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Lead Stories

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Australian news network under investigation over pokie reform comments

Delhi earns UN carbon credits

Continuation:
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"It is an excellent demonstration," said Gejman "because you have the same chains that are common to both disorders, in fact not just the same chains but also the same alleles." He stressed uncertainty in how strong the relationship was, however. Scott said examining how the variation of genetic factors may translate into

varied symptoms being expressed "certainly is a good target for future research"; "It is not known how many genetic factors contribute to either of these diseases but it is likely that not all are necessary to trigger disease." "New questions will always arise from any major study," he told our reporter. "Certainly, new questions about bipolar and schizophrenia are now able to be formulated on the basis of the results presented in the two reports." These weren't the only studies to look at the two diseases together in September. The British Medical Journal carried research by a team from the University of Oxford and King's College London that examined mortality rates in England for schizophrenia and bipolar sufferers. They found both groups continued to suffer higher mortality rates than the general population - whilst these included suicides, three quarters of deaths were down to

ailments such as heart conditions. General death rates dropped from 1999 to 2006, but sufferers below 65 saw their death rate remain stable - and the over-65 saw their increase. "By 2006, the excess risk in these groups had risk to twice the rate of the general population, whereas prior to that it had only been 1.6 times the risk, so it increased by almost 40%," said Dr Uy Hoang of Oxford. The study looked at every discharged inpatient with a diagnosis of either condition in England in the relevant time. Hoang said at the time of the research's release that doctors should devote attention to predicting and preventing physical illness associated with mental disorders. His study comes at a time when the UK has launched a "no health without mental health" strategy which does attempt to screen for physical illnesses coinciding with mental illnesses. The government

aims to reduce the death rate of those with mental disorders.

Rodney Scott described this research result to Wikinews as "Possibly" connected to genetic association with other hereditary ailments, such as cardiovascular disease; he told us another possibility is that "The continued raised mortality rates may be associated with the diseases themselves."

"We believe the NHS [National Health Service] and Department of Health need to do more to support research and service development for people with bipolar disorder," Wikinews was told by Suzanne Hudson, Chief Executive of London-based British charity MDF The Bipolar Organisation. "The provision of specialist services for bipolar is very limited in the UK and the demand for our services is unprecedented."

"A genetic test for bipolar would be a useful tool but the science and ethics are very complex," Hudson told us, referring to the Nature Genetics genetic study. "Just because someone has 'bipolar genes' does not mean they might go on to develop it. Family studies of bipolar show that this is a likely outcome of genetics

research in this area. Even if it were possible to accurately predict bipolar in this way, questions about how you treat that person are difficult. For example do you start medication that is not necessary at that point in time?"

"Current treatment is not satisfactory" because it does not always work and has "side effects," Gejman told us. Robert Whitaker, a US medical journalist and book author, told an audience in New Zealand at the end of August that evidence suggests antidepressant drugs may make children and teenagers worse - "You see many become worse and end up with a more severe diagnosis, like bipolar illness," and the suicide risk may increase. Whitaker blames commercial interests. "The adult market appeared saturated, and so they began eyeing children and teenagers. Prior to this, few children and youth were seen as suffering from major depression, and so few were prescribed anti-depressants."

One possible alternative, raised by a connection between depressive illness and inflammation, is aspirin and similar compounds. "The link between inflammation and

mood disorders has been known for sometime and the use of aspirin and other drugs in depression is now becoming more common in the literature," Hudson says. "Any new treatments for bipolar, which is a very complex and co-morbid illness, has to be a good thing."

Professor Dr. Michael Berk, chairman of psychiatry at Australia's Deakin University, recently gave a talk to just this effect. Speaking at this year's Congress of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology, held this past month, he also highlighted statins as a treatment. Recognising the link to physical ailments, he told an interviewer "The brain does not exist in isolation, and we need to understand that pathways similar to those that underpin risks for cardiovascular disorders, stroke, and osteoporosis might also underpin the risk for psychiatric disorders, and that other treatments might be helpful."

Australian news network under investigation over pokie reform comments

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)

has launched an investigation into the Nine Network over comments by its football commentators regarding the government's planned poker machine reform. An ACMA statement yesterday read: "ACMA has confirmed that it is investigating a complaint that Channel Nine broadcast political material without adequately identifying it as such during the NRL first preliminary final". The comments, made during an NRL football match on September 23, saw Nine's commentators Ray Warren and Phil Gould criticizing the reforms, labeling pokie reform as "rubbish". Mr Gould added "I've never seen a more stupid policy in all my life." Networks are required to acknowledge political comment when broadcast as a condition of their licenses. "The identification of political material usually takes the form of a statement following the material advising on whose behalf the material had been broadcast", the ACMA statement noted. Proposed reforms to poker machines will see gamblers forced to pre-commit to a limit on their losses, or instead use low-intensity poker machines with \$1 bets.

Shelly Bates, Nine Network's compliance manager, claimed, as reported by ABC's Media Watch, "The comments relating to the Federal Government proposed poker machine tax were purely the opinions of the commentators regarding matters directly affecting the NRL community". Mr Warren previously told Austereo's Triple M that the comments were "a directive from up top ... [to] be read by at least somebody" adding, "I think it was done on behalf of the [National] Rugby League, who is fully supportive of the clubs." On Monday, independents in the Australian Parliament Andrew Wilkie and Nick Xenophon wrote to David Gyngell, chief executive of the Nine Network, accusing the network of "attempting to mislead (and alarm) viewers", and of breaching the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice, the Broadcasting Services Act, and the Electoral Act. Nine responded with a statement yesterday, "The Nine Network will be providing Messrs Wilkie and Xenophon with a detailed and considered response on the issues they have raised, and we are confident we are not in breach of any code

provisions." If ACMA rules Nine in breach of its license conditions the watchdog may impose a fine or further license conditions, demand action to prevent further breaches, or even suspend or cancel the network's license.

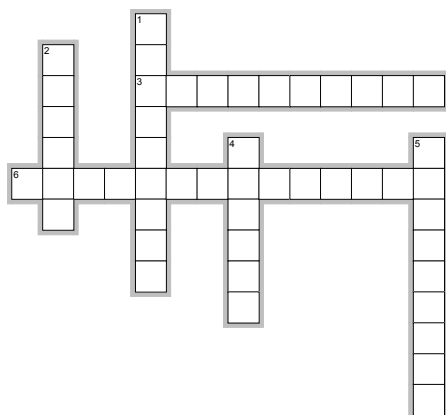
Delhi earns UN carbon credits

The UN has certified that the Delhi Metro has aided in the reduction of greenhouse gases, earning 'carbon credits'. This makes the Delhi Metro the first of its kind in the world to do so.

This comes under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the UN under the Kyoto Protocol. The UN said the rail based system has helped to save 630,000 tonnes of pollution a year. The credits to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) are worth \$9.5 million for each of the next seven years. More credits would be given for more passengers on the system. The credits are designed as a financial incentive for developing countries to reduce greenhouse emissions. The Delhi Metro was started in 2002. According to the DMRC, it has

reduced road traffic by more than 91,000 vehicles per day.

Puzzle of the day



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

- 3. a sudden release of energy in the Earth's crust
- 6. the fear of enclosed spaces

Down

- 1. the science of matter
- 2. a search engine
- 4. the capital of the Russian Federation
- 5. Defacement, graffiti

**On this day
6 October**

1908 - Austria annexes Bosnia and Herzegovina.
1910 - Eleftherios Venizelos is elected Prime Minister of Greece for the first time (7 times in total).

1923 - The great powers of World War I withdraw from Istanbul

1927 - Opening of The Jazz Singer, the first prominent talking movie.

1939 - World War II: The last Polish army is defeated.

1945 - Baseball: Billy Sianis and his pet billy goat are ejected from Wrigley Field during Game 4 of the 1945 World Series

1973 - Egypt launches a coordinated attack with Syria against Israel leading to the Yom Kippur War.

1976 - Cubana Flight 455 crashes into the Atlantic Ocean shortly after taking off from Bridgetown, Barbados after two bombs, placed on board by terrorists with connections to the CIA, exploded. All 73 people on board are killed.

1976 - New Premier Hua Guofeng orders the arrest of the Gang of Four and associates and ends the Cultural Revolution in the People's Republic of China.

1976 - Massacre of students gathering at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand to protest the return of ex-dictator Thanom, by a coalition of right-wing paramilitary and government forces, triggering the return of

the military to government.

1977 - In Alicante, Spain, fascists attack a group of MCPV militants and sympathizers, and one MCPV sympathizer is killed.

1977 - The first prototype of the MiG-29, designated 9-01, makes its maiden flight.

1979 - Pope John Paul II becomes the first pontiff to visit the White House.

1981 - Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat was assassinated.

1985 - PC Keith Blakelock is murdered as riots erupt in the Broadwater Farm suburb of London.

1987 - Fiji becomes a republic.

1995 - 51 Pegasi is discovered to be the first major star apart from the Sun to have a planet (and extrasolar planet) orbiting around it.

2000 - Yugoslav president Slobodan Milošević resigns.

2000 - Argentine vice president Carlos Álvarez resigns.

2002 - The French oil tanker Limburg is bombed off Yemen.

2007 - Jason Lewis completes the first human-powered circumnavigation of the globe.

Quote of the day

There are no exact guidelines. There are probably no guidelines at all. The only thing I can recommend at this stage is a sense of humor, an ability to see things in their ridiculous and absurd dimensions, to laugh at others and at ourselves, a sense of irony regarding everything that calls out for parody in this world. In other words, I can only recommend perspective and distance. Awareness of all the most dangerous kinds of vanity, both in others and in ourselves. A good mind. A modest certainty about the meaning of things. Gratitude for the gift of life and the courage to take responsibility for it. Vigilance of spirit.

~ Václav Havel ~

Word of the day

amber *noun*

Translucent fossilized tree resin, generally yellow or orange but sometimes blue, often used as jewelry. (in British English) The middle light in a set of three traffic lights, between the red and the green lights. (in biology, biochemistry and genetics) The RNA codon UAG, which stops

the third stage of protein production, translation

Commons Picture of the Day



Dharmaraya Swamy Temple in Bangalore

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Commons Picture of the Day

<http://wmf4.me/99447>

Quote of the Day

http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Main_Page

Word of the Day

http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Main_Page

On this day;

<http://en.wikipedia.org>

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