Court and will be in custody until Thursday.

Bill Perry, Manager for Drug Investigations at Customs, said: "The parcel was posted from the

United Kingdom to an address in Timaru. This interception highlights New Zealand's growing problem of illicit drug importation."

So far during 2006 Customs has intercepted a total of 6,026 ecstasy tablets, a decrease of 14,033 for the year of 2005 (20,059). "However importations of ecstasy and other MDMA products are still an area of ongoing concern and monitoring for Customs," said Perry.

The International Mail Centre is the hub for all mail entering or leaving New Zealand. Each month the mail center processes around three million incoming mail items and around two and a half million outgoing. Simon Williamson, Manager for the Northern Ports Customs, said: "Customs screens all mail entering the country using a range of methodologies including our officers' skills and experience, x-ray equipment and detector dogs. Volumes of mail are rising and Customs officers are gearing up for the busy Christmas season."

During 2006 crystal methamphetamine seizures by Customs have risen ten-fold relative to the previous year.

### **Historic 'Tree of Knowledge' dies in Queensland, Australia**

The tree said to be the birthplace of the centre-left Australian Labour Party, the Tree of Knowledge, in Barcaldine, Queensland has been pronounced dead by a tree doctor.

In May the 200-year-old tree was poisoned with up 40 liters of Glyphosate, the main ingredient in the herbicide Roundup.

"In May we noticed the leaves falling off it. Now there are no

leaves and the limbs are up there in the air just like a ghost," caretaker and local ALP president Pat Ogden said.

According to party mythology the first branch of the ALP was founded under the tree in 1891 by protesting sheep shearers. They were confronted by 1000 soldiers and police for the colonial government and felt threatened of attack. Eventually their leaders were arrested and replacement workers were brought in.

Mr. Ogden, said on ABC radio, referring to the future of the tree "...it really hasn't been discussed yet, but the general consensus is that we'll prune it right back and leave the main part of the tree there and, sort of make a monument out of it...The council are trustees of it, so it'll be up to them to make a final decision."

However those who fear that this may be the death of the tree's DNA have nothing to fear as there is an offspring tree called Young `Un which was cut during the centenary of the protest and is in the Australian Worker's Heritage Centre in Barcaldine. Local leaders and agricultural officials are trying to create a nursery to create seedlings for sale. The project is still in its trial stage after difficulties in getting the plants to prosper. The Department of Primary Industries are using both grafting and cloning techniques to aid the project.

"If we are successful we could have one in every botanical garden in Australia," says the Mayor of Barcaldine, Rob Chandler.

Tourism for the town increased as people wanted to see the tree before it died.

Mr. Chandler is proposing a farewell ceremony which he hopes will attract many of Labour's highly distinguished.

Police are investigating the poisoning.

The ALP has posted an \$AU10,000 reward for any information that can help catch those responsible.

### **Wikinews Shorts: October 4, 2006**

#### Brisbane Broncos 2006 NRL Premiers

The Brisbane Broncos have won the 2006 National Rugby League Telstra Premiership, defeating the Melbourne Storm 15-8, in front of almost 80,000 fans. The first all non-NSW final was contested between the first placed Storm, who were favourites to win and the third placed Broncos, almost unbackable at \$2.25 at one stage.

Captain Darren Lockyer kicked the field goal which sealed Melbourne's fate, however it was make-shift hooker Shaun Berrigan who won the Clive Churchill medal for most outstanding player on the field.

#### Editing Biologists discover new marine life in Indonesia

52 new species of marine life were found off the coast of Papua, Indonesia, one of the most biodiverse locations on Earth. One species found is a shark that appears to walk on its fins.

The area is a home to more than 1,200 known species of fish. The Research Team, Conservation International, is concerned that the life is threatened by fishing using dynamite and cyanide. As of September 26, 11% of the area is being protected by the Indonesian government.

#### Lenovo Recalls 526,000 ThinkPad Batteries

IBM/Lenovo has announced the voluntary recall of over 526,000 laptop batteries due to manufacturing defects causing a few batteries to catch fire. The defective batteries were manufactured by Sony. This is the fourth recall due to Sony batteries, with prior recalls by Dell, Apple, and Toshiba. The batteries in this recall are believed to be manufactured between February 2005 though September 2006. This recall comes after an incident in a Los Angeles Airport where an IBM/Lenovo laptop caught fire.

### **Today in History**

1877 - After battling U.S. armed forces for more than three months, retreating over 1,000 miles across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana, and enduring a five-day siege, Chief Joseph and his Nez Percé band finally surrendered.

1908 - Prince Ferdinand became the first Tsar of Bulgaria since the Ottoman invasion in the 14th century.

1930 - The British airship R101 crashed in France en route to India on its maiden voyage, killing 48 passengers and crew.

1969 - The first episode of Monty Python's Flying Circus was broadcast on BBC1.

1970 - Members of the Front de Libération du Québec kidnapped a British diplomat, sparking the October Crisis in Montréal, Canada.

October 05 is Republic Day in Portugal (1910)

### **Word of the Day**

pseudonym; n  
A fictitious name, often used by writers.

**Quote of the Day**

Almost all men, and those that seem to be very miserable, love life, because they cannot bear to lose sight of such a beautiful and lovely world. The ideas, that every moment whilst we live have a beauty that we take not distinct notice of, brings a pleasure that, when we come to the trial, we had rather live in much pain and misery than lose.  
~ Jonathan Edwards

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