



Top Stories

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constituency, where a by-election, due to the death of Gwyneth Dunwoody MP, is to be held tomorrow.

Judge continues injunction against 'Expelled' film

A New York Judge ruled to continue a injunction against Premise Media, which effectively prevents Premise, the producers of Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed, from further distribution.



Yoko Ono, Julian Lennon, Sean Lennon, and EMI Blackwood Music, Inc. filed a lawsuit against Premise Media in United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on April 23, 2008 alleging copyright infringement against one of John Lennon's songs.

Pedestrian, three others killed in helicopter crash in British Columbia

A 23-year-old college student was killed last Tuesday when a helicopter carrying three passengers crashed into him and exploded in southeast British Columbia. The freak accident has

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sent the Canadian press into a tailspin over an iPod, which the student was allegedly listening to at the time of the helicopter crash.

Fire damages building housing Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra

At least 170 firefighters in Berlin, Germany battled a fire on Tuesday at the Berliner Philharmonie, the building that is home to the Berlin Philharmonic orchestra. No one was injured, and the cause of the fire is believed to have been accidental.



Credit: Manfred Brückels (GFDL)

Wikipedia Current Events

The President of the United States George W. Bush vetoes the 2007 U.S. Farm Bill claiming it lacks "fiscal discipline" with a Congressional override likely.

- The North West Frontier Province of Pakistan signs a peace deal with Taliban militants where troops are withdrawn from the Swat valley and Sharia law introduced in exchange for a halt to suicide bombings and an attack on government buildings.
- Crude oil prices rise above \$130 a barrel for the first time.
- Israel and Syria reveal indirect peace negotiations in Turkey in hopes of direct talks leading to a

Wikipedia Current Events

border agreement.

- The anti-Syrian government and the pro-Syrian opposition in Lebanon agree on a deal which includes the election of Michel Suleiman as President of Lebanon, outlawing the use of weapons in intra-Lebanese disputes, the formation of a unity government in which the opposition will gain more than a third of ministers (giving it a veto) and a new electoral law for the 2009 parliamentary elections.
- Georgian voters go to the polls for the Georgian legislative election, 2008.

Mob burns 'witches' to death in Kenya

A mob, consisting of up to three hundred persons, burned eleven elderly people to death in western Kenya on suspicion of witchcraft. The attacks took place in Kisii District in the Nyanza Province in southwest Kenya. The victims were dragged from their homes individually, killed, and then their homes were burned. Their families have gone into hiding, fearing additional violence.

Reports vary regarding the ages of the victims. Deputy police spokesman Charles Owino told the Associated Press the youngest was 40 years old, and that most were between 70 and 90. BBC News reports that the victims were all between 80 and 96, citing provincial police officer Anthony Kibunguchy.

A Kisii Central district commissioner Njoroge Ndirangu stated the mob used a list to select the victims, who were then accused of bewitching mob members' sons and daughters.

A textbook in a local primary school contained the minutes of an alleged witches' meeting. Belief in witchcraft is widespread in the district, and ostracism and attacks against alleged witches have occurred before. This spree of attacks targeted an unusually large number of people.

"People must not take the law into their own hands simply because they suspect someone."
—Mwangi Ngunyi

A government investigation is searching for the perpetrators. Local official Mwangi Ngunyi told Agence France-Presse: "People must not take the law into their own hands simply because they suspect someone."

Reuters reports that the police have drafted extra personnel to prevent revenge attacks, already dealing with tribal killings after the post-election crisis. Officers have expressed concern that little progress could be made to stop the killings, as the villagers would not identify the men involved in the killings.

Eurovision 2008: First semi-final held in Belgrade

Last night saw the first semi final of this year's Eurovision Song Contest in Belgrade, Serbia. The entries from Israel, Azerbaijan, Norway, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Armenia, Finland, Romania, Russia and Greece are through to the final, leaving the representatives from Montenegro, Estonia, Moldova, San Marino, Belgium, Slovenia, Ireland,

Andorra and the Netherlands failing to qualify for this weekend's final.

The aforementioned countries join host nation Serbia, automatically through as last year's winner, and the 'big four' - the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Spain. The other entries will compete in the second semi final tomorrow. Below is a summary of each entry in running order:

Montenegro

Montenegro was represented by Stefan Filipović with the Montenegrin-language song *Zauvijek Volim Te* (Never Forget I Love You), which was written by Grigor Koprov and Ognjen Nedelkovski. He failed to qualify.

Estonia

Comedy act Kreisiraadio (crazy radio) represented Estonia with *Leto Svet*. One member of the trio is a former politician, and a second is a current one. The song was the first Estonian entry to be in neither the Estonian or English languages. Instead, the song was mostly in Serbo-Croatian with sections in German and Finnish. They failed to qualify for the final.

Moldova

Geta Burlacu performed *A Century Of Love* to represent Moldova. The song, written by Oleg Baraliuc and Viorica Demici, failed to qualify.

San Marino

San Marino, which is entirely surrounded by Italy and has a population of 31,000, debuted at the contest this year. The nation's first representative was Miodio with *Complice*. Described as "a melodic song from our tradition" by Sanmarinese Eurovision delegation head Alessandro Capicchioni, failed to qualify.

Belgium

Ishtar represented Belgium with *O Julissi*. The song, composed by band member Michel Vangheluwe, bears the unusual distincton of being sung entirely in a language which does not actually exist. Sung by frontwoman Soetkin Baptist the words "kolosali krokodili" bear a resemblance to English, while the rest are designed to resemble Ukrainian and Serbian. It was hoped this would appeal to those in the Balkans and the former Soviet Union, but the song failed to qualify.

Israel

Israel was represented by Bo'az Ma'uda performing *The Fire in Your Eyes*. He sang alongside five backing singers whilst wearing a silvery-blue vest. Many members of the live audience could be seen waving Israeli flags. He won a place in the final with his song, which was written by Dana International and Shai Kerem.

Azerbaijan

Elnur Huseynov and Samir Javadzadeh represented Azerbaijan with *Day After Day*, which was written by Govhar Hasanzadeh and lyrics by Zahra Badalbeyli. The performance featured backing performers clad in large 'angel' wings, as was one of the performers. The song has won a place in the final.

Norway

Norway was represented by Maria Haukaas Storeng singing *Hold On Be Strong*, which was written by Mira Craig. Almost a million Norwegian viewers tuned in to watch the singer win a place in the final. Both her and songwriter Craig expressed delight at being chosen to go through to the final.

Poland

Isis Gee represented Poland with For Life, which she wrote herself. A simple performance was all that was required to secure a place in the final.

Ireland

Dustin the Turkey represented Ireland with a controversial performance that garnered some boos from the crowd. The comedy puppet sang *Irelande Douze Pointe* (Ireland 12 points) which despite the mock-French title is actually in English. A number of Irish news organisations were highly critical of the performance, but the bird told Irish state TV he was "disgusted" by the fact that the song failed to get into the final.

Andorra

Gisela represented Andorra with *Casanova*, composed by Jordi Cubino. She failed to qualify.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Elvir Laković Laka sang *Pokušaj* to represent Bosnia and Herzegovina. The song was selected to proceed to the final.

Armenia

Sirusho was able to earn Armenia a spot in the final with *Qele*, the lyrics for which she wrote herself while the music was written by H.A. Der-Hovagimian.

The Netherlands

Hind Laroussi represented Holland with *Your Heart Belongs To Me* but failed to qualify. She later said she found this annoying "especially when you see that a country like Azerbaijan makes it".

Finland

Finland was represented by heavy metal band *Teräsbetoni* with the song *Missä Miehet Ratsastaa*, Finland having earned their only win in 2006 with a similar entrant,

hard rock band *Lordi*. The song, which was written by the band's frontman Jarkko Ahola, was accompanied by large amounts of pyrotechnics and the band were in their self-described "leather and skin" look. Despite Eurovision fans placing them outside the top ten in an advance poll and 62% of responders in a Helsingin Sanomat poll also doubting the band would qualify, the song earned a place in the final.

Romania

Nico and Vlad Mirita were the Romanian representatives with *Pe-o Margine De Lume*. The song went through to the final.

Russia

Dima Bilan, who came second in the final in 2006, represented Russia again, this time with *Believe*. He was joined by champion figure skater Evgenii Plushenko, who has never performed at a song contest before. The song qualified for the final.

Greece

Kalomira was the Greek entrant with *Secret Combination*, written by Konstantinos Pantzis and Poseidon Yannopoulos. She qualified for the final.

Zenit rocket launches Galaxy 18 satellite

A Sea Launch Zenit-3SL rocket has been launched from the Ocean Odyssey platform in the Pacific Ocean, carrying a communications satellite into geosynchronous transfer orbit. Lift-off occurred at 09:43 GMT this morning, and the satellite was deployed into its transfer orbit about an hour later.

The satellite, Galaxy 18, will be operated by Intelsat from an orbital slot of 123° West longitude in geosynchronous orbit. It will

provide communications services for Intelsat customers in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

The launch of Galaxy 18 was delayed from last year, following the January 2007 explosion of a Zenit rocket on its launch pad. It was originally built for PanAmSat, which merged with Intelsat in August 2005. It had a launch mass, fully fuelled, of 4700 kilograms, and was built by Space Systems Loral around an LS-1300 satellite bus. It is expected to remain operational for around 15 years.

This is the 24th orbital launch of 2008, and the 66th launch of the Ukrainian-built Zenit rocket. The next scheduled Zenit launch is currently planned for July, with the Echostar XI satellite. Another Zenit-3SL will launch Intelsat's next satellite, Galaxy 19, in August.

Parties make final bids for Crewe and Nantwich voters

UK political parties are making their final bids for votes in the the Crewe and Nantwich constituency, where a by-election, due to the death of Gwyneth Dunwoody MP, is to be held tomorrow.

A YouGov poll has suggested that the main opposition party, the Conservatives, are ahead at 45%, the incumbent Labour Party 18.8% behind on 26.2%. Polls from the newspaper The Independent and Populus and ICM have also put the Conservatives ahead. However the bookmakers Ladbrokes have deemed the Conservatives "unbackable", with odds of just 16/1.Crewe and Nantwich by-election

The Labour campaign in Crewe and Nantwich has branded the Conservative candidate Edward

Timpson, a barrister from the wealthy Timpson family, a "toff", calling their candidate, the late MP's daughter Tamsin Dunwoody, "one of us". Conservative leader David Cameron called the Labour campaign "class warfare" which is "backward looking", "out of date" and "divisive". The Labour Party has received endorsements from soap opera Coronation Street's Elizabeth Dawn (who plays the character Vera Duckworth) and Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson.

The Liberal Democrat (Lib Dem) party have sent party leader Nick Clegg, party president Simon Hughes and deputy leader and the party's shadow chancellor Vince Cable up to Crewe and Nantwich to campaign alongside their candidate Elizabeth Shenton. Mr. Cable told BBC's Newsnight that "what's very clear is there is a lot of support draining away from the Labour Party - an enormous amount." Nick Clegg claims that the by-election is a two-horse race between the Lib Dems and the Conservatives.

The UK Independence Party's candidate Mike Nattrass has been touring Crewe and Nantwich in a converted London Routemaster campaign bus and handing out leaflets. He said "UKIP has never stood in Crewe and Nantwich before because Gwyneth Dunwoody was Eurosceptic and we agreed with her." Party leader Nigel Farage has also attended a meeting in the constituency.

Polling stations will open from 07:00 BST (06:00 UTC) until 22:00 BST (21:00 UTC) on Thursday. The result is expected by Friday afternoon.

Nuclear plant sealed off after traces of explosives found on bag

At least two men in Sweden were arrested after security officials at the Oskarshamn Nuclear Power Plant discovered traces of an explosive material on a plastic bag. Oskarshamnsverkets Kraftgrupp OKG operates the plant, which is one of three nuclear power plants in Sweden.

Reports say that on the outside of a bag was Acetone peroxide, or TATP, primarily used as a high yield explosive, but is also an organic peroxide used in making chemicals for cleaning.

The unidentified men in their 40's to 50's, who were contractors and welders hired for doing work at the plant, were stopped as they entered the plant. Authorities were called to the scene along with the bomb squad, who sealed off parts of the plant when they detected the explosive material on a bag's handle. Security detected the material in what is described by CNN as a "routine" security check. Police believe it was on one of the man's hands when it rubbed off onto the bag, but no bomb was found after an extensive search. Both men have been charged with attempted sabotage and are still undergoing interrogation. Both face sentences of up to two years in prison.

Plant officials state that the plant has never received a threat "not in the past, not now, and we have no threat for the future," said President of OKG, Lars Thuring. "The only thing that we have found is this trace of explosives in the bag."

TATP is "very unstable, very sensitive to both friction and shocks," said Swedish Defense

Research Agency expert, Svante Karlsson. A small amount could cause serious damage to someone handling the material which is described as 'Mother of Satan'. Would-be 'shoe bomber' Richard Reid used the substance in an attempt to blow up American Airlines flight 63 from Paris, France to Miami, Florida in 2001. The same substance was also used in the July 2005 bombings in London, England.

The plant's reactors, where the men were scheduled to work, were turned off on May 11 for routine maintenance. The rest of the plant's operations were not interrupted.

UK minor faces charges for calling Scientology 'cult' at protest

News media in the United Kingdom are reporting that a boy under the age of 18 was served with a court summons by City of London Police because he held a placard calling Scientology a "cult" at a peaceful protest on May 10. Human rights activists have criticized the decision to issue the 15-year-old the summons as an affront to freedom of speech, and representatives for the City of London Police force explained the actions of the police.

Individuals from the group Anonymous were protesting Scientology in the fourth protest in as many months, as part of the anti-Scientology movement Project Chanology. The Project Chanology movement began when the Church of Scientology attempted to get a leaked Scientology promotional video featuring Tom Cruise removed from websites YouTube and Gawker.com.

Members of Anonymous were motivated by the actions of the

Church of Scientology, and bombarded Scientology websites and were successful in taking some of them down. Anonymous later changed tactics towards legal measures, and held international protests against Scientology on February 10, March 15, April 12, and most recently May 10.

At the May 10 protest, the 15-year-old boy was present and held up a placard which stated: "Scientology is not a religion, it is a dangerous cult," with a mention at the bottom of the sign to the anti-Scientology website Xenu.net. He attended the protest held outside the Church of Scientology building on Queen Victoria Street, near St Paul's Cathedral in London. In a post made by the boy on the anti-Scientology website Enturbulation.org, he stated: "Within five minutes of arriving I was told by a member of the police that I was not allowed to use that word, and that the final decision would be made by the inspector." The website describes itself as "A Source for Information on Dianetics and the Scientology Organization". Using the pseudonym "EpicNoseGuy" at the Enturbulation.org message board, the boy goes on to describe how he was "strongly advised" by police to remove the placard.

City of London Police cited section five of the Public Order Act 1986 to the boy, which deals with "harassment, alarm or distress". In response, the boy cited a 1984 judgment given by Mr. Justice Latey in the Family Division of the High Court of Justice of Her Majesty's Courts of Justice of England and Wales, in which Latey called Scientology a "cult" and said it was "corrupt, sinister and dangerous". In the actual 1984 judgment made by Judge Latey, he stated: "Scientology is both

immoral and socially obnoxious. [...] In my judgement it is corrupt, sinister and dangerous. [...] It is dangerous because it is out to capture people, especially children and impressionable young people, and indoctrinate and brainwash them so that they become the unquestioning captives and tools of the cult, withdrawn from ordinary thought, living and relationships with others." According to the boy's post at Enturbulation.org, the City of London Police told him he had 15 minutes to remove the sign in question. He was given a court summons by the police about a half-hour later, and his sign was removed and taken by the police as evidence.

"I am going to fight this and not take it down because I believe in freedom of speech."
—15-year-old boy

In videos of the May 10 protest posted to YouTube, City of London Police can be seen telling protesters not to use the word "cult" in their signs. Protesters discussed the issue with police and stated that they had checked with lawyers and verified that criticizing religion was a valid form of protest. The police warned protesters that if they violated police instructions regarding usage of signs "you will be prosecuted". A female police officer read a form statement to the 15-year-old and stated: "I've been asked, if you could remove it [the sign] by 11:30, if not then I'll have to come back and either summons you or arrest you." The boy read Mr. Justice Latey's 1984 judgment to the police, and then said: "I'm not going to take this sign down." He told fellow protesters: "If I don't take the word 'cult' down, here [holding up his sign], I will be either, I think, most likely arrested

or [given] a summons. I am going to fight this and not take it down because I believe in freedom of speech, besides which I'm only fifteen."

After the boy was given a summons one of the protesters asked a member of the City of London Police force: "Are we allowed to say Justice Latey says Scientology is a cult?", to which the police officer responded: "I've already had this discussion with people. Direct quotes by individuals, I haven't got a problem with."

"This barmy prosecution makes a mockery of Britain's free speech traditions." —Shami Chakrabarti, director, Liberty

"This barmy prosecution makes a mockery of Britain's free speech traditions. After criminalising the use of the word 'cult', perhaps the next step is to ban the words 'war' and 'tax' from peaceful demonstrations?" said Liberty director Shami Chakrabarti in a statement in The Guardian. The boy has appealed for help in order to fight the potential charges and possible legal action from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

Ian Haworth of the United Kingdom-based Cult Information Centre also commented on the actions of the City of London Police to The Guardian, saying: "This is an extraordinary situation. If it wasn't so serious it would be farcical. The police's job is to protect and serve. Who is being served and who is being protected in this situation? I find it very worrying."

News of the summons issued to the UK minor has received significant attention on the Internet, hitting the front pages of

websites Slashdot, Digg, and Boing Boing on Wednesday. The story has also been discussed in hundreds of blog postings, including sites related to the tech-sector and others related to civil liberties.

"City of London police had received complaints about demonstrators using the words 'cult' and 'Scientology kills' during protests against the Church of Scientology on Saturday 10 May."
—City of London Police

In a statement given to publications including The Guardian and The Register, a representative for the City of London Police explained the rationale for the summons: "City of London police had received complaints about demonstrators using the words 'cult' and 'Scientology kills' during protests against the Church of Scientology on Saturday 10 May. Following advice from the Crown Prosecution Service some demonstrators were warned verbally and in writing that their signs breached section five of the Public Order Act 1986. One demonstrator, a juvenile, continued to display a placard despite police warnings and was reported for an offence under section five. A file on the case will be sent to the CPS."

"City of London Police upholds the right to demonstrate lawfully, but we have to balance that with the rights of all sections of the community not to be alarmed, distressed or harassed as a result of others' actions," said City of London Chief Superintendent Rob Bastable in a statement given to The Register and The Daily Telegraph. Unlike the City of London Police, the Metropolitan Police Service (the territorial police force responsible for Greater

London excluding the City of London) has not raised an issue with protesters using the word "cult", according to Londonist.

"if we receive a file we will review it in the normal way according to the code for crown prosecutors"
—Crown Prosecution Service

A spokesman for the CPS told The Guardian that they did not give City of London Police specific instruction about the boy's protest sign. The spokesman said that the CPS gave the City of London Police "general advice" about the laws governing protests and "religiously aggravated crime", but did not give advice about this specific case. "... if we receive a file we will review it in the normal way according to the code for crown prosecutors," said the CPS spokesman.

The City of London Police has faced controversy in the past for its close association with the Church of Scientology. When the City of London Scientology building opened in 2006, City of London Chief Superintendent Kevin Hurley praised Scientology in an appearance as guest speaker at the building's opening ceremony. Ken Stewart, another of the City of London's chief superintendents, has also appeared in a video praising Scientology. According to The Guardian over 20 officers for the City of London Police have accepted gifts from the Church of Scientology including tickets to film premieres, lunches and concerts at police premises. Janet Kenyon-Laveau, spokeswoman for the Church of Scientology in the UK, told The Guardian that the relationship between the City of London Police and Scientology was mutually beneficial, and said that Scientologists conducted clean-up campaigns in urban areas affected

by drug use problems. A City of London Police spokesman released a statement in November 2006 saying: "We are conducting a review to ensure that all members of staff are aware of the force policy on accepting hospitality and to assess whether clarification or amendment of this policy is necessary."

Each of the Project Chanology international protests against Scientology has had a theme: the February protest called attention to the birthday of Lisa McPherson, who died under controversial circumstances while under the care of Scientology, the March protest was arranged to take place two days after Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard's birthday, the April protest highlighted the Church of Scientology's disconnection policy, and the May protest highlighted the Scientology practice of "Fair Game" and took place one day after the anniversary of the publication of Hubbard's book Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health. Another international protest is planned for June 14, and will highlight the Church of Scientology's elite "Sea Organization" or "Sea Org".

UK MPs vote not to lower abortion limit

UK Members of Parliament voted against a bill that would result in the limit for abortions being brought down by four weeks, to 20 weeks. The MP who originally proposed the bill, Nadine Dorrie from the Conservative Party, commented on the result. "There comes a point when it has to be said this baby has a right to life." The vote to lower the limit to twenty weeks was defeated by 332 votes to 190.

There was also a vote on

decreasing the limit to 22 weeks, with it being defeated by 304 votes supporting to 233 opposing.

The proposer of the twenty week limit, a former nurse explained to MPs her reason for supporting the lowering of the limit:

"A little boy was aborted into a cardboard bed pan which was thrust into my arms.

As I stood and looked in that cardboard bed pan this little boy was gasping, through mucous and amniotic fluid for his breath and I stood with him in a sluice, in my arms in a bed pan, for seven minutes while he gasped for his breath and a botched abortion, which became a live birth, became a death seven minutes later.

And I knew at that moment, while I stood with that little boy in my arms that one day I would have the opportunity to stand and defend babies like him, because what I thought we were committing that day was murder."

Recently, a vote for decreasing the limit to 12 weeks also failed to pass through the House of Commons.

Colombian rebel leader 'Karina' surrenders

Nelly Avila Moreno, a high-ranking member of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (aka FARC) known by the alias 'Karina', surrendered to Colombian police on the weekend, bringing the number of FARC commanders who have surrendered, been captured or been killed in the past year to six.

Moreno, along with her partner and daughter, surrendered to undercover Colombian police officers after two weeks of private

negotiation. It is not known whether the charges laid against her - including murder, drug trafficking, terrorism and kidnapping - are to be dropped in exchange for her surrender.

At a press conference, Moreno outlined her reasons for surrender, including increased pressure from the Colombian army, and fear that her own troops may have decided to kill her in exchange for a US\$900,000 reward. A member of the FARC secretariat, known by the alias Ivan Rios, was shot by his bodyguard who later attempted to claim a US\$2.5 million bounty.

The surrender is a political coup for President Alvaro Uribe, who has run a campaign of "carrot and stick" measures to eliminate FARC that have seen over 1,000 guerillas turn themselves in to join a government-sponsored reintegration program. Moreno refuted claims that she had been involved in the murder of Uribe's father in 1983.

Fire damages building housing Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra

At least 170 firefighters in Berlin, Germany battled a fire on Tuesday at the Berliner Philharmonie, the building that is home to the Berlin Philharmonic orchestra.

The fire broke out around 2:00 p.m. local time, while the orchestra was rehearsing, but all the members of the audience and orchestra made it out of the building without injury. Much of the instruments were also saved before the fire grew out of control.

Firefighters had to take off large portions of the metal roof in order to battle the blaze which took almost five hours to bring under control and burned for almost 12.

It is believed that welding on the roof may have caused the fire to start, but an investigation is ongoing.

Officials have yet to determine the total extent of the damage, but do say that nearly 17,000 square feet of the roof is burned.

The building, designed by Hans Scharoun, was built in 1963 to replace the previous concert hall which was destroyed in 1944 during World War II. The orchestra was first formed by 54 individuals in 1882.

All future concerts that have been scheduled to take place at the Philharmonie are canceled until further notice.

Judge continues injunction against 'Expelled' film

A New York Judge ruled to continue an injunction against Premise Media, which effectively prevents Premise, the producers of Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed, from further distribution. Expelled is a film about intelligent design and creationism starring Ben Stein, and is currently playing at 200 U.S. theaters. Since its April 18 debut it has received criticism from both the scientific community, which considers both pseudoscience, and film critics.

The case Lennon v Premise Media was filed by Yoko Ono, Julian Lennon, Sean Lennon, and EMI Blackwood Music, Inc. against Premise Media, C&S Production, and Rocky Mountain Pictures in United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on April 23, 2008 alleging copyright infringement concerning John Lennon's song "Imagine". Premise is being represented by Anthony Falzone of the Fair Use Project.

EMI filed its own separate lawsuit against Premise in a New York state court alleging that Premise's usage of the song is harming EMI's ability to license "Imagine," which has only been licensed in one film (The Killing Fields).

In court, Judge Richard Lowe, according to the Wall Street Journal, "seemed skeptical" about Falzone's arguments. Lowe asked Falzone why the film's producers did not read the lyrics to the song or flashed the lyrics on the screen. Lawyers also pointed out that Premise Media licensed all other music in the film except for Lennon's song. At the end of the hearing Lowe "decided to stay the original TRO pending his ruling, which means that "Expelled," currently playing in theaters around the country, cannot be reproduced or otherwise distributed."

The judge promised a quick decision since the film will debut in Canada on June 6 and DVD rights must be finalized by the end of May for October distribution.

Pedestrian, three others killed in helicopter crash in British Columbia

A 23-year-old Kenyan man was crushed and killed and three others died after a helicopter crashed in Cranbrook, British Columbia, Canada on May 13. All on board the helicopter, two passengers and the pilot of the helicopter, were also killed.

Considered a freak accident, the attention was not centered around the crash or those killed in it, but whether or not the volume on the iPod the 23-year-old pedestrian was allegedly listening to was too loud.

Isaiah Otieno, a student at the

College of the Rockies arrived in Canada two years ago and was the son of Dalmas Otieno, Kenya's Minister of State for Public Service. He was walking down the street to retrieve his mail when the Bell 206 helicopter crashed on top of him, crushed him, then dragged his body along the pavement, with the helicopter bursting into flames. The helicopter pilot was unable to maintain altitude when it crashed, killing Otieno and those inside the helicopter, instantly. The cause of the crash is not known and is still being investigated, but media outlets such as The Globe and Mail criticized the boy for wearing headphones and having the volume turned up too high, which allegedly caused him not to hear the aircraft falling from the sky.

"He was a brilliant student, very considerate, very aggressive at times. He had strong leadership qualities. Everybody here is just shattered," stated Dalmas.

Despite the reports that Otieno was listening to his iPod, there has been no independent confirmation of those reports. Wikinews e-mailed the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to confirm or deny the iPod reports, but has not yet received a response.

Other deaths have been blamed on media players like the iPod. In 2007, a boy was killed after a train struck him in Grimsby, Ontario. The boy, who had headphones on at the time, was unable to hear the sounds of the train's horn as it approached, which subsequently struck and killed him.

The helicopter was owned by Bighorn Helicopters and was rented to BC Hydro, the Province's power and water authority. The Pilot has been identified as Edward William Kyle Heeb, 57. The other

two individuals killed were employees for BC Hydro and have been identified as Dirk Bentley Rozenboom, 45 and Robert William Lehmann, 37. They were checking power lines along 14th street in Cranbrook, when according to witnesses, the engine stopped and the helicopter crashed in the intersection of 14th and 10th.

Despite the reports, a Canadian music consultant states that the accident involving the helicopter cannot be blamed on the use of Otieno's iPod.

"The average downtown street registers at around 60 decibels. A jet plane flying overhead is generally quoted at 120 to 130 decibels. If you are playing your music loud enough to cut out that level of noise, then you have it cranked to a degree that is damaging your hearing," said Geordon Hoag.

Today in History

1455 – Forces led by Richard, Duke of York and Richard, Earl of Warwick captured Lancastrian King Henry VI of England, beginning the Wars of the Roses with a Yorkist victory in the First Battle of St Albans.

1809 – War of the Fifth Coalition: Austrian forces under Archduke Charles prevented Napoleon I and his French troops from crossing the Danube near Vienna at the Battle of Aspern-Essling.

1915 – Five trains were involved in a crash near Gretna Green, Scotland, killing 227 people and injuring 246 in the Quintinshill rail crash.

1964 – During a speech at the University of Michigan, U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson presented the goals of his Great Society domestic social reforms to eliminate poverty and racial injustice.

1990 – The Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen merged to become the Republic of Yemen.

May 22 is Corpus Christi (Catholicism, 2008); World Biodiversity Day

Quote of the Day

Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself; but talent instantly recognizes genius.

~ Arthur Conan Doyle

Word of the Day

nuptial adj

1. Of or pertaining to wedding and marriage.
2. Capable, or characteristic, of breeding.

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